

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Tuesday July 26, 2011
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

ORDER PAPER (SC 2011-07)

2011-07/1 SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

2011-07/1a Announcements – The next meeting of Students' Council will take place on Tuesday August 16, 2011

2011-07/2 PRESENTATIONS

2011-07/2a Why care about graduate attributes?- Presented by Dustin Chelen and Emerson Csorba, VP Academic. Sponsored by the Emerson Csorba Vice-President Academic.

Abstract:

So graduate attributes are gaining momentum at the U of A. But why care? How are they relevant to you, and why should you bother investing time in them? "Why care about graduate attributes?" communicates the value of this new movement through concrete examples of life-changing initiatives already taking place at the U of A. With the VPA as co-chair of the committee leading graduate attributes, your voice will genuinely shape the future of education at the U of A for thousands of students. How will you shape graduate attributes on campus, and enhance the student experience at the U of A?"

2011-07/3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

2011-07/4 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

2011-07/5 QUESTION PERIOD

2011-07/6 BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2011-07/6a **CHEEMA/HAIDER MOVE THAT** Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee, approve an allocation from the Building Reserve not to exceed \$100,000 for the purpose of capital project management and planning, whereby the Vice President (Operations & Finance) will be required to report actual costs to Council at least once per month and to seek Council's approval where necessary.

2011-07/6b **CSORBA/YAMAGISHI MOVE THAT** upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council approve Bill #3, that Students' Council adopt the

Political Policy, Research, in second reading based on the following principles:

XII. Research

1. that the Students' Union shall endeavour to ensure that the University views research and teaching as equally important constituent parts of the University;
2. 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;
3. that the Students' Union shall endeavour to ensure that the University of Alberta values the totality of research undertaken within the institution;
4. that the Students' Union advocates for more opportunities that allow undergraduate students to partake in research;
5. that the Students' Union advocates for increased student and faculty awareness of undergraduate research opportunities at the University of Alberta; and
6. that this policy expire on April 30th, 2014.

Please see document SC 11-07.01

2011-07/6c

YAMAGISHI/LIANG MOVE THAT upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council approve Bill #4, that Students' Council adopt the Political Policy, Affordable Housing, in second reading based on the following principles:

II. Affordable Housing

1. 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.
2. that the Students' Union advocates that the Government of Alberta provide capital funds toward the development of additional student housing.
3. that the Students' Union shall oppose any University of Alberta student residence rent and/or meal plan increase exceeding CPI.

4. that this policy expire on April 30th, 2014.

Please see document SC 11-07.02

2011-07/6d

YAMAGISHI/KARUVELIL MOVE THAT upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council approve Bill #6, that Students' Council adopt the Political Policy, Engagement, in first reading based on the following principles:

VI. Engagement

1. That the Students' Union shall encourage the University to actively foster campus community and student involvement by investing in initiatives and opportunities that promote engagement; and
2. That the Students' Union advocates that the University identify and reward the contributions of students who actively strive to improve their campus and the greater community.
3. That this policy shall expire on April 30th, 2013.

Please see document SC 11-07.03

2011-07/6e

CSORBA/ISKANDAR MOVE that upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council approve Bill #5, that Students' Council adopt the Political Policy, International Students, in first reading based on the following principles:

VIII. International Students

1. that the Students' Union shall support accessible post-secondary education for international students at the University of Alberta;
2. that the Students' Union shall not support the Board of Governors of the University of Alberta increasing differential tuition for international students;
3. 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;
4. that the Students' Union advocates to the University for clear and transparent transfer credit processes at the faculty, Campus Alberta, national, and international levels; and
5. that this policy shall expire on April 30, 2014.

Please see document SC 11-07.04

2011-07/7 **GENERAL ORDERS**

2011-07/8 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2011-07/8a CAC- Summary report to Council

Please see document SC 11-07.05

2011-07/8b CAC- Report

Please see document SC 11-07.06

2011-07/8c Emerson Csorba, VP Academic- Report

Please see document SC 11-07.07

2011-07/8d Rory Tighe, President- Report

Please see document SC 11-07.08

2011-07/8e Andy Cheema, VP Operations and Finance- Report

Please see document SC 11-07.09

2011-07/8f Farid Iskandar, VP External- Report

Please see document SC 11-07.10

2011-07/8g ERC- Report

Please see document SC 11-07.11

2011-07/8h Policy Committee- Summary report to council

Please see document SC 11-07.12

2011-07/8i Colten Yamagishi, VP Student Life- Report

Please see document SC 11-07.13

2011-07/8j Policy Committee- Summery report to Council

Please see document SC 11-07.14

2011-07/8k Votes and Proceedings

Please see document SC 11-07.15

XII. 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, through all possible avenues, to ensure that research at the University of Alberta is appropriately contextualized within the larger framework of the institution's structure; and

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

II. AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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

WHEREAS the University of Alberta has accumulated large deferred maintenance liabilities on many of its residences;

WHEREAS deferred maintenance negatively affects the quality, affordability and safety of residences;

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 a lack of affordable housing represents an even greater barrier to traditionally underrepresented groups;

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

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has identified increasing access to Post Secondary Education for traditionally underrepresented groups as a priority;

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;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union advocates that the Government of Alberta provide a large-scale, one-time infusion of capital funds to address deferred maintenance in existing residential facilities; and

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

VI. ENGAGEMENT

WHEREAS the University has declared the importance of student involvement in building a great university;²

WHEREAS a comprehensive and holistic student experience is one that balances exceptional academic and extra-curricular opportunities and experience, both on campus and in the larger community;

WHEREAS involvement opportunities lead to improvements in the mental, physical and social health on campus and the larger community;

WHEREAS community and campus involvement actively develops the leadership qualities of individuals;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall encourage the University to actively foster campus community by investing in initiatives and opportunities that promote engagement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union advocates that the University identify and reward the contributions of students who actively strive to improve their campus and the larger community.

² Office of the President, *Dare to Discover: A Vision for a Great University*, (University of Alberta, 2006), p. 2-3, Learning, Discovery and, Citizenship §1-3, 7.

VIII. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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

WHEREAS international students should not bear the burden of institutions' financial deficits;

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

WHEREAS the government of Alberta no longer requires educational institutions to charge international student differential fees;

WHEREAS the *A Learning Alberta* review of Alberta's post-secondary education system recommends Alberta "develop and implement an international education strategy";

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

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

WHEREAS international students act as ambassadors while in Alberta;

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;

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

BE IT FUTHER 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.



