

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL

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Tuesday May 17, 2011  
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

## ORDER PAPER (SC 2011-02)

### 2011-02/1 SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

2011-02/1a Announcements – The next meeting of Students' Council will take place on Tuesday, May 31, 2011

### 2011-02/2 PRESENTATIONS

2011-02/2a International Students Presentation- Presented by Councillor Zinyemba. Sponsored by Emerson Csorba, VP Academic

#### Abstract:

International students enrich the University of Alberta financially and increase the student body's cultural capital. However, they face certain challenges at different stages of their undergraduate career which inhibit them from fully benefiting from services available to them and realizing their full potential both in and out of the class room. While many challenges are similar to those faced by new immigrants, studies have shown that students from other countries often fear disappointing parents and sponsors to pay for the students' education which is triple that of local students and thus tend to be only academically inclined. This presentation, backed by statistics will shed more light on the specific challenges faced by international students, as well as present recommendations as to how the Students' Council can facilitate participation of international students in extra-curricular activities within the Students' Union, as well as maintain the grades required of them.

2011-02/2b The SU Strategic Plan- Presented by Rory Tighe, President. Sponsored by Rory Tighe, President.

#### ABSTRACT:

This presentation will outline the Students' Unions Strategic Plan and should provide some clarity on where the organization is headed over the next five years. It will also give Council a bit of context for how our Executive goals will fit in with everything else.

### 2011-02/3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

### 2011-02/4 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 2011-02/5**      **QUESTION PERIOD**
- 2011-02/6**      **BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS**
- 2011-02/6a**      **FERGUSON MOVES THAT** Students' Council, on the recommendation of the Chief Returning Officer Selection Committee, appoint Zachary Fentiman as Chief Returning Officer for the 2011-2012 term.
- 2011-02/7**      **GENERAL ORDERS**
- 2011-02/8**      **INFORMATION ITEMS**
- 2011-02/8a**      Farid Iskandar, VP External- Report  
Please see document SC 11-02.01
- 2011-02/8b**      Emerson Csorba, VP Academic- Report  
Please see document SC 11-02.02
- 2011-02/8c**      Rory Tighe, President- Report  
Please see document SC 11-02.03
- 2011-02/8d**      Colten Yamigishi, VP Student Life- Report  
Please see document SC 11-02.04
- 2011-02/8e**      Votes and Proceedings  
Please see document SC 11-02.05

# Report to Students' Council

May 11, 2011

Farid Iskandar, Vice-President (External)

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Hello Council,

First off, I would like to apologize for not attending Students' Council last Thursday, however I had to go to Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS, provincial lobby group) retreat in Canmore from May 5-8.

## **Executive Retreat:**

April 30<sup>th</sup> through May 5<sup>th</sup> was reserved for executive retreat this year. Most of the time was spent on learning about each executive portfolio, but we also spent sometime discussing our goals for the year.

## **Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) Transition:**

As I mentioned in my introduction we had transition for our Provincial Lobby Group CAUS last week. The transition was structured in the form of a number of information sessions, each about an hour long, covering everything from how the provincial government works, to the intricate details of the ever-complicated Student Loans Program (SLP).

I had the pleasure to meet the Presidents and Vice President Externals from the University of Calgary and University of Lethbridge Students' Unions. We have a great team this year. We also held our elections for Chair and Vice-Chair of CAUS. Zack Moline the President of University of Lethbridge Students' Union has been elected Chair, and I had the honor to have been elected the Vice-Chair of CAUS for the 2011-2012 term.

On the last day of retreat, the incomings spent the day to focus on our priorities for the next year. We separated our priorities into two categories: One for civil servants, and the other for political leaders running for party leadership or the election:

### Priorities for civil servants:

- Regulating Non-Instructional Fees
  - Increasing Non-Repayable grants
  - Improving the Elections Act
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### Priorities for party leaders:

- Making Alberta post-secondary participation rate the highest in the country
  - Legislating the tuition cap
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More information about these priorities will be provided in the coming months. But as you can see two of my main platform point that I ran on have successfully made it to the list.

## **Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Western Transition:**

The CASA retreat starts Friday May 13, and it goes until Sunday May 15. This transition is

different from CAUS as there will be no goal setting. There are three CASA conferences in a year. The first one is Policy and Strategy, usually the last week of July, and this is where we set our priorities for the year. The next conference is a Lobby conference where we get to Lobby MPs on the priorities we set.

