

A G E N D A

2013-2014/POLICY/09

Policy Committee

Date: August 20, 2013

Time: 7:00PM

Location: TBD

1. Approval of the Agenda

2. Approval of the Minutes

(Please review the attached minutes from August 6, 2013)

3. Chair's Announcements

4. Presentations

- a. Health & Wellness Policy

(Task Force: William, Kareema, Natalia, Braiden. See attached document.)

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. Students in Governance Policy

(See attached for edited version)

- b. Health and Wellness Policy

(See attached for proposed principles and amendments.)

8. New Business

- a. Policy Committee meeting schedule for the fall/winter

(Please be prepared to discuss availability and best times/day to meet.)

- b. Next Policy for Review: discussion

(We have Internationalization that is still on hold. Please be prepared to discuss which policy we will tackle next.)

- c. Process of Appeals: Task force and questions

(When do we want to start working on the Appeals policy? Who will be on the task force? What questions do we need to ask?)

9. Discussion

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

- a. Scheduling: Agendas and Exec Reports

10. Confirmation of Next Meeting Date

Next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday September 3, 2013**

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



POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

2013 - 2014 #8

Date: Tuesday August 6, 2013

Time: 8:05 pm

In Attendance:

Kareema Batal (Chair)

William Lau

Dustin Chelen

Adam Woods

Dylan Hanwell

Natalia Binczyk

Excused Absence:

Kelsey Mills

Colin Champagne

Braiden Redman

Others in Attendance:

N/A

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by *BATAL* at 8:05 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CHELEN moved that *items 2 through 9 excluding item 7 on the Policy Committee's agenda for August 6, 2013 be stuck and tabled until next meeting.*

Seconded by *HANWELL*.

Vote on Motion 4 / 2 / 0

CARRIED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

BINCZYK amended minutes from July 25, 2013 to include *the word "not" in her second comment in "Old Business"*.

BINCZYK amended minutes from July 23, 2013 and July 25, 2013 to remove *the "y" from her name.*

LAU amended minutes from July 23, 2013 to include the terms “student” before “consultations” and “more clearly” after “be defined” in his second statement in Presentations.

LAU amended minutes from July 23, 2013 to include “The Provincial government provides \$25,000 to \$30,000 in seed money a year for the next three years to fund mental health initiatives and it comes from the \$3 million of recent funding. The applications are accepted every month, but the funding cycle ends in August of that school year. Launch will be in November” in place of his second statement in Executive Committee Reports.

BINCZYK amended minutes from July 23, 2013 to include “MILLS” before the second statement in Presentations.

BINCZYK amended minutes from July 23, 2013 to include the term “it is imperative to provide councilors with leadership development activities” after her first statement in Presentations.

BATAL amended minutes from July 23, 2013 to include “We need” at the beginning of her second statement in Presentations.

LAU amended minutes from July 23, 2013 to include “Yes, but for all students” and “we could” at the beginning of his eighth statement and before “bring Omar’s”, respectively, in New Business.

HANWELL moved that the July 23, 2013 and July 25, 2013 minutes be approved as amended.

The motion was seconded by LAU.

Vote on Motion 4 / 0 / 2

CARRIED

**4. CHAIR’S
ANNOUNCEMENTS** Tabled

5. PRESENTATIONS Tabled

**6. EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
REPORTS** Tabled

**7. QUESTION
PERIOD** Tabled

8. OLD BUSINESS **a. Quality Instruction:**

BATAL: I consulted Craig on this policy with regards to our concerns from last meeting. We cannot make any amendments to the principles now, since it has passed first reading. Our only option is to go through with it as is, move it to second reading. If approved, PC or any councilor at his/her discretion can

re-open it again and propose an amendment.

CHELEN: Let's finish this second set of principles and then bring a new set of first principles that is based on Eric's feedback.

WOODS: Let's give Eric a chance to make this amendment on his own discretion.

LAU: Is the interdisciplinary education valid or not? I would like to clarify this.