CAC SUMMARY REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: **July.12, 2011**

Time: **5:08pm**

2010 – 2011 **MEETING 07**

Motions

1.	<i>YAMAGISHI</i> moved that the <i>June.12, 2011</i> agenda be approved as <i>tabled</i> .	<i>CARRIED</i> 5/0/0
2.	<i>LUIMES</i> directs the chair to investigate the mentorship program in standing orders, and to approach the student governance councilor about the student mentorship program.	<i>CARRIED</i> 7/0/0
3.	<i>YAMAGISHI</i> directs the CAC chair to investigate (to see if we can have the infrastructure to have a meeting in Saint-Jean and Augustana).	<i>CARRIED</i> No vote

Tuesday, July 26, 2010

Hello Council coterie!

You often won't get detailed written reports from the Council Administration Committee due to the timing of our meetings (right before Council), but this is a special occasion. There are a lot of initiatives coming up that need your help with ideas, input, and implementation. Here's what is coming up from CAC:

1. Councillor Mentorship Program

If you're unfamiliar with the CMP, check out Appendix 4 of Students' Council's Standing Orders. It's a program that encourages students-at-large to participate on a one-on-one basis with Councillors and the Board of Governors Representative. In CAC, we'll be looking into increasing the exposure of the program, as well as improving Standing Orders so that the program can grow and continue in the future.

With that in mind, a mentorship program needs two things – a mentor and a mentee. I encourage all Councillors and our Board of Governors Representative to sign up to become a mentor. While there are certain responsibilities involved, detailed in Appendix 4, the benefits are immense in terms of engagement and outreach. Just email Nicole, aacouncil@su.ualberta.ca, and let her know that you'd like to sign up!

2. Council tabling at Clubs Fair

Clubs Fair takes place every year during Orientation and Week of Welcome. Last year, Council had a table with some information on the Council, the Students' Union, and the upcoming by-elections. This year we're planning on tabling with additional information on the mentorship program. Please keep this week (September 5 – 9) in mind, as we'll be sending out a sign-up sheet some time before the end of the summer. A few hours of your time would be very much appreciated, and I'll be keeping Council updated with specifics as they become available.

3. Council Webspace

Our fancy Students' Union website has space allotted for each Councillor to post a picture, a brief biography (third or first person!), your goals for the year, a funny anecdote, a sonnet, anything! You can also mention if you're signed up for the mentorship program (hint, hint). What ever you want to put up there, just send it along to Craig Turner, the SU's Digital Media Coordinator, craig.turner@su.ualberta.ca.

Thanks,
Kim Ferguson
Chair, Council Administration Committee

July 21st, 2011

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

Meeting with Doug Horner

Doug Horner is a candidate in the Progressive Conservative (PC) Leadership race. He was the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology (AET), until he resigned to run for leadership in February of 2011. The Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) had a meeting with Doug last Wednesday July 13th, where Rory and I attended. Doug is familiar with our group as we worked together many times when he was the Minister of AET. There were three main topics to be discussed at this meeting:

Increase Alberta Post Secondary Participation Rate:

Doug agreed with our vision, however his approach is different. He believes that the solution lies in inspiring youth in K-12 to attend PSE. He stated that students with parents who didn't attend Post Secondary Institutions (PSIs) were less likely to attend PSIs themselves. Doug also thinks reducing the costs through e-textbooks and other initiatives. He expressed interest in other initiatives such as scholarships and debt relief.

Doug stated that he believed Alberta should be investing more in PSE.

Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs):

As the Minister of AET, Doug is not only knowledgeable in specific issues such as MNIFs, but was also a key stakeholder in our conversations on MNIFs last year. I asked him why every time we were close to get a solution last year, the government followed closely by inaction. He explained how rushing through government policies is dangerous, as it might completely stop any progress for years. Doug understands the need for the regulation, however he argued that the regulation must satisfy both the Student Associations, and the Institutions.

Changes to the Election Act:

Doug was asked if he were to become the next premier, would he allow students to choose their ordinary residence *before the next election*. He said he has always been supporting CAUS' propositions to the Election Act, and would do the necessary changes.

Readings Readings Readings for CASA

I will be gone from Sunday July 24th to 29th for Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA, federal lobby group) for the annual Policy and Strategy Conference. This is where CASA decides on its lobbying and research priorities for the year. Most of the last two weeks have been spent on CASA pre-Policy and Strategy Readings. I have spent time reading: PSE reports on Federal issues, CASA policies/Bylaws/Operating Procedures, Book Importation Regulation, Canada Student Loan Program, Canada Student Grant Program, International Student Visas/Work Permits. I am preparing to sell my own goals for federal lobbying to the 26 member organizations of CASA.

Cheers,
Farid

"ABC, A: Always, B: Be, C: Closing. Always Be Closing. ALWAYS BE CLOSING!" Alec Baldwin

July 21, 2011

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

Dear Council,

I know it this will be the third council meeting in a row that I will not be in attendance. As you know I was on vacation for two weeks and, as some of you may know, I had a small accident while I was away requiring me to take a few extra days off of work. I am now in Ontario visiting Student Centers in preparation for our SUB and Power Plant renovations and will be staying to attend the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Policy & Strategy Conference for all of next week. I will be attempting to stay on top of email while I am away so if you need anything or have any questions please feel free to contact me. The Vice President (External) and myself will also be attempting to Skype in for Council on Tuesday so I hope to talk to you all then.

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations

As I mentioned above the Vice President (External), the Director of Research & Political Affairs and I will be attending the CASA Policy and Strategy Conference for all of next week. The three of us have been doing a lot of reading and planning over the past week and I am very confident that we will see our priorities for CASA this year realized. To get a better idea of what we will be pushing for at CASA please see the Vice President (External) or my goals document that should be sent out to you over the weekend.

Council of Alberta University Students

The Vice President (External), the Director of Research & Political Affairs and I attended a meeting with other members of CAUS and Doug Horner, a leadership candidate for the Progressive Conservative Party. We attempted to paint a picture of what a more accessible Post Secondary Education System in Alberta could do for the province and it was received fairly well. We also had the opportunity to push for Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee regulation and a more accessible voting system for students. In general the meeting went very well and I look forward to meeting with other candidates in the near future.

