

*University of Alberta Students' Union*  
**A G E N D A**

2013-2014/POLICY/15

## **Policy Committee**

**Date: January 28, 2014**

**Time: 6:00PM**

**Location: SUB 6-08**

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

**2. Approval of the Minutes**

*(Please review the attached minutes from January 14, 2014 – NOTE: NOT EDITED FOR GRAMMER AND SPELLING YET!)*

**3. Chair's Announcements**

**4. Presentations**

**5. Executive Committee Reports**

Written/Oral Reports

- a. VP Student Life
- b. VP Academics
- c. VP External

*(See attached for submitted reports)*

**6. Question Period**

**7. Old Business**

- a. Merit Based and Needs Based Awards Policy(ies)  
*(Need to have 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in Word with track changes – via email from Woods)*
- b. Health and Wellness Policy – Update  
*(Please see spreadsheet for details of survey – sent via email)*
- c. Internationalization – First Reading  
*(See attached for principles and track changes)*

**8. New Business**

- a. Tuition Policy – Discussion from task force meeting
- b. Policy Renewal:  
*(Original policies attached. Please review to make comments. If no amendments are needed, we can send to Council for renewal)*
  - *Affordable Housing*
  - *Research*
  - *Student Loans*

**9. Discussion**

*(If you have an item to discuss, please be prepared to open discussion and bring it to the table)*

**10. Confirmation of Next Meeting Date**

Next meeting is scheduled for **February 11, 2014 at 6:00 PM**

*(Please be prepared to confirm your schedule and/or provide justification for amending this time/date)*



**POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES**

2013 - 2014 # 14

Date: January 14, 2012

Time: 6:05 PM

**In Attendance:**

Natalya Binczyk  
Dylan Hanwell (Vice Chair)  
Adam Woods  
Kelsey Mills  
Dustin Chelen  
Colin Champaigne  
Bashir Mohamed  
William Lau

**Excused Absence:**

Kareema Batal (Chair)

**Others in Attendance:**

N/A

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by **HANWELL** at *insert 6:05 PM*.
- 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** **WOODS** moved that the **January 17, 2014** agenda be approved as *tabled*.  
Seconded by **BINCZYK**.  
Vote on Motion 8/0/0  
**CARRIED**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** **INSERT NAME** amended minutes to include *insert item*.  
**CHAMAIGNE** moved that the **November 26, 2013** minutes be approved as *tabled / amended*.  
The motion was seconded by **INSERT NAME**.  
Vote on Motion #In Favor / #Not In Favor / #Absent  
**CARRIED / DEFEATED**.  
  
**INSERT NAME** amended minutes to include *insert item*.  
**INSERT NAME** moved that the **October 15, 2012** minutes be approved as *tabled / amended*.  
The motion was seconded by **INSERT NAME**.  
Vote on Motion #In Favor / #Not In Favor / #Absent  
**CARRIED / DEFEATED**.
- 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS** **HANWELL:** Reads out Kareema's announcements.  
BTW **HANWELL** is chair today since Kareema is absent.
- 5. PRESENTATIONS** N/A

**6. EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*CHELEN:* I'm working on the University Governance Report in response to a letter from students in February of 2013. I am also working on the Leadership College dossier. We were asked for feedback, and then we got told we didn't have time. Demolition for the area is supposed to happen eventually.  
Also job shadow day on February 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

*WOODS:* Mandatory Non Instructional Fee campaign is going to run on Monday January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014. We will utilize classroom talks and SUB TV to encourage students to look exactly what they are paying for in those fees.

I have not received confirmation but Trudeau might be coming to campus. Will be doing Job shadow day in February. I am waiting for a busy day to show people the cool stuff not just paperwork like policies.

Will proposes to do a pre-campaign by taking pictures of our fees.

*LAU:* I will have Job Shadow day on February 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

About Services: The Peer Support Center, get a full time position, not finalized yet.