### **First three days of work:**

For the last three days I have been working for the first time around the office of SUB 2-900. I'm still in the process of learning the portfolio. On Monday, we provided a press release about the 46% increase in borrowing of student loans since 2006/2007. You can see the article at: <http://www.metronews.ca/edmonton/local/article/855063> and here: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/story/2011/05/10/edmonton-univeristy-student-loans.html>. On Tuesday I spent some time organizing Senate interviews.

The Director of Research and Political Affairs (DRPA), Justin Williams, and myself started talking about introducing a program to Undergraduate students that would provide them with lobby training. The program would also try to set up meetings between students and their respective MLAs (Member of the Legislative Assembly) to lobby on Post-Secondary issues. If implemented correctly, this would be a great way to outreach to students with political inclination. The program would hopefully ensure a contested race for the best position on the Students' Union Executive (a.k.a. Vice President (External)).

### **Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Essay Competition:**

Need Extra Cash? Here's a competition organized by CASA for all students:

Competition Details

1st Prize: \$1000

2nd Prize: \$500

The SUBMISSION DEADLINE is May 31, 2011

Is There A Higher Education Bubble?

Costs rising above inflation, enrolments rising above population growth, diminishing job prospects and intense nation-wide belief in higher education have led many politicians, activists and media to declare that there's a bubble in higher education.

The 2008 collapse has driven more and more Canadians to take out ever-growing loans to go back to school promised a better life through better access to the labour market. Many of these students are graduating without access to the jobs they trained for. Unemployment among young Canadians is at an all time high.

Is there a higher education bubble? What can be done by government, universities and citizens to address the issue, while maintaining accessibility? If no action is taken, what will happen? Is there a different model, old or new, which will allow our schools to keep their end of the higher education promise?

Your essay should use empirical evidence, historical reference and moral persuasion to analyze these questions, or other questions regarding the idea of a higher education bubble.

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Please read the application competition rules before submitting your essay:

The contest is open to Canadian and international students. A student is defined as someone who attends school in the 2010/2011 school year or is enrolled to attend in 2011/2012.

Submissions will be considered from secondary and post-secondary (undergraduate and graduate) students in all disciplines.

Entry must include a typed essay of 1,000-1,500 words, and a cover sheet including the student's name, mailing address, phone number, e-mail address, school, major, and expected year of graduation.

Entries will be accepted in English and French.

Entries must include references cited from academic sources. Any academically acceptable referencing style may be used.

Please note that if you are planning to include a graph in your essay, you must send it to us in an Excel file with the underlying data in order that we can recreate it in house. If you want to include a previously published graph for which you do not have the underlying data, you must cite its source appropriately to prove that you have permission to reuse it.

Entries must be submitted online or by mail.

Entries may only be submitted once. Further submissions will not be accepted.

Failure to follow these rules may lead to disqualification from the contest.

Entries will be judged on originality, clear expression of ideas, and understanding.

All entries become of the property of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. In addition to receiving cash prizes, winners may have their essays published in Canadian Alliance of Student Associations periodicals.

The deadline is 5pm (Pacific) on May 31, 201

If you have any question about anything Council or Students' Union related, please feel welcome to come to 2-900 (on the second floor of SUB right by the top of the main stairs) and visit the executive. I may not always be in my office when you stop by, but I am more than happy to set up a meeting with you if you like. I can be reached at 780-492-4236 or [vp.external@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:vp.external@su.ualberta.ca).

Cheers!

Farid

# Vice-President Academic Council Report

11 May 2011

Prepared by: Emerson Csorba, SUVPA – 11 May 2011

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**To:** Student Council

Hi councillors,

The first few weeks as Vice-President Academic have been fairly smooth, and I am slowly developing a fuller understanding of the position. During my first days in office, I scheduled dozens of meetings with different stakeholders on campus, in order to hit the ground running. These efforts have paid off, as the individuals that I have met with have provided good ideas regarding what the SU and university should do in order to grow. This report focuses on a few different themes in particular: sustainability, university governance and the University of Alberta Bridging Program.

## Sustainability

To begin, I have met on a few occasions with Ian Moore (the Director of ECOS) and Louise Veillard (a former Director of ECOS and member of OSAAC, which I will explain below). Since I will include sustainability-related initiatives in the VPA portfolio this year, these early meetings are important in shaping my goals and setting the right course for the remainder of the year.

Although the year has just started, the SU has made one important gain: the VPA now sits on the Office of Sustainability Academic Advisory Committee (OSAAC) as an SU representative, in addition to a student representative from ECOS. For those that do not know, the Office of Sustainability separates into three branches, each of which has a committee: Outreach and Engagement, Facilities, Operations Services, and Academic Teaching and Research. Sitting on the last of these committees (OSAAC) is a positive step for the VPA portfolio and for students.