Fall Reading Week

The Vice President (Academic) was able to act as co-chair of the Fall Reading Week Task Force for me while I was away. The task force is making great progress and is currently working on a list of considerations for different options available for the creation of a Fall Reading Week.

On the Students' Union side we are also conducting more research on Fall Reading Weeks at other schools and the co-curricular benefits that would exist from creating one. I will likely be meeting with Faculty over the next couple of months to gather feedback once the Task Force has produced a final

report.

Meeting with the Provost

I had a meeting with the Provost just before I left on vacation that was very positive. I had the opportunity to share our priorities for the year and hear some of his. I believe there is strong support for many of our initiatives and I look forward to a very productive working relationship over the year.

At this meeting I also had the opportunity to briefly mention that I would like to discuss the regulation of Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees. The Provost was open to the discussion and I have just recently sent a letter to him indicating what exactly we are looking for.

Sustainability

The Executive has just approved the purchase of two new filtered water bottle filling stations that will replace our current water fountains in SUB. I am hoping to put a lot of signage up around the new stations promoting their use in order to attempt to reduce the bottled water consumption on Campus. If the program is successful I plan on advocating to the University to install these stations in other places on campus.

I have also been working with our External Communications and Media Advisor on the Sustainability Assessment. We are making slow progress on it and I very much hope to have it ready by mid-August barring any further disruptions.

Student Financial Resources Task Force

I met with the Dean of Students to talk about the Student Financial Resources Task Force. This task force was created a few years ago in order to seek out all of the financial aid resources available to students and make recommendations for their improvement. We are optimistic that we will be able to finish the report in the Fall at which time I will share it with all of you.

Executive Retreat

The Executive had a one-day retreat on Thursday, July 14. The purpose of the retreat was to re-focus our goals as a team and talk about the major projects that individuals have been working on. The retreat was very productive and is something that I plan on repeating a couple of times throughout the year.

PAW Centre

The Vice President (Operations & Finance), the Vice President (Student Life), the General Manager and myself met with the Graduate Students Association and both of our lawyers in order to discuss the PAW agreement. We are generally on the same page for what we are looking for and have instructed our lawyers to meet with the University's council in order to discuss it. This has proven to be a slow and tedious task but is incredibly important for the Students' Union. There will likely be a meeting of the

PAW Centre Steering Committee the week of August 1 where a lot of issues will be discussed and I hope to have more to report on regarding the PAW Centre at that point.

Written Questions

I received two written questions from Councilor Sumar. Please find the questions and my answers below.

a. Will there be a communications position opening with the SU?

There is a new communications position being hired as we speak. The application is available until August 5 at:

http://www.jobkin.ca/search.htm?area=Edmonton&order_by=start&sort_direction=DESC&other_notes=U%20of%20A%20Students%27%20Union&results_per_page=25&_search=Search

b. If the Power Plant is being renovated, has a draft been started on the planned changes?

The Power Plant will almost definitely not be renovated this year. The main goal that I have for the Power Plant for this year is to renegotiate our expiring lease for the space with the University and the Graduate Students' Association to accomplish a few goals. First, it would extend the length of the lease that we have making it viable to make a capital investment into the space. Second, to expand the amount of space that we currently have access to in the building and, lastly, to gain better terms on the rental agreement that we have. We are currently in the idea phase of thinking what the space could be and have had a couple of meetings to discuss it. If the lease is able to be renegotiated than the hard planning would begin

July 21, 2011

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

Hello Council,

With the return of the President, I can no longer boss around the Executive Committee and I have moved back into my more humble office. Although 2-900 is no longer the same without my iron fist, we are generally happy to have our fearless leader with us once again. Below are the highlights since my last report.

Executive Retreat

The Executive Committee spent a full day out of the office last week for a retreat. We divided our time between discussions of portfolios and progress on selected topics. The retreat was a great way for me to “check in” with my fellow executives and to assess the course of the year. I came back to the office inspired and look forward to the next one in a few months.

Capital Project Planning

In parallel with the financial conversation being carried out at BFC and Council, we are entering into discussions with a number of potentially suitable architects. A Request for Proposal has been distributed, meaning that we have invited firms to prepare proposals for design work in SUB. The RFP deadline is set as July 27th.

Health and Dental Plan Committee

The Health and Dental Plan Committee is an advisory body that deals with the delivery of the Plan and its communications strategy, to ensure that it meets students' needs. HDPC had its first meeting of the year last week. Terms of reference were set, an orientation to the plan was provided, and the year's communications initiatives were reviewed. There was also discussion about resolving an information asymmetry pertaining to the dynamic nature of enrolment numbers.

SUSTAIN SU

We are in the process of renewing the collaboration agreement between SUSTAIN SU and the University's Office of Sustainability. This annual document serves to record and to formalize the existing relationship between the two parties, which often combine efforts to further campus sustainability programs. The Vice President (Student Life) and I have been helping to fine-tune the agreement, and I should be able to sign it upon my return.

Product Development Expert

The Senior Manager (Food & Beverage) and I have completed interviewing chefs for the position. We have a meeting arranged with our preferred candidate this week to discuss the position and the terms of employment in greater detail. If all goes well, we could deploy the Product Development Expert in August!

PAW Centre

The SU and GSA recently met to discuss the status of the PAW Centre agreement. Our respective legal counsels will collaborate on a formal response to the University. As they transition into a more active role in the negotiations, we expect a new phase in the process to take shape.

Grant Allocation Committee

GAC will be meeting next week to discuss the latest revisions to the proposed new awards. I anticipate this process coming to a conclusion soon – this will entail a formal approval of additions and changes to awards and some revisions to standing orders.

BFC

BFC meets next on Monday, July 25th to discuss financing of the “Get Out The Vote” campaign presented to Council by the Vice President (External) last meeting.

Ontario Trip

I am writing this report from Toronto’s 38-degree heat (too hot for the mosquitoes, thankfully). I am here with the General Manager, President and Vice President (Student Life). Tomorrow, the General Manager and I attend the CSHG Board meeting. The four of us have spent two days on the road, visiting local Students’ Unions and learning about their facilities. The Students’ Unions of four universities have given us tours of their buildings: Wilfrid Laurier University, the University of Waterloo, McMaster University and York University. I have learned a lot about the range of possibilities that exists in terms of physical space and its interaction with successful business operation and service provision. What I have seen will definitely be of value as capital project discussions continue.