Sustain SU, online waivers to better collect user information.

The Bike Library: Membership fee perhaps for bikes. Sustain SU is also looking for volunteers.

Safewalk is writing up a policy for intoxicated clients. At the moment they are not accepting any intoxicated clients. There has been a cost-value discussion about the Safewalk service. So now, they are considering taking in intoxicated clients. Services Staff are putting together a survey. Putting together the 2015 Leadership Conference

ISA : Everyone agrees on the mandate but not the structure. Glad to have an open and public debate on the structure to give everyone the chance to give input.

Advocacy : Community kitchen is going good. Missed a meeting for Residence Services, and they closed the file on residents agreement. Our opinion is we understand liability but we want it to be as fair as possible by adding an appeals process (unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be any other working model elsewhere so it's difficult to build one). Very difficult to get appeals on the table.

Student Group Services :?

**7. QUESTION PERIOD**

*BINCZYK* to *WOODS:* Regarding Class Talks for the MNIF campaign: Who's going do them?  
*WOODS:* We got someone, Navneet, who is going to be managing these campaigns, but we will also be asking councilors.

*BINCZYK* to *WOODS:* The MNIF Campaign is starting next week? Can we sync this with the councilor class talks?

*WOODS:* Yes, Yes, and most class talks will start on the second week I believe which will probably sync.

*BINCZYK* to *WOODS:* Can you share your volunteers with council? How did I not know about this?

*MILLS:* is the timing considered?

*WOODS:* Yes, we want this to coincide with when students are paying their fees.

*BINCZYK:* General comment: let's finish these newsletters so we can send them at the same time as the class talks.

*CHELEN:* We follow the Registrar's timeline. We finished it last week and we are waiting for the Registrar's Office at their end. We are currently waiting for the Registrar to get off their but and send us students' emails because right now we don't have any way to communicate with students other than through the Registrar's Office.

*WOODS:* There will be four posters with catchy titles.

*MILLS* to *INSERT NAME:* Can you go into details about the numbers?

*W:* Yes there is this thing called Kabo, where public institutions give their numbers and that's what we are going to be using. Probably some graphs, costs compared to services, etc. Quality doesn't seem to be going up whereas costs are.

BINCZYK to LAU: Who are you expecting ISA submissions from?

LAU: A few individuals that have been involved with the process all along but we are also giving the public opportunity to submit a proposal.

BINCZYK to LAU: So what is the **deadline**? How will you assure this is over during your term?

LAU: lots of things **jumping** now and then, no hard deadline yet because I don't want to **screw up**. I haven't been able to find a meeting time which works with everyone so we're going to attempt that one more time, hopefully this weekend.

## 8. OLD BUSINESS

### a. Scholarships & Bursaries: Second Reading Review

*(Approved in First Reading on December 3<sup>rd</sup> based on the attached principles. See attached for proposed Second Reading draft)*

WOODS : I sent a new one.

HANWELL : what about the one in the agenda package?

WOODS : ok it has them split. It clearly reflects the principles. Both are the same but the one I emailed is one after the other. They have the same whereas and be it resolved clauses.

HANWELL : lets discussion splitting it first ; I don't have a ton of knowledge but I know how colin feels.

WOODS: allow the committee to take a few weeks and thing it over.

MILLS : can we hear pros and cons?

WOODS : gov thinks of them as one same thing, they are not though, they slash bursary and add a little in scholarships. Then they say : Oh we give money to scholarships. Bursaries are more needs based than scholarships so it's different. Then we should split the policies

HANWELL : french

MILLS: we should just advocate on two fronts, use our policies in contrast with what the university and the province is doing.

HANWELL : So far I'm on the side of separating, in the same, there is too much a chance that since funding for both in total wouldn't change we wouldn't have as much of a foothold to advocate for both fronts. Should we change it to "Needs based, not repayable aid"

LAU : Question : as I ran through the international students policy. Should their component on scholarships and be bursaries be added to this policy? Should the international differential fee be added to the tuition policy rather than in the international students policy?

