STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Tuesday September 27, 2011
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

ORDER PAPER   (SC 2011-11)

2011-11/1	**SPEAKER'S BUSINESS**
2011-11/1a	Announcements – The next meeting of Students' Council will take place on Tuesday, October 11, 2011
2011-11/2	**PRESENTATIONS**
2011-11/2a	The University Budget- presented by Carl Amrhein. Sponsored by Rory Tighe, President.

Abstract:

This presentation will highlight how the University Budgeting process works and what the budget for the upcoming year will look like. It will highlight any tuition and/or fee increases as well as some key initiatives that the University is working on over the next year.

2011-11/2b	Art Student Space- Presented by Councillor Khinda and Councillor Woods. Sponsored by Emerson Csorba, VP Academic

The purpose of this short presentation is to provide information to Students' Council on the current challenges faced by Art students when it comes to designated space. We will be comparing Art space to that of other faculties, specifically in the areas which we feel the Faculty of Arts needs improvement. We will also be presenting a list of small solutions which would improve current space and make it more suitable for the average University Student.

2011-11/2c	Election Review Committee Update - Presented by Brit Luimes, and Farid Iskandar. Sponsored by Farid Iskandar, VP External

Abstract:

The Election Review Committee (ERC) has gone through a great deal of work during the summer. The work includes recommendations to changes in Legislation, to the C.R.O, while some debates reached keeping the status quo. The purpose of the presentation is two-fold: first to get feedback from council on some of the proposed changes, and second to get some direction from council on some of the more contentious issues in ERC.

2011-11/3	**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

2011-11/3a	Executive Committee Report
	Please see document SC 11-11.01

2011-11/4 **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

2011-11/5 **QUESTION PERIOD**

2011-11/6 **BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2011-11/7 **GENERAL ORDERS**

2011-11/7a **YAMAGISHI/CHEEMA MOVE TO** appoint one (1) member to Students' Council to the Health Centre Advisory Committee.

2011-11/8 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2011-11/8a	Audit Committee- Report
	Please see document SC 11-11.02

2011-11/8b	Building Tour Report
	Please see document SC 11-11.03

2011-11/8c	Farid Iskandar, VP External- Report
	Please see document SC 11-11.04

2011-11/8d	Single transferable vote document
	Please see document SC 11-11.05

2011-11/8e	Rory Tighe, President- Report
	Please see document SC 11-11.06

2011-11/8f	Emerson Csorba, VP Academic- Report
	Please see document SC 11-11.07

2011-11/8g	Votes and Proceedings
	Please see document SC 11-11.08

September 13, 2011

CSORBA/CHEEMA MOVED THAT the Executive Committee approve a Casino Capital Allocation not to exceed $2000.00 for the purpose of purchasing furniture, equipment and signage for the Peer Support Center.

5/0/0 CARRIED

TO: Students' Council, University of Alberta Students' Union
FROM: Scott Nicol, Chair, Audit Committee
DATE: September 15, 2011
RE: Report on Audit Committee's Activities

Dear Council,

On September 14, 2011 the Audit Committee met to complete the following business was completed:
- Review of credit card packages March to May (with new packages provided by the administration)
- Review of credit card packages May to July
- Review of SUBtitles June 2011 income statement
- Review of L'Express July 2011 income statement
- Review of Information Services June 2011 income statement
- Review of Student Groups July 2011 income statement
- Create a fall semester schedule
- Decide on Student Legal Services DFU dispersal
- Receive an overview of cash internal control procedures

The Audit Committee was again very concerned about the credit card packages. Most packages asked to be resubmitted following the last Audit Committee meeting were not resubmitted. Of those that were resubmitted, two of three were again unsatisfactory. Only one package that was requested to be resubmitted was found to be acceptable. Strangely, two package were resubmitted that had been approved at the previous meeting, although one resubmitted package was found to be inadequately prepared the second time. Audit Committee now has a backlog of 17 packages that require re-submission. As a result, the committee decided to move that the chair meet with the general manager to discuss the problem.

While reviewing business units, Audit Committee noted that SUBtitles showed a negative commission revenue and a line noting "Gross Profit on Tobacco Sales" while L'Express' statements showed a cash shortage, and Information Services statement showed a negative housing registrations revenue. These concerns will be forwarded to the administration for a response. There were no concerns with the Student Groups statement.

The following meeting schedule was adopted for the fall:
September 26, 2011 at 1400h
October 17, 2011 at 1400h
October 24, 2011 at 1400h
November 7, 2011 at 1400h
November 21, 2011 at 1400h
December 5, 2011 at 1400h

Audit Committee received and reviewed the information provided by Student Legal Services, then approved the disbursement of the DFU funds with the chair abstaining from votes and making his conflict on interest clear at the start of proceedings.

Finally, the Audit Committee received a summary and example of internal cash controls provided by the administration to begin to become familiar with control structures within the Students' Union.

Scott Nicol
Chair, Audit Committee

September 18, 2011

To: Students' Council

Re: Report on Student Centre Tour

INTRODUCTION

This report is meant to give you an idea of what we learned on our Student Centre Tour in July. This is coming a lot later than I originally planned but the context comes from notes I took on the tour so should still be fresh. The tour was very useful for its intended purpose of seeing student group and services space at other student centers across the country. However, I also came back with some ideas that were not originally the primary focus of the tour based on what others schools do with their restaurants, bars, businesses and services. We managed to see six different Universities in three days and came back with a ton of fresh ideas. One major thing that I took away from the trip is that we have done a great job of maintaining our building and still have, in my opinion, one of the best buildings in the country. This report will be short and very to the point. I will provide a brief summary of what we saw and learned at each school.

McMaster University

McMaster had an open concept for the Students' Union office space. They had a much more efficient use of office space but I found it a bit crowded. We did get to see a Farmers Market that operates twice a week in the building that was a good example of how we could do something similar. McMaster also had a very interesting Info-service that incorporated a lot of "concierge" type services such as wake up calls. There Student Group Space was generally well