Cheers,



Andy Cheema

July 21st, 2011

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

Meeting with Doug Horner

Doug Horner is a candidate in the Progressive Conservative (PC) Leadership race. He was the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology (AET), until he resigned to run for leadership in February of 2011. The Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) had a meeting with Doug last Wednesday July 13th, where Rory and I attended. Doug is familiar with our group as we worked together many times when he was the Minister of AET. There were three main topics to be discussed at this meeting:

Increase Alberta Post Secondary Participation Rate:

Doug agreed with our vision, however his approach is different. He believes that the solution lies in inspiring youth in K-12 to attend PSE. He stated that students with parents who didn't attend Post Secondary Institutions (PSIs) were less likely to attend PSIs themselves. Doug also thinks reducing the costs through e-textbooks and other initiatives. He expressed interest in other initiatives such as scholarships and debt relief.

Doug stated that he believed Alberta should be investing more in PSE.

Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs):

As the Minister of AET, Doug is not only knowledgeable in specific issues such as MNIFs, but was also a key stakeholder in our conversations on MNIFs last year. I asked him why every time we were close to get a solution last year, the government followed closely by inaction. He explained how rushing through government policies is dangerous, as it might completely stop any progress for years. Doug understands the need for the regulation, however he argued that the regulation must satisfy both the Student Associations, and the Institutions.

Changes to the Election Act:

Doug was asked if he were to become the next premier, would he allow students to choose their ordinary residence *before the next election*. He said he has always been supporting CAUS' propositions to the Election Act, and would do the necessary changes.

Readings Readings Readings for CASA

I will be gone from Sunday July 24th to 29th for Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA, federal lobby group) for the annual Policy and Strategy Conference. This is where CASA decides on its lobbying and research priorities for the year. Most of the last two weeks have been spent on CASA pre-Policy and Strategy Readings. I have spent time reading: PSE reports on Federal issues, CASA policies/Bylaws/Operating Procedures, Book Importation Regulation, Canada Student Loan Program, Canada Student Grant Program, International Student Visas/Work Permits. I am preparing to sell my own goals for federal lobbying to the 26 member organizations of CASA.

Cheers,
Farid

"ABC, A: Always, B: Be, C: Closing. Always Be Closing. ALWAYS BE CLOSING!" Alec Baldwin

July 21st, 2011

To: Students' Council

Re: Election Review Committee Report

Hello Council,

This is the first Report regarding the Election Review Committee. I apologize for not writing this on a bi-weekly basis, hopefully I will get into this habit soon. This report should capture some of the highlights, of what the committee has been pursuing for the first half of the summer

The following topics have been discussed and progress have been attached to some of them:

- Social Media Policy
- Joke Candidates
- Fines and Penalties
- Reporting Keys
- Pre-Campaigning
- Executive/Council Election Timing and Timeline
- Endorsement
- External Media-Advertising
- Division of Bylaw 2000
- Campaigning on Election Days
- The Status of NOTA in STV

I will now go through the list of topics one by one to notify you about the issue, whether progress has been made or not, and what to expect from the committee

Social Media Policy

As it stands section 43 of Bylaw 2000 is broad and not compliant with the evolutionary nature of social media:

“43. Use of Social Media and Public Internet Ventures

The C.R.O. shall be kept privy to elections-related social media and public internet ventures undertaken by candidates, and reserves the right to penalize candidates for any violation of this bylaw or related regulations.”

- *Social Media is not defined in Bylaw 2000. The ERC will work on clarifying what Bylaw 2000 means by Social Media*

Joke Candidates

While campaigning this year, it was brought to my attention that some students disliked the idea of a Joke Candidate. I figured bringing this to ERC will be the best place to start. Members of the ERC have pointed out that Joke candidates bring publicity to the races, however they agreed that the student population did not understand what happens when a joke candidate wins. As it stands, Bylaw 2000 under §61 states that:

“(30) Where a joke candidate is declared victorious, the seat to which that joke candidate has been elected shall be considered vacant.”

- *The ERC recommends the CRO to add indication on the ballot to voters the effect of electing a joke*

candidate

Fines and Penalties

I brought the question of how much bylaw 2000 should explicitly declare fines and penalties, compared to letting the CRO decide some of those details. Some of the membership stated that bylaw 2000 does not need to specify fines, as well as brought up the fact that any decision made by the CRO could be appealed to the DIE board. But there were certain things that needed to be quantified like expense forms coming late and missing Candidates meeting.

- The ERC has assigned me to present some of the changes to ERC.

Reporting Keys

The ERC discussed removing the requirement of reporting keys from bylaw 2000. As it stands bylaw 2000 states:

“27. Requirement to Report Keys

(1) All candidates and side managers shall, within twenty-four (24) hours of the nomination deadline, report to the C.R.O. any keys, cards, and other means of access to any building or room on the University of Alberta campus.

(2) The C.R.O. shall confiscate, until the commencement of voting, any keys, cards, and other means of access to any building or room on the University of Alberta campus where

a. the key, card, or other means of access in question would provide an unfair advantage to the candidate or side manager; and

b. the candidate or side manager is not academically, occupationally, or otherwise required to retain the key, card, or other means of access in question for the duration of the campaign.”

It was pointed out that the only advantages rooms give to candidates are one who are re-running executives. The executives lose that power immediately when they have taken a leave of absence, so from that angle, the requirement is redundant. Other advantages are for candidates who can use a room on campus for campaign materials, however the same advantage is given to someone who is running who lives in Lister, or close to campus. Candidates who have access to a car have advantage over candidates who don't, but Bylaw 2000 need not concern itself with cars, or similarly with rooms.

- *The ERC recommends to council to remove Reporting Keys Requirement.*

Pre-Campaigning

The ERC discussed the status of Pre-campaigning. Bylaw 2000 states:

“29. Prohibition on Pre-campaigning

(1) No side manager, volunteer, or candidate shall engage in campaign activities between the nomination deadline or Students' Council initiation of a plebiscite/referenda and the commencement of the campaign.

(2) Any campaign activity involving social media or internet activity shall not commence or exist between the nomination deadline or Students Council initiation of a plebiscite/referendum and the commencement of the campaign. Social media and internet activity with the sole purpose to prepare campaign activities, campaign material, or to solicit volunteers may be undertaken during the pre-campaign period, so long as it is kept

private.”