BATAL: We do not have too many options with amending this policy's proposed principles as it was already passed in the first reading.

CHELEN: Can we make a motion to reconsider?

WOODS: I do not think so. The Robert's Rules of Order would not allow this.

BATAL: We can only pass it to the second reading.

WOODS: I am comfortable passing this as is.

CHELEN moved that the Quality Instruction Policy be recommended to Council in second reading.

The motion was seconded by *HANWELL*

Vote on Motion 6/0/0

CARRIED

b. Students in Governance Policy

CHELEN: Reviewed it with Kelsey (we were the task force) and just added a BIR clause that advocated for professional development training for student representatives. We could advocate for student representatives who have to miss an exam due to a conference or training pertaining to their student representative role will have the option of deferring their exam.

HANWELL: Would a development conference be a valid excuse for missing an exam?

CHELEN: Students should not be negatively impacted for being involved in mentoring activities. The RO changes the status of executives to full time working individuals.

WOODS: We would like to extend this status to other student representatives. Overall, I am in favor of this policy. I do not see any additions necessary.

BINCZYK: Why is it that what we are passing now is different from the official document that we have?

CHELEN: What we are passing now to Council are the principles behind this policy and is only a general outline of the principles. It is very high level.

CHELEN moved that the Students in Governance Policy be recommended to Council in first reading.

The motion was seconded by *WOODS*

Vote on Motion 6/0/0

CARRIED

9. NEW BUSINESS Tabled

10. DISCUSSION

11. NEXT MEETING *Tuesday August 20, 2013.*

12. ADJOURNMENT *BATAL* moved that the meeting be adjourned.
The motion was seconded by *WOODS*.

Vote on Motion 5 / 1 / 0

CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: August 6, 2013 Time: 8:05 pm		2013 – 2014 MEETING #7
Motions		
1.	CHELEN/HANWELL moved that <i>items 2 through 9 excluding item 7 on the Policy Committee's meeting agenda for August 6, 2013 be struck and tabled until next meeting.</i>	CARRIED 4/2/0
2.	HANWELL/LAU moved that <i>the meeting minutes from July 23, 2013 be approved as amended.</i>	CARRIED 4/0/2
3.	CHELEN/HANWELL moved that <i>the Policy Committee recommend to Students' Council the Quality Instruction Policy to be approved in second reading.</i>	CARRIED 6/0/0
4.	<p>CHELEN/WOODS moved that <i>the Policy Committee recommend to Students' Council the creation of the Students in Governance political policy based on the following principles:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students are best represented by other students 2. The University has a number of undergraduate student representatives as part of their governance structure 3. Student representative activities add to the workload of the normal student. 4. Students in governance should be treated fairly and equitably. 5. Students in governance should have access to training, support, and academic accommodations when representative duties conflict with classes 6. Student representative positions should not be eliminated 7. The Students' Union should actively promote the necessity and value of including undergraduate student representatives in University decision-making. 8. The Students' Union should endeavor to increase student participation in University governance, especially for under-represented groups. 	CARRIED 6/0/0
5.	BATAL/WOODS moved that <i>the meeting be adjourned at 8:40 PM.</i>	CARRIED 5/1/0

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

WHEREAS the health and wellness of an individual encompasses emotional, mental, physical, sexual, social and spiritual health; ~~spiritual, and sexual health;~~

WHEREAS the health and wellness of students may be affected by the physical environment on the University of Alberta campuses;

WHEREAS there is demand for increased quantity and quality of interfaith prayer and meditation space on campus;

WHEREAS the health and wellness of a student has a direct effect on academic and social success;

WHEREAS addictive behavior, including, but not limited to, such as addiction to computer/internet use, and to cognitive- enhancing drugs, and gambling can be damaging to a student's academic success;

WHEREAS high risk alcohol consumption occurs within the student population;

WHEREAS time and money invested in disease prevention and health education result in long-term cost savings in health care expenditures;