## University Governance

At our first Council meeting, Rory talked about the Student Governance Office, and I will further elaborate below. Over the last weeks, I have been working closely with the Student Governance Advisor, Amanda Henry and the Student Governance Officer, Giselle General. The progress that this office has made over the last year is tremendous, and because of this, the next year is looking auspicious.

On 11 May, the undergraduate student at-large representatives on GFC standing committees met to discuss the upcoming year. In my opinion, this meeting went quite well, and provided the students in attendance with a clearer picture of the year to come. The mentorship provided by this office was evident, and will continue over the upcoming year.

The next governance-related meeting is likely GFC Student Caucus (GFCSC), which the VPA chairs. If you are on the General Faculties Council, then make sure that you attend. Although the

date for GFCSC has not been set, it will occur near the end of the month, likely between 27 and 30 May.

## **Bridging Program**

International student support is an important issue, and the university is doing well at it through the Bridging Program. In a recent blog post (it will go up on the SU website soon), I wrote the following:

*During the 2011 SU executive campaign, I talked briefly about the implementation of what is generally called a “Foundation Year” program. Foundation Year is prevalent at Australian universities, and has been established at Simon Fraser University, through a private company called Navitas.*

*The University of Alberta is not following in the footsteps of SFU or Australian universities. Rather, it is improving the current U of A Bridging Program, which provides ESL courses (ESL 140 and 145) to international students in their first year at the university. Basically, the new Bridging Program will introduce a new course, ESL 135, in order to open up to a larger number of international students, and provide additional transition support to the students in the program. The fact that the University of Alberta is running this program internally, instead of outsourcing to a private company, is impressive and well-received by the Students’ Union.*

Over the last year, I was concerned that the University of Alberta might follow the example of Foundation Year programs in Australia, and establish a private college on campus that would help transition international students with weaknesses in English or certain courses (math, biology, etc.) to the university. Simon Fraser University currently does this, and no doubt profits considerably from international students that do not quite meet university entrance requirements.

However, former Dean of Students, Dr. Bill Connor, has studied and led changes to the U of A’s current Bridging Program. At the moment, this program is targeted at international students that require improvements to their English speaking and writing skills. Through this program, students take ESL 140 and 145 and one other course. Dr. Connor’s changes to the program would introduce ESL 135 and enhance international student support. At the moment, the program includes about 220 students, though this number will jump over the next years.

Following my meeting with Dr. Connor, I tweeted the following:

*Very excited to see what Dr. Connor has done with the U of A Bridging Program, and that it is being run internally by the university!*

## **Students Interested in Council**

On Friday 6 May, I attended SIC, which brought together numerous councillors and students not on Council that are interested in the Students' Union. The discussion at SIC was lively and rich, and I came away with some interesting ideas that will perhaps shape my upcoming year. I very much hope that SIC continues throughout the year, and will do my best to continue to attend these meetings.

## Conclusion

From 14 to 23 May, I will be away in Europe. During this time, I will not have my cell phone or even a laptop. Because of this, I will reply to whatever you send me as soon as I get back.

In solidarity,

-Emerson Csorba  
Vice-President Academic, Students' Union



May 13, 2011

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Students' Council

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Hi Council,

Although I have been out of town on transition retreats for a lot of time over the past couple of weeks, below you will find what I have been up to.

### **COUNCIL OF ALBERTA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (CAUS) RETREAT**

CAUS is our provincial lobby group where the University of Alberta, the University of Lethbridge and the University of Calgary make up the membership. The Vice President (External), the Director of Research & Political Affairs, and myself attended the CAUS retreat last weekend. The retreat was structured so that the outgoing student executives were delivering presentation to the incomings and it was very useful and informative.

We also had the opportunity to get to know the executives from Calgary and Lethbridge who we will be working with over the next year. Based on our conversations, both of us believe that this will be a very productive year for the organization. We voted on the positions of chair and vice chair and I would like to congratulate Vice President Iskandar on his election to Vice Chair of CAUS.

The latter half of the weekend was spent by beginning the discussion on what the CAUS priorities for the year will be. It looks like there will be a large focus on a get out to vote campaign for the provincial election when it is called. We were also looking at pushing for Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee Regulation, reinforcing the tuition cap, and the re-establishment of non-repayable student aid. The Vice President will likely talk about this in more detail in his report.

### **CANADIAN ALLIANCE OF STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS (CASA) RETREAT**

The Vice President (External), the Director of Research & Political Affairs, and myself will be attending the CASA retreat in Chilliwak, British Columbia this weekend and should have more to report on it once we are back.