I raised the issue that candidates are allowed to freely campaign before pre-campaigning (pre-pre-campaigning) week. And I was wondering what the ERC thought about the status quo. Most people agreed that pre-campaigning is a time to organize the campaign. It gives the opportunity to candidates who didn't plan on running until close to the deadline a chance to catch up. It is also a window of opportunity for candidates to catch up on their studies.

- *The ERC recommends keeping the status quo of no campaigning during pre-campaigning period.*

Executive/Council Election Timing

A concern was brought up that many students' do not understand the difference between council election, and executive election. The idea of having both elections at the same time was tossed. Concerns were immediately brought about the strain on the Elections office to handle both elections at the same time, as well as students getting bombarded by posters, and candidates running for multiple positions. We would also like to give a chance to candidates who failed at executive election to run for council

- *The ERC recommends keeping the status quo of executive/council election timing*

Endorsement

Last years' council approved a bill based on the following principles:

- “1. Candidate slates shall cease to exist for all Students' Union elections.*
- 2. Candidates shall be allowed to endorse other candidates, including those within his or her own race.”*

The CRO has requested an interpretation from the DIE board to address the following issue:

- 1) Are “slate-like” campaigns allowed under Bylaw 2000?

Under Ruling #1 the decision was:

“Candidates may endorse each other, and there is no restriction on running a similar platform. However, candidates cannot form “slate-like” campaigns to the extent that such activity would result in profiting off of one another's resources. This is contrary to s. 37 which prohibits joint use of resources.”

The ERC has not discussed this issue since the ruling has come out.

External Media-Advertising

As it stands Bylaw 2000 states:

“42. Media

All candidates and sides are free to pursue campus-based media as determined by the C.R.O; however, are restricted from contacting external media sources. All external media must be directed through the C.R.O office.”

The ERC discussed this piece of legislation, and whether it is needed at all. Recent historical memory suggests that no one has ever tried to campaign through an ad on the radio or in the Edmonton Journal or CBC. Candidates can however use Facebook ads that target University of Alberta students for example. This

ties back to the definition of social media.

- The ERC has suggested to keep the status quo

Division of Bylaw 2000

One of the main issues that concerns the ERC this year is the length of Bylaw 2000. The reason being that students who are first introduced to council might lose interest when they receive the 100 or so pages of documents in the nomination package. Bylaw 2000 states:

“18. Candidate Nomination Packages

- (2) *The C.R.O shall produce nomination packages which shall contain, at minimum*
- a. complete and current copies of Bylaw 2000 and the Judiciary of the Students’ Union Bylaw;”*

Bylaw 2000 contains information integral for candidates running to understand their rights, responsibilities. However Bylaw 2000 also contains much information that candidates need not concern themselves with. This information includes Sections concerning:

- Elections Staff Composition (page 3)
- Elections Staff Hiring Process (page 3)
- Elections Staff Eligibility Requirements (page 3)
- Elections Staff Terms of Office (page 3)
- Duties of the Elections Staff (page 3)
- Elections Staff Reporting and Dismissal (page 4)
- C.R.O. Shall List Candidates (page 11)
- Right to Vote (page 17)
- Voting (page 18)
- Ballots (page 18)
- Balloting and Counting (page 18 through 23)
- Secure Handling of Ballots (page 23)
- Requirements of the C.R.O. (page 23)
- Recounts (page 23, 24)
- Multiple Coinciding Elections (page 26)

This type of information, while might interest some candidates, is not essential to their election. The CRO has pointed out that Bylaw 2000 can be split into three: Candidates, Ballots, and responsibilities and duties of the CRO.

- The ERC has appointed me to present to ERC a draft of what Bylaw 2000 would look like if it was divided

It is important to note that historically Bylaw 2000 used to be a series of: Bylaw 2100, Bylaw 2200, Bylaw 2400, and Bylaw 2500 totaling 50 pages. The Division was:

- Bylaw 2100: A Bylaw Respecting the Campus Wide Election of the Students’ Union (22 pages)
- Bylaw 2200: A Bylaw Respecting the Councillor Elections to Students’ Council and General Faculties’ Council (20 pages)
- Bylaw 2400: A Bylaw Respecting the Plebiscites and Referenda of the Students’ Union (15 pages)
- Bylaw 2500: A Bylaw Respecting the Chief Returning Officer and the Elections Staff of the Students’ Union

Then in the year of 2005/2006 Council passed a motion to combine all the bylaws into one glorious document that is Bylaw 2000. This motion was based on the recommendation of the CRO of the time. The recommendation was based on removing redundancy and pages. However, I would say that many of the problems that bylaw 2000 currently has is because of a poor job in consolidating the documents into one.

Campaigning on Election Days

Based on the recommendation of both last year's ERC and the Bylaw 2000 Committee, campaigning on election days were brought forward. However, no motion in council ever took to that effect. The ERC had strong arguments for this change. The most important of which goes as follows:

- The increase in competition on Election Days will in turn will lead to increase in voter turnout.

The idea is that competition between candidates would peak when the polls are open. Candidates could walk into a classroom and, instead reminding students to vote on certain days, would now have the ability to remind students that they could vote right now. In our current system our voting days are plain, there are no posters, no facebook pages, no websites except for ones made by the elections office. Campaigning on Election days would allow multiplying the points of contact between students and the ballot exponentially through candidates and their volunteers.

To put this idea into practice restrictions would have to be placed to avoid candidates from influencing voters opinions at the polls. The ERC discussed that such restrictions could be that no candidate can be within hearing distance of the polls, and posters must be 20 meters away.

- The ERC recommends allowing campaigning on Election Days.

The Status of NOTA in STV

Last year Students' Council has change the system of preferential voting from "Instant Runoff Vote" (IRV) to "Single Transferable Vote" (STV). The reason being that STV is a democratically superior system. The issue here is the status of "None of the Above" (NOTA) option on the ballot in an STV election. Bylaw 2000 § 58 (3) states:

"On each ballot, there shall be an explanation of the balloting procedures which shall include, at minimum, the following

- a. that "None of the Above" shall be considered a candidate;*
- b. that voters shall rank each candidate according to their preferences;*
- c. that a portion of the ballot shall be considered spoiled where any of the conditions set out in Section 61(3) are met; and*
- d. that voters shall be permitted to rank as many as all or as few as zero of the candidates for each position."*

It is expected that STV algorithm will favour the election NOTA more so than the IRV system did. Furthermore a recent DIE board ruling has clarified that if NOTA wins in a race with multiple seats, every seat ranked below NOTA in that race will be vacant. That means that if NOTA won the third spot in the faculty of science in council, five out of seven science seats will be vacant.