MILLS : Would there be confusion if we intermix some stuff?

HANWELL : I feel like it should be more specific to international students. And is it changing too much from first reading or can we sneak it in? In my opinion it may change where the policy is going, where its focus is... I think it would work better in international student's policy. We don't have specific tabs for rural or aboriginal, etc. and thus we shouldn't have a specific section in this one.

CHAMPAIGNE : I think they are there in an underlying manner anyways.

BINCZYK : I believe its better to have it all in the same place, not have links to other policies.

LAU : I think we should have hashtags in our policies...

HANWELL : what I was thinking is when we talk about shcolarhips and bursaries we're talking about all students and all specialty groups or interest groups if you prefer, such as low income, aboriginal or rural students. If we are gonna add a specific international students section we should do it for all the other ones too. In any case, I believe they are already in there without being students

MILLS : Also, I believe it might be too specific. We need to give execs room to advocate depending on the social climate and the times.

HANWELL : question, did you draft the second principles WOODS?

WOODS : yep that's what you are looking at, let me check... yep  
Ok so?

CHELEN : first lets change the bursaires to bursaries.

WOODS: no that's right

CHELEN: no its not

CHAMPAIGNE : think of Aries the god of war.

WOODS : ok so now what are we doing?

HANWELL : I would like to amend to split them. Woods you're making the edits

LAU : for the minutes Bashir says :

CHELEN : another edit, every period except for the one at the end should be a semi-colon.

HANWELL : ok so now if we wanted to add international students in there we would have to redraft first principles, approve them, draft second principles, and approve those.

LAU : Bashir is visiting family and says : could it be introduced as an amendment? There is always going to be overlap and so we need to figure out how can we organize our principals for now and the future.

CHELEN : this discussion was had last year in policy : Policies are not for leisure reading and are for our execs to lead. As such, they are assumed to be alllllllll read. The decision they made was to remove duplication.

WOODS : guys there is a point missing, but the copy I sent you is the copy we will be passing tonight.

HANWELL: unless someone want sot move to amend, we will leave it in the international policy. Lets move to the scholarsips ;) policy

WOODS : I didn't...

BINCZYK: whats wrong with that spellcheck ;)

HANWELL : all right so the policies are now called Need based aid and Merit based aid.

CHELEN : not to throw a wrench in here but the UofA does not distinguish between merit and need based awards. They just speak of awards. Since the ratio is a key issue we need to address this.

WOODS : I'm tired of people going on vacation on scholarship money.

CHELEN: I'm going to mexico...

MILLS : I don't see a problem with that.

CHELEN: what we've done is broken the policy in two and now there are things missing, things we should be advocating on in both.

After a bunch of talk we will be deciding on the policy via email

**(TEXT NOT EDITED FOR GRAMMER OR PUNCTUATION)**

- b. Health & Wellness Policy Update:** *Feedback form has been sent to student representatives across campus. Deadline to complete is January 19<sup>th</sup>. Will have First Reading principles drafted by next meeting.*

HANWELL: Read comments from agenda.

All good to go.

- c. Tuition Policy Update:** *Petros agreed to join the task force. He is waiting to hear from us on an appropriate meeting time. Please respond to Doodle Poll sent by Kareema to set up a task force meeting asap.*

HANWELL: Please respond to Doodle Poll ASAP to set up a meeting time for Task Force.

- d. Internationalization Policy Update:** *Where are we at?*

HANWELL : change students deserve predictable tuition to predictable fees as that's what is being changed.

MILLS : third principle from bottom, question : could you explain how that would be an advocating tool?

LAU : the principle expands three whereas clauses : whereas the rate of international students transitioning into residents status has not been \_\_\_\_\_ we should advocate in favour of it.