WHEREAS poor self-health during young adulthood is a major risk factor for chronic disease;

WHEREAS students are increasingly susceptible to high levels of stress due to heavy workloads;

WHEREAS ~~there are limited fitness and physical wellness facilities on campus~~ group physical activities effectively enhance both physical and social health;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union ~~advocates~~ shall advocate that the University enhance physical wellness space;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union ~~advocates~~ shall advocate that the University increase interfaith spiritual space on campus; ~~and~~

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union ~~advocates~~ shall advocate that the University enhance sexual health awareness for students;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall advocate that the University enhances addictions counseling for students;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union ~~advocates~~shall advocate that the University explore new ways in which to enhance students' mental health;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union ~~advocates~~shall advocate that the University encourage safe drinking practices for those who choose to consume alcohol;

~~WHEREAS there is demand for increased quantity and quality of interfaith prayer and meditation space on campus;~~

~~WHEREAS high risk alcohol consumption occurs within the student population;~~

~~WHEREAS addictive behavior, including, but not limited to, addiction to computer/internet use and to cognitive enhancing drugs can be damaging to a student's academic success;~~

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union ~~advocates~~shall advocate that the University ~~increase psychological and psychiatric services~~psychological and psychiatric services balance population health and individual counseling services;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall advocate for creation of curricula on the topic of self-health; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall collaborate with Recreation Services to create opportunities for physical activity across campus.

~~BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union advocates that the University explore new ways in which to enhance students' mental health;~~

~~BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union advocates that the University enhance physical wellness space;~~

~~BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union advocates that the University enhance sexual health awareness for students;~~

~~BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union advocates that the University increase interfaith spiritual space on campus; and~~

~~BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union advocates that the University encourage safe drinking practices for those who choose to consume alcohol~~

STUDENTS IN GOVERNANCE POLICY

Whereas undergraduate students know their needs best, and

Whereas some University and Faculty policies already give undergraduate students and student groups representative capacity on certain committees and boards, and

Whereas there are over 600 representative positions filled by undergraduates at the University of Alberta, and

Whereas undergraduate student associations are autonomous organizations that exist to advocate for the students they represent, and

Whereas faculty and department support is appreciated by the SU and student organizations, and

Whereas student representatives activities supplement the educational experiences of students, and

Whereas undergraduate students are required to balance their academic, personal, and professional lives with their representative activities, and

Whereas the undergraduate population at the University of Alberta is diverse in its makeup.

Therefore, Be It Resolved That the Students' Union shall advocate that the University act fairly and equitably toward undergraduate student representatives and student group representatives, as they would any other faculty and administrator member of the University community, and

Be It Further Resolved That the Students' Union shall advocate for increased training and support for undergraduate student representatives, and

Be It Further Resolved That the Students' Union shall advocate for appropriate and fair academic accommodations for student representatives, and

Be It Further Resolved That the Students' Union shall advocate against the elimination of undergraduate student representative positions at any level from policy or practice, and

Be It Further Resolved That the Students' Union inform the University about its obligation to consult student representatives on academic, administrative, and operational issues, and

Be It Resolved That the SU shall advocate for these organizations to remain autonomous organizations, free to advocate for the students they represent without the influence from department or faculty, and

Be It Resolved That the SU encourage faculties and departments to support their student organizations, but inform them that student organizations need to be driven by the students, and

Be It Further Resolved That the Students' Union shall actively communicate to the University the value of student representatives, and student representative groups, and

Be It Further Resolved That the Students' Union shall act to reduce barriers to student participation in University governance, especially for under-represented groups.

August 15, 2013

To: Students' Union Policy

Committee 2013-2014 Re: Report of

~~the Vice President (Academic)~~

Hello Policy Committee,

Below is a report on my progress toward political policies delegated to my portfolio.