### **THE PAW CENTRE**

We will be meeting with the all of the stakeholders and their legal councils on Monday to try and come together on the agreement. The Vice President (Operations & Finance), our General Manager, and I hope to bring an agreement to council for approval in the near future.

### **CAMPUS FOOD BANK**

The University has agreed to fund a major part of the Campus Food Bank move which is really fantastic; a big thanks to the University and particularly Facilities & Operations for that. With the funding in place we will move forward with all of the planning to make the move happen as soon as possible. The Vice President (Operations & Finance) has taken the lead on this project from our end, working with our General Manager, and is doing a fantastic job of keeping on top of it.

### **FALL READING WEEK**

The University has accepted our proposal to create a taskforce to look into the creation of a Fall Reading Week. I have talked to the necessary stakeholders and am currently in the process of scheduling a meeting to take place before the end of May.

### **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

I attended the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Board Finance & Property Committee where I presented on our 2011/2012 Students' Union fees, as is done every year. These were approved and recommended to the Board of Governors for final approval. There will be a Board of Governors meeting on Friday, May 13 where these fees will be voted on. There is not a lot of new projects going on with the Board at the moment as it winds down for summer but I will keep you apprised of anything that comes up.

**If you have any further questions, suggestions, or concerns**, please do not hesitate to follow-up with me, either in person at SUB 2-900, by phone at 780-492-4236, or by email at [president@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:president@su.ualberta.ca).

*"Always desire to learn something useful" – Sophocles*

## 2011/2012 Report to Council

May 12, 2011

Vice President (Student Life)

**Prepared by:** Colten Yamagishi, Vice President (Student Life)

**To:** Students' Council 2011/12

Hello Everyone! I hope that you have all settled into summer. That being summer jobs, summer school, summer vacation, or whatever else you choose do with this lovely summer weather (minus the wind).

This past week I have been busy enjoying the view out of my office window as I have been spending the majority of my time in the wonderful room temperature environment of 2-900 or in meetings. Since we met last Thursday I have been all over the map working on the following:

### ***Programming***

#### **Week of Welcome:**

The programming department has been hard at work developing materials for the WOW facilitators and researching/brainstorming exciting ideas for events. We had our first WOW facilitator meeting Wednesday night and I was very happy to engage with an ambitious new group (many of the facilitators have returned from last year's Student Life Events Committee) bringing fresh new ideas for the WOW theme in our brainstorming session. I fully believe that the strength in our programming department and the ambition of our volunteers is going to make this the best WOW yet.

### ***Services***

#### **Health and Dental Plan Advisory Committee:**

Andy and I are almost done interviewing for this committee (just one left) and we will have made the decision for choosing its membership by the time you read this report. We have received a number of strong candidates for the committee making the decision difficult.

#### **Campus Food Bank:**

We have received a commitment from the University to help pay for a large portion of the renovation costs to move the CFB to the main floor of SUB!

#### **Name Brainstorm:**

Next week we will be brainstorming for the possible renaming/rebranding of both the ECOS and Infolink services. We are investigating this opportunity to accommodate for the growth of each services portfolio so that its name properly reflects the broad scope of each services mandate.

### ***Advocacy***

#### **Residences:**

I am very excited to have been part of the first Residence Hall Association Executive meeting of the year. We met over Skype and it was very nice to meet all of the new Executives online. I am excited to see what great things the RHA can achieve this year with an overhauled constitution and structure, new ambitious members, and the outstanding leadership of President Aditya Rao. I met with Adi and Kyle Marshall (The UGAA of the SU Advocacy Department) to discuss transition and the great amount of work that Adi has done for the organization already.

We also attended the Residence Budget Advisory Committee meeting where Don Hickey (UofA Vice President Facilities and Operations) and Doug Dawson (Executive Director of Residence Services) showcased a number of diagrams showing the proposed changes to the Lister Cafeteria and Dining Center.

I have my Residence Community Standards meeting tomorrow (will have have happened by the time you read this)

### **GSA Meeting:**

I met with Hillary Sparkes (GSA VPSL) to discuss initiatives that we will be working on together this year. We also discussed our views on different meetings that we both attend and how we can work together to provide solidarity and a strong voice for students.

### **Appeals Regulation Group:**

We went over a number of edits to the UAPPOL appeals policy to streamline the academic appeals process. The finalized document will be done this summer and will be passed into further channels of governance. Justin Williams (SU DRPA) is looking over the document to help me provide recommendations to the committee.