MILLS : ok so are students forced to move back home or do they want to live here? What do they want?

LAU: there are a few government programs that give opportunities to international students to stay or get a taste of staying and we could expand those.

CHELEN : lets change deserve predictable fees to : with predictable fees, students can budget for yearly expenditures and the full cost of their degree.

HANWELL : I'm wondering if instead of budgeting we should change budgeting to, uptake or retention?

MILLS : I think it would be stronger to have them separate.

CHELEN : what I was trying to say is it was a really moral point and that's hard to have in a whereas clause because it had no rationale.

MILLS : question about multiple entry visas , would allow students to go home for xmas for example and come back without having to pay extra fees? Right now that's not the case?

WOODS : Ya and just for certain countries. They have to go through crazy hoops to get in the country but some people from other countries are treated differently and have more fees (ex : new visa for re-entry).

MOHAMED : what is the process for working off campus.

LAU : if your GPA is under 2.0 they don't want you to work they want you to focus on school. So if it's above 2.0 you can get a work visa. And that's the government not the university.

WOODS: so if a student is like 1.7 and struggles to raise their GPA how are they gonna buy the things they need and raise their GPA? I believe it's a cumulative GPA.

MILLS : I think it shouldn't be cumulative : ex : 1.7 first semester, 2.1 second term but cumulative its still lower than 2.0. It should be prior term.

WOODS :I have to do more research.

MOHAMED : is it possible to have reduced hours for people lower than 2.0?

LAU : also international students can only work 20 hours a week.

BINCZYK : if they fail don't they have to return to their country anyways?

HANWELL : ok so woods has to do more research.

WILL : this policy might be obsolete anyways next year because the UofA is writing one up that is looking very similar

**(TEXT NOT EDITED FOR GRAMMER OR PUNCTUATION)**

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

### **10. DISCUSSION**

#### **a. Appeals Policy.**

*The idea of an Appeals Policy was discussed briefly during the discussion about the Omar Khadr policy. Shall we formalize our decision on pursuing this matter?*

HANWELL : temp check guys? Bashir you're probably still interested in this?

MILLS : my concern is time. We need proper research.

HANWELL : seems to depend on Bashir. It will be a miracle if we get through all the policies we need to get through

MOHAMMED: I could definitely prepare something.

LAU : ok MOHAMMED comme talk to execs about it as well

MILLS : try and get a temp check from the University as well.

CHELEN : we can tie the hands of next years policy committee by just getting it ready for them. I don't think we should rush or give up on it just because we're running out of time.

MOHAMMED : will come back with principles.

HANWELL: form it as well as you can, it's probably only got one shot in our meetings.

**(TEXT NOT EDITED FOR GRAMMER OR PUNCTUATION)**

#### **b. Leadership Policy.**

*Councillor Batal and Councillor Mlynarski met late December to discuss the idea of*

***drafting a Leadership Policy that will formalize the SU's voice on leadership and what we should advocate for in terms of leadership initiatives on campus in light of the Leadership Initiative presentation we had at Council. Is this a matter the PC would like to pursue?***

CHELEN : well I think it's too late right now. University give zero shits of what U of A students think they are going ahead with it.

MILLS : can we maybe make a policy to expand this college?

LAU : they probably will, it's in their best interests.

HANWELL : I don't think its worth creating a policy this year.

MOHAMMED : I don't think we should compromise. I agree with Dylan but there should be merit in having some structure for advocating.

MILLS : do we already have a policy about experiential learning?

CHELEN : (I think he said yes).

LAU : I think we should contribute to the report that VPA is creating. It would give feedback. I don't think a policy at this time would be the best use of time.

MOHAMMED : it is a bit frustrating how there is already signage on the leadership college.

They are trying to appease us by slightly raising the admission.to the college.

HANWELL : lets move on.

Task forces :

HANWELL : Health and Wellness, is it possible to have 1<sup>st</sup> principles for next meeting?