Compared to IRV, STV is a sophisticated method of preferential voting. Simply speaking, STV establishes a quota based on 50% of ballots + 1. One must achieve the quota in order to be declared a winner. STV works by either reallocating votes exceeded by the quota to "weak" candidates, or eliminating "weak" candidates in order that "stronger" candidates achieve quota. The major difference between STV and IRV is the numbers of

votes transferred are the ones above the quota line, whereas IRV transfers all the votes from the winner. This process is the reason why IRV favoured candidates that were not NOTA, since the candidate who won the first round likely transferred all their votes to other candidates who were not NOTA. This process is not mirrored in STV since the number of transferred votes is significantly reduced.

An idea that was mentioned to solve this problem was to remove NOTA from all ballots where more than one person is running in a race. This is one of the most serious and contentious issues the ERC is facing. Previous councils have had serious debates on whether or not to have NOTA in the first place

The argument here is that the concept of NOTA is fundamentally incompatible with STV. To illustrate this point let's take an example: the Black party and the White party and the Yellow party are running in an election where proportional voting is implemented through STV. STV will do the best job of allocating seats to each party based on the number of votes given to each party. However, if the Yellow party wins one seat, they automatically win every other seat vacant. The clash between NOTA and STV is demonstrated here if NOTA was the yellow party. NOTA will occupy more seats than the proportion of votes that were allocated to NOTA since NOTA does not transfer its votes in turn. To reiterate the argument: *Single **Transferable** vote is not proportionally representative when there is a candidate who does not **transfer** their vote.*

This argument however has its own flaws. NOTA is not simply a party or a candidate, it is a concept. Students voting for NOTA are effectively saying that all students, except those who were marked before NOTA, are incapable of representing me. Previous councils have decided that this is a right our students should have. To take that right away because of a certain algorithm in the election favours NOTA would be absurd. It should be noted that spoiling one's ballot is still an option. However spoiled ballots are like abstentions, and do not count towards the quota, and will never lead to a vacant seat.

A different solution was to rename NOTA to Re-Open Nomination or RON. RON on a ballot is exactly the same as NOTA. Why change the names then? To explain to voters that empty seats require a new election, which costs money. The change to RON would be a psychological change to voters, rather than a real legislative change.

Like I said this is a serious issue, and one that the ERC will need to prioritize this year. Going ahead here are some of the data we could gather to make an informed decision:

- Run previous election data through the STV algorithm
- Compare the number of NOTA seats won in STV to IRV

Here are some of the options that we will consider:

- Stick with the status quo. If there are fewer students in council next year, then maybe the year after will make for a more competitive council election.
- Remove NOTA from all ballots where more than one person is running
- Remove NOTA from all ballots where more than one person is running, and establish a certain number of spoiled ballots that would make a seat vacant
- Revert back to IRV

It is unclear, what ERC will recommend, however your opinions will be much appreciated.

Cheers,
Farid

(Wow you actually read all that. I'm impressed)



POLICY COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: July 18, 2011

Time: 6.08 pm

2010 – 2011 MEETING #2

Motions

1.	<p>CSORBA moved that upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council approve Bill #3, that Students' Council adopt the Political Policy, Research, in second reading based on the following principles:</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall endeavor to ensure that the University views research and teaching as equally important constituent parts of the University;</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall endeavor through all possible avenues, to ensure that research at the University of Alberta is appropriately contextualized within the larger framework of the institutions structure; and</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union advocates for more opportunities that allow undergraduate students to partake in research.</p>	<p><i>CARRIED</i> 7/0/0</p>
2.	<p>YAMAGISHI moved that upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council approve Bill #4, that Students' Council adopt the Political Policy, Affordable Housing, in first reading based on the following principles:</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union advocates that the Government of Alberta and the City of Edmonton remove their burden of municipal property taxes from residences;</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union advocates that the Government of Alberta provide a large-scale, one time infusion of capital funds to address deferred maintenance in existing residential facilities; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University of Alberta Students' Union advocates that the Government of Alberta provide capital funds toward the development of additional student housing.</p>	<p><i>CARRIED</i> 6/0/1</p>
3.	<p>CSORBA moved that upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council approve Bill #5, that Students' Council adopt the Political Policy, International Students, in first reading based on the following principles:</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED that the Students' Union shall support accessible post-secondary education for international students at the University of Alberta; and</p>	<p><i>CARRIED</i> 7/0/0</p>

3.	<p>CSORBA moved that upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council approve Bill #5, that Students' Council adopt the Political Policy, International Students, in first reading based on the following principles:</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED that the Students' Union shall support accessible post-secondary education for international students at the University of Alberta; and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED 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.</p>	<p><i>CARRIED</i> 7/0/0</p>
4.	<p>YAMAGISHI moved that upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council approve Bill #6, that Students' Council adopt the Political Policy, Engagement, in first reading based on the following principles:</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall encourage the University to actively foster campus community by investing in initiatives and opportunities that</p>	<p><i>CARRIED</i> 7/0/0</p>



2011/2012 Report to Council

June 21, 2011
Vice President (Student Life)

Prepared by: Colten Yamagishi, Vice President (Student Life)
To: Students' Council 2011/12

Hello council! Currently I am in Ontario with the VP Operations and Finance, the General Manager, and the President. We are currently touring Student Centres at Universities in the Greater Toronto area. So far we have visited Wilfred Laurier, Waterloo, McMaster and York. Each student association has provided a very different view on their role in serving students. Throughout my report I will include a few things that I have found interesting from our trip thus far.

Before we left to Ontario we dedicated a day to hold an exec retreat where we talked about our goals, how we can work together, and how our year is going so far. The retreat was very constructive and helped me prioritize my goals for the year.

In this reporting period I have only been in the office for about three days but I feel like it has been my most productive two weeks this Summer. The three of us have been grinding through piles of work every night so far on this trip.

Programming

WOW Bonding Night:

Though I have been working a lot this past while I have still been finding time to have quiet a bit of fun. The WOW Facilitator team and I attended a team bonding night with the programming department. Almost all of the facilitators showed up and we were treated to an advanced screening of the movie *The Changeup*. The movie was very good and I had a great time chatting with some of the facilitators that I did not know well before.