I. Academic Materials

The Bookstore is beginning to look for an external group to update its underlying technology systems. While this is a major expense for the store, I believe it's an essential way to ensure that professors are more price-conscious when ordering academic materials. Unfortunately, updating their technology will be a lengthy process, and won't begin until at least May 2014. I'm hoping to pressure the Bookstore to look toward a more aggressive timeline for a back-end update.

Be Book Smart is currently in the preparation process. I'm hopeful that we can target students who are about to purchase their new books at the Bookstore and encourage them to consider alternate materials.

Next Steps:

- Request for an external review of the Bookstore's operations, to inform their strategic planning process.
- Gather more data on the Bookstore's financial performance through the Bookstore Advisory Group.
- Make the minutes of the Bookstore Advisory Group public so students are aware of advances made toward reducing academic material costs.
- Advance the Bookstore's communication with primary purchasers – instructors – through a redeveloped online materials ordering process for instructors. This process should include information on the cost of textbooks that professors are ordering.
- Advocate to the VPIT's office for a more comprehensive product management system that gives more data to instructors.
- Build a close working relationship with the new Vice Provost and Chief Librarian.
- Inform students about alternatives to purchasing new academic materials through a comprehensive marketing campaign.

- Develop a resource for professors to refer to when considering alternatives to new textbooks.

II. Experiential Learning

No new progress on this policy in the past two weeks. I suspect that there will be very little opportunity to advance this policy, as many things involve investment in student service offices, which are facing immense budgetary pressures. I'll raise the issue at my next meeting with the Dean of Students, however.

Next Steps:

- Build a rapport with the Director of CAPS
- Write to University Advancement thanking them for their support of student experiential learning opportunities, and publicly thank donors through a blog post.
- Work with leaders of experiential learning services to gauge their interest in collaboration.
- Meet with SSDS to discuss the barriers that they perceive to experiential learning opportunities like CSL and Undergraduate Research.
- Work with the Dean of Students to expand the scope of the Academic Accommodation policy.

III. Internationalization

No new progress in this portfolio.

Next Steps:

- Better understand barriers to international students on campus, perhaps through a focus group.
- Work with Extension and the RO to expose more international students to Canadian culture.

IV. Quality Instruction

I had the opportunity to present to around 50 new professors on student needs in the class room. This was an excellent time for me to influence on-the-ground teaching practises. The presentation I developed should also be transferable to give to others involved in teaching and learning, as it highlights key student demographics and student expectations from professors. I relied heavily on the National Survey on Student Engagement to inform this presentation.

Next Steps:

- Involve the SU in long-term planning for the Centre for Teaching and Learning.
- Actively participate in TLEF allocation discussions.
- Advocate for continued funding for TLEF grants, even in tough budget times.

- Review the University vision for teaching through the rescission of GFC policy 111 and the development of a new teaching strategy or teaching evaluation policy.
- Every day, find ways to encourage and celebrate excellent teaching on campus.
- Provide a higher level of visibility for excellent teaching through a re-developed teaching and learning webpage.

V. Research

No new progress on this policy in the past two weeks.

Next Steps:

- With the Director of URI, advocate for a consolidated and easy to access database of undergraduate research opportunities.
- Provide support to the Festival of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity as needed.
- Advocate for greater online presence of the Undergraduate Research Initiative.
- Develop information on integrating teaching and research at research-intensive universities.
- Continue to encourage applications for tri-council undergraduate research awards, Kule Institute for Advance Study grants, Roger Smith Undergraduate Researcher Awards, and the undergraduate researcher stipend.

VI. Scholarships and Bursaries

The Student Financial Aid Task Force is beginning to wrap up, and I'm excited for the recommendations it will produce.

Next Steps:

- Lobby administration to use a student data system to account for available resources and costs when making scholarship and bursary decisions.
- Ensure that there is policy in place that mandates the Registrar's Office to provide a percentage of need-based aid.
- Continue to collect data on the impacts of continuing scholarships on student retention.
- Recommend a more coordinated management approach to scholarships

and bursaries at the University.