BINCZYK : not looking good for me... but we can try

HANWELL : ok so lets say February the 11<sup>th</sup>. Ok so Tuition → waiting for doodle poll.

Behond that we have like... seven policies that are expiring.

Feb 28<sup>th</sup> Internationalization

Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, tuition

Feb 28<sup>th</sup> mandatory non-instructional fees

MOHAMMED : How do we renew expired policies?

HANWELL : simple renewal meeting, it only takes one reading if there aren't any amendments

So we should have a grip on things by the end of February.

## **11. NEXT MEETING**

***January 28, 2014 at 6:00 PM***

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

*HANWELL* moved that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion was seconded by *CHELEN*.

Vote on Motion 8 / 0 / 0

***CARRIED***

Meeting adjourned at ***insert time.***



### **Internationalization (Principles)**

The Students' Union will advocate on the following principles:

- A diverse student body is a fundamental feature of a high-quality University experience;
- The University of Alberta should not charge a student more than they cost to educate;
- Students deserve predictable tuition;
- The University of Alberta should increase financial aid to international students because they have less access to scholarships and do not have access to government student loans;
- The federal government should issue multiple-entry visas to all international students;
- The rate of international students transitioning from temporary to permanent resident status in the past decade has not kept up with the pace of international student enrolment in Canadian post-secondary institutions;
- Recent surveys have pointed out integration with domestic students, accessibility of on-campus housing, and quality of career-related programming as the top three issues for international students; and
- Cultural awareness and global experiences are highly sought-after by potential employers.

WHEREAS the University of Alberta clearly recognizes the importance of international students;

WHEREAS a diverse student body and institutional internationalization is a fundamental feature of a high-quality university education;

WHEREAS international students should not bear the burden of an institution's financial deficits;

WHEREAS institutions may charge international students more than they cost to educate;

WHEREAS international student differential represents a serious threat to affordability and accessibility;

WHEREAS international student differential limits the geographic diversity of our international students;

WHEREAS international students have less access to Scholarships and do not have access to Government Student Loans;

WHEREAS renewable scholarships for international students have high standards and cannot be regained if lost;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta does not require educational institutions to charge international student differential fees;

WHEREAS the Public Post-Secondary Institutions' Tuition Fees Regulation makes no provisions for international student differential fees;

WHEREAS the federal government only issues multiple-entry visas to international students from a select list of nations;

WHEREAS international students may work in Canada for up to three years after completion of their program and may also apply for landed immigrant status;

WHEREAS the number of international students in Canada increased by 120 percent from 2002 to 2011;

WHEREAS the number of international students transitioning from temporary to permanent resident status increased by 16 percent from 2002 to 2011;

WHEREAS the rate of international students transitioning from temporary to permanent resident status in the past decade has not kept up with the pace of international student enrolment in Canadian post-secondary institutions;

WHEREAS an enhanced campus experience may increase engagement and retention of international students;

WHEREAS recent surveys have pointed out integration with domestic students, accessibility of on-campus housing, and quality of career-related programming as the top three issues for international students;

WHEREAS cultural awareness and global experiences are highly sought-after by potential employers;

WHEREAS studying abroad is a unique and highly valuable experience that all University of Alberta students should be able to access;

WHEREAS the transfer credit system plays a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of internationalization at the University of Alberta;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall support accessible post-secondary education for international students at the University of Alberta;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall not support the Board of Governors of the University of Alberta increasing differential tuition for international students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall advocate the University to improve access to Scholarships and Bursaries for international students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall advocate the University to restructure renewable scholarships to provide more predictability;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall advocate the University to grandfather tuition for international students to allow proper planning;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall lobby the Government of Alberta for regulation of the international differential fee to provide predictable tuition rates;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall lobby the federal government to issue multiple-entry visas to all international students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall advocate the federal government to increase the number of permanent residences for undergraduate international students accepted each year in the Canadian Experience Class;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall advocate the federal government to expand the Federal Skilled Worker Class program's fast-track stream eligibility to undergraduate international students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall work with the Government of Alberta to expand permanent residency opportunities for undergraduate international students;