International Student Presentation:

I was given the opportunity by University of Alberta International to do a very ad-hoc presentation about the Students' Union to a group of students from China who were here on a 3-week study tour. The students had a number of great questions and were very amazed by our expansive governance structure as well as the large number of services that we provide. They also really liked the *Break the Record* video on our website (they had never seen dodgeball before).

Tour Programming:

Most of the schools that we have visited so far have had very similar events and programs to ours. I am proud to say that many of our events such as Antifreeze and *Break the Record* far exceed the scope of programs being run at other universities. One interesting event that was described to me was "Dirty Bingo" at York University. I dare not explain it here.

Services

Access Fund:

The VP Operations and Finance and I will be conducting the summer semester round of the Access Fund selection committee this Thursday. A reminder to all GAC members to bring their schedules to the next GAC meeting so that we can schedule the selection committee and appeals committee meetings for the rest of the year. It is extremely important that we do get these meetings set because many students rely on this money.

Campus Food Bank:

This week I volunteered for the Campus Food Bank's Save on Foods Food Drive. I worked with a number of CFB volunteers to bag groceries and encourage customers to purchase food donations for the CFB. I would like to congratulate the CFB staff and the volunteers for doing an amazing job!

SUSTAIN SU: The Student Sustainability Office:

I worked with the Director of SUSTAIN SU and the VP Operations and Finance to finalize the collaboration agreement between SUSTAIN SU and the Office of Sustainability. I believe that the document will provide a strong vision for sustainability related initiatives and the promotion of sustainability on our campus.

Health and Dental Plan:

We had our first Health and Dental Plan Committee Meeting. Callan from Studentcare provided us with a plan overview and orientation and asked for our input regarding the marketing and communications plan for the change of coverage period. The VP Operations and Finance and I recently approved the health plan mail-out that will be sent to all new students.

Student Group Services:

I have been busy giving away lots of money. This week I completed the approval process and grant selection for individuals as well as the student group startup grant.

Tour Services:

One of the most interesting services that I saw was the Off-Campus Dons program at the University of Waterloo. The service is meant to pair new students living off campus with student mentors to help provide an easier transition to university. The program includes many recreational events to allow students to meet new friends and stay connected while living off-campus.

Another very useful point is that every school that we have visited has had a GLBTQ space or service in their Student building. This makes it very clear to me that this is a service that our Students' Union is lacking and that I should make it one of my top priorities.

Lastly, the McMaster Students' Association has recently implemented a Farmers' Market that they operate two days per week. We checked out the operation and think that this could be a great way to bring fresh food options to campus.

Advocacy

Athletics:

I had a meeting with two of the promotions and advertising reps from the University Athletics department. They proposed a collaboration agreement regarding sponsorship and our two organizations working together to promote each others causes. I will be working with the VP Operations and Finance to review and edit the agreement soon.

Microwaves:

I received an e-mail from Ancillary Services letting me know that they now have a planner set in place to verify the new microwave locations across campus that we had chosen earlier in the summer.

Residences:

I met with Dima (Director of Residence Services) and Michael McPhillips (the LHSA President) to discuss the possible creation of a residence governance system in Lister with equal or majority student representation and that would give students voting and decision making power. I think that this would be a great initiative to increase the accountability of Residence Services to answer the requests of residents in Lister.

After Michael left, Dima went into further detail regarding a number of projects that he is working on this year. They all sound very promising and I will fill you in with more information when the projects become official. The projects that are certain to happen include the introduction of a faculty member in HUB to help students' academic needs and the creation of a student space behind the Newton Residence that will include picnic tables, a gazebo, a beach volleyball court, and bicycle racks.

Residence Community Standards:

We finalized the RCS training plan, communications plan, and RCS assessment forms. I was quite impressed with the thoroughness of these documents. The RCS training began last week and was kicked off with an RCS symposium lead by two RCS experts brought in by Residence Services.

International Student Association:

I met with the VP Academic and Councillor Zinyemba to discuss the possible creation of an International Student Association that would represent international students on a governance level and would provide them with resources to advocate to the University for international student needs. York University has a very strong International Student Association that runs separate from, but is supported by the York Federation of Students.

Paw Center:

We had a meeting with the GSA to discuss what we are looking for in the PAW contract and to align our ideas for when we discuss the contract with the University.

Meeting with University Health Center Outreach Co-ordinator:

Rory and I met with Natassha Wilson (the new UHS Outreach Co-ordinator). Natassha explained that her position is new and is still being fine-tuned. This year she will be working on a project called Community Helpers that is being created to help refer students to the proper student services that they need. We spoke about our initiatives for mental and physical health and discussed ways that we could work together.

Tour Advocacy:

We have seen all different types of advocacy efforts on this trip but the main focus always seems to come down to similar topics such as tuition and fees, food service, student space, and academic programs. It was very interesting to visit York, which is a Canadian Federation of Students member rather than a CASA member. Though I did find their lobbying strategies and executive structure very interesting I still believe that CASA is a much better fit for the UASU.

Opportunities for you to get involved:

- Please sign up to volunteer for Week of Welcome at <http://goo.gl/P4vMs>.
- Let me know if you want to help on any of my initiatives!

Summary:

So far this trip has been amazing. Though it is extremely hot outside (+39 degrees!) I have been able to get a ton of great ideas and have had the opportunity to meet a number of very talented student executives and general managers. I hope to learn even more during the last few days of our trip and am very excited for our trip to the University of Western Ontario tomorrow. Hopefully we will have some time this weekend to visit Niagara Falls and take a walk through the Toronto downtown core.

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

- Colten Yamagishi
780-299-3076



POLICY COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: July 18, 2011

Time: 6:08 PM

2011 – 2012 MEETING #05

Motions

1.	WAY/WOODS moved that the July 18, 2011 agenda be approved as amended.	CARRIED 8/0/0
2.	LIANG/CSORBA moved that the July 4, 2011 minutes be approved as amended.	8/0/0
3.	CSORBA/YAMAGISHI moved that upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council approve Bill #3, that Students' Council adopt the Political Policy, Research, in second reading based on the attached principles.	8/0/0
4.	CSORBA/YAMAGISHI moved that upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council approve Bill #4, that Students' Council adopt the Political Policy, Affordable Housing, in second reading based on the attached principles.	7/0/1
5.	CSORBA/ISKANDAR moved that upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council approve Bill #5, that Students' Council adopt the Political Policy, International Students, in first reading based on the attached principles.	8/0/0
6.	YAMAGISHI/KARUVELIL moved that upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council approve Bill #6, that Students' Council adopt the Political Policy, Engagement, in first reading based on the attached principles.	8/0/0
7.	KARUVELIL/LIANG moved that the meeting be adjourned.	8/0/0

The Policy Committee has brought forth two recommendations for Students' Council to accept policies in first reading and two recommendations for Students' Council to accept policies in second reading. The Committee is on track to be finished policy renewals by the end of the September 6th Council meeting.