### **Alcohol Policy Working Group:**

We have outlined the main agenda of directive ideas to change the University Alcohol Policy. We are looking to streamline the registration process for alcohol related events as well as make specific categorical rules for different types of events. I will be putting a lot of focus into this committee over the summer. Also, Carl Amrhein (UofA Provost) has requested that we host another town hall meeting this summer regarding the Alcohol Policy.

### **LGBTQ Centre:**

I have begun my reading regarding Sexual Orientation and Gender Centers that exist in other Canadian institutions. I read a great brief on the topic written last year by the VP Academic during his term working for the Advocacy Department. I plan to visit a number of these services at other schools over the summer to help understand how they operate. I will also begin speaking with student groups soon to see if this is a service that we need.

### **Opportunities for you to get involved:**

-Please sign up to volunteer for Week of Welcome at <http://goo.gl/P4vMs>.

-Check out Petros' awesome new committee SIC (Students Interested in Council?)

**Summary:**

My first full week in office has been crazy fun. I finally have everything set up, caught up on e-mails, and have gotten a hang of the office lifestyle. This weekend I will be doing a lot of reading and handling some non-vpsl related work that I have been leaving to get done for a while. I will soon be setting up a lot of meetings to make sure that I have a grasp on all of the resources that the SU has to offer.

If you have any other questions ask during council, stop by the office, or send me an email at [vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca).

Colten Yamagishi

780-299-3076

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

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Thursday May 5, 2011  
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS (SC 2011-01)

- 2011-01/1**      **SPEAKER'S BUSINESS**
- Meeting called to order at 6:17pm
- 2011-01/1a**      Installation Ceremony
- I am not here for me.  
I am here for the people that lent me their power in exchange for a promise.  
I will keep that promise to make decisions with their interest in mind.  
I will vote after knowing the facts, not before.  
I will use Robert's rules for their purpose, not my own.  
I will oppose ideas, not people.  
I will think before I speak, not speak just to think.  
I will take the job seriously or not take the job at all.  
I will represent my students interests, not my own.  
I am not here for me.*
- 2011-01/1b**      Announcements – The next meeting of Students' Council will take place on Tuesday, May 17, 2011
- 2011-01/1c**      Inaugural Addresses of Executive Officers and the Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative
- 2011-01/1d**      **TIGHE/YAMIGHISH MOVED TO** approve the Students Council Standing Orders
- Motion: CARRIED**
- 2011-01/2**      **PRESENTATIONS**
- 2011-01/2a**      An overview of the Students' Union- Presented by Rory Tighe, President. Sponsored by Rory Tighe, President.
- Abstract  
- This presentation will provide an overview of the Students' Union in its entirety. This will likely be review for many members of Students' Council but will offer some insight into departments that Councillors may not be as familiar with.
- 2011-01/2b**      The Student Body- Presented by Rory Tighe, President. Sponsored by Rory Tighe, President.

**Abstract**

- This presentation is comprised of statistics of different groups of students that make up our campus. It will provide insight into where students are from and the composition of the undergraduate body.

- 2011-01/2c** 2011-2013 CUPE agreement Presentation- Presented by Andy Cheema, VP Operations and Finance. Sponsored by Andy Cheema, VP Operations and Finance.
- 2011-01/7** **GENERAL ORDERS**
- 2011-01/7a** **CHEEMA/SINYEMBA MOVES THAT** Students' Council appoint one (1) member of Students Council to the Budget and Finance Committee.
- Nominations: Lee, Amer**
- Nominations Closed**
- Appointed: Amer**
- 2011-01/7b** **KANJI/KUSMU MOVED TO** appoint one (1) member of Students' Council to the Bylaw Committee
- Nominations: Eslinger**
- Nominations Closed**
- Appointed: Eslinger**
- 2011-01/3** **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**
- Rory Tighe, President- Oral Report
- Emerson Csorba, VP Academic- Oral Report
- Colten Yamigishi, VP Student Life- Oral Report
- Raphael Lepage Fortin, BoG Rep- Oral Report
- 2011-01/4** **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- Kim Ferguson, CAC Chair- Oral Report
- 2011-01/5** **QUESTION PERIOD**
- Question Period extended 15 minutes
- 2011-01/7** **GENERAL ORDERS**
- CHEEMA/SUMAR MOVED TO** suspend standing orders section 8 sub section 3 to allow for a motion to be made that relates to a presentation.
- Motion: CARRIED**
- CHEEMA/TIGHE MOVED TO** ratify the 2011-2013 memorandum agreement between the UASU and CUPE Local 1368

Speakers List: Cheema, Dollansky, Zinyemba, Dumouchel

**Motion: CARRIED**

**TIGHE/FERGUSON MOVED TO adjourn**

**Motion: CARRIED**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm**