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall advocate to the~~

~~University to provide international students with the support and services needed to help them achieve success in the pursuit of a quality undergraduate experience; and~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall encourage the University to actively foster opportunities that allow local students to interact with international students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall advocate the University to improve housing quality and accessibility for international students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall lobby the University for improved career-related services for international students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall advocate for more accessible University exchanges, international internships and externships;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall advocate to the University for clear and transparent transfer credit processes at the faculty, Campus Alberta, national, and international levels.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

WHEREAS the cost of housing is a significant financial burden for students often comparable to tuition;

WHEREAS mandatory meal plans comprise a significant portion of residence fees for students living in Lister Centre;

WHEREAS municipal property taxes on residences, passed on through increases to rent, represent an increased strain on affordability for students;

WHEREAS vacancy rates in the Edmonton area are traditionally low and rental costs relatively high;

WHEREAS a lack of affordable housing discourages both prospective and current students from pursuing post-secondary education;

WHEREAS Alberta is the only jurisdiction in Canada to assess property taxes on university residences;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union advocates that the Government of Alberta and the City of Edmonton remove the burden of municipal property taxes from residences and that the University of Alberta passes any ensuing savings to students in residence;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union advocates that the Government of Alberta provide capital funds toward the development of additional student housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall oppose any University of Alberta student residence rent and/or meal plan increase exceeding CPI.

**RESEARCH**

WHEREAS research and teaching represent the foundation of any comprehensive higher education institution;

WHEREAS research is a valuable aspect of the University;

WHEREAS conducting research is a necessary activity that improves the reputation of the University;

WHEREAS teaching and research have a symbiotic connection within the framework of any comprehensive higher education institution;

WHEREAS university culture lends itself to celebrate the successes of research while overlooking successes in teaching;

WHEREAS indirect costs of research are necessary expenses not covered by research funding and are therefore covered by the University operating budget;

WHEREAS when the indirect cost of research competes with undergraduate education for funding, it encroaches on the quality of education delivered to undergraduates;

WHEREAS undergraduate students should be able to take advantage of the research infrastructure of the University;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall endeavour to ensure that the University views research and teaching as equally important constituent parts of the University;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall endeavour to ensure that the University of Alberta contextualizes research in a manner that maximizes the quality of higher education within the institution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall endeavour to ensure that the University of Alberta values the totality of research undertaken within the institution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union advocates for more opportunities that allow undergraduate students to partake in research; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union advocates for increased student and faculty awareness of undergraduate research opportunities at the University of Alberta.

## **STUDENT LOANS**

WHEREAS education must be viewed as a public good due to the benefits it brings to the social structure and tax system;

WHEREAS there exists an opportunity cost for those individuals who choose to pursue an education and be away from a job;

WHEREAS in order for education to be viewed as affordable and accessible the costs of living and the costs of education must be addressed as separate burdens;

WHEREAS the current parental contribution requirement within the student loan system does not reflect the diversity of Albertan students;

WHEREAS the debt load of students continues to increase, with the rising cost of tuition diminishing the relative value of the living allowance;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union advocates for a financial aid system that:

- a. includes increased relative and absolute amounts of non-repayable assistance, including but not limited to grants and bursaries;
- b. is accessible to all Albertan students attending not-for-profit post-secondary institutions and addresses the real financial need;
- c. recognizes the complete overhead costs of education to the learner including, but not limited to: rent and utility costs, textbook costs, transportation costs, food, personal care, internet and computer costs;
- d. includes adjustments to all forms of financial assistance to reflect changes in market realities as they affect students;
- e. does not consider parental income as a factor for loans; and
- f. eases the growing burden of student debt to post-secondary graduates.