Discussions on both the proposed Food policy and Non-Smoking policy have been suspended until the next Policy Committee meeting.

REMINDER: Those planning to attend the next Policy Committee meeting are advised that the August 1st meeting has been rescheduled for August 2nd – the meeting will still be held in SUB 606 at 6 pm.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday July 12, 2011
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS (SC 2011-06)

2011-06/1 SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

2011-06/1a Announcements - The next meeting of Students' Council will take place on Tuesday, July 26, 2011

2011-06/2 PRESENTATIONS

2011-06/2a The results of the National College Health Assessment for the UofA- Presented by y Jameela Murji, the Health and Wellness Team Leader from the University Health Center. Sponsored by Colten Yamagishi, VP Student Life.

Abstract:

In February 2011, the University Health Centre coordinated the distribution of a campus wide health survey. This comprehensive survey examined alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use; sexual health; weight, nutrition, and exercise; mental health; personal safety and violence among other topics. This presentation will highlight key findings from the survey data.

2011-06/2b Planning for Students' Union Capital Projects- Presented by Andy Cheema, VP (Operations & Finance). Sponsored by Andy Cheema, VP (Operations & Finance).

Abstract:

This presentation will summarize the current state of thinking around potential Students' Union capital projects. Historical context, current constraints and available options will be discussed to present a case for moving forward with preliminary renovation planning. A projection of the resources required for initial work will be provided, along with information on current resources and a recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee.

Item 2011-06/2c withdrawn

2011-06/2d Get Out The Vote Campaign - Presented by Duncan Wojtaszek, Executive Director of CAUS, Matt McMillan, Vice President (External) at the University of Calgary, and Farid Iskandar, VP External. Sponsored by Farid Iskandar, VP External.

Abstract:

With the expectation of a provincial election during next 10 months, our Students' Union must be prepared for a campaign. We have the opportunity to request big demands and strong vision for Alberta's Post Secondary, and the

responsibility to engage our students. This GOTV campaign will fulfil the latter. In this presentation we will discuss the purpose of this campaign, its focus and structure. We will present the approach, Budget and Job Description needed for this campaign. Finally, some of the preliminary work that the Marketing Department has suggested for this campaign.

2011-06/3 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Andy Cheema, VP Operations and Finance- Oral Report

Colten Yamagishi, VP Student Life- Oral Report

Emerson Csorba, VP Academic- Oral Report

Raphael Lepage Fortin, BoG rep- Oral Report

2011-06/4 **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Kim Ferguson, CAC Chair- Oral Report

Andrew Fehr, Policy committee chair proxy- Report

2011-06/5 **QUESTION PERIOD**

Question Period extended 15 minutes

2011-06/6 **BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2011-06/6a **CSORBA/WOODS MOVE THAT** upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council approve Bill #3, that Students' Council adopt the Political Policy, Research, in first reading based on the following principles:

XII. Research

1. that the Students' Union shall endeavour to ensure that the University views research and teaching as equally important constituent parts of the University;
2. 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.
3. that the Students' Union shall endeavour to ensure that the University of Alberta values the totality of research undertaken within the institution; and
4. that the Students' Union advocates for more opportunities that allow undergraduate students to partake in research.
5. that the Students' Union advocates for increased student and faculty awareness of undergraduate research opportunities at the University of Alberta.

6. that this policy expire on April 30th, 2014.

Speakers List: Csorba, Woods

Motion: CARRIED

Automatic Recess

Meeting called back to order

2011-06/6b

YAMAGISHI/CSORBA MOVE THAT upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council approve Bill #4, that Students' Council adopt the Political Policy, Affordable Housing, in first reading based on the following principles:

II. Affordable Housing

1. 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.

2. that the Students' Union advocates that the Government of Alberta provide capital funds toward the development of additional student housing.

3. that the Students' Union shall oppose any University of Alberta student residence rent and/or meal plan increase exceeding CPI.

4. that this policy expire on April 30th, 2014.

Speakers List: Yamagishi, Bellinger, Lepage Fortin

Motion: CARRIED

2011-06/6c

YAMAGISHI/ZINYEMBA MOVE THAT upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council approve Bill #2, that Students' Council adopt the Political Policy, Engagement, in second reading:

VI. ENGAGEMENT

WHEREAS the University has declared the importance of student involvement in building a great university;

WHEREAS a comprehensive and holistic student experience is one that balances exceptional academic and extra-curricular opportunities and experience, both on campus and in the larger community;¹

WHEREAS involvement opportunities lead to improvements in the mental, physical, and social health on campus and the larger community;

WHEREAS community and campus involvement actively develops the leadership qualities of individuals;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall encourage the University to actively foster campus community and student involvement by investing in initiatives and opportunities that promote engagement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union advocates that the University identify and reward the contributions of students who actively strive to improve their campus and the larger community.

Speakers List: Yamagishi, Iskandar

ISKANDAR/LIANG MOVED TO amend the motion to read:

YAMAGISHI/ZINYEMBA MOVE THAT upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council approve Bill #2, that Students' Council adopt the Political Policy, Engagement, in second reading:

1. The Students' Union shall encourage the University to actively foster campus community and student involvement by investing in initiatives and opportunities that promote engagement; and
2. The Students' Union advocates that the University identify and reward the contributions of students who actively strive to improve their campus and the larger community.
3. That this policy shall expire on April 30th, 2013.

Motion: CARRIED

YAMAGISHI MOVED TO amend the motion to read:

YAMAGISHI/ZINYEMBA MOVE THAT upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council approve Bill #2, that Students' Council adopt the Political Policy, Engagement, in second reading based on the following principles:

1. The Students' Union shall encourage the University to actively foster campus community and student involvement by investing in initiatives and opportunities that promote engagement; and
2. The Students' Union advocates that the University identify and reward the contributions of students who actively strive to improve their campus and the larger community.
3. That this policy shall expire on April 30th, 2013.

Motion: CARRIED

Main motion: CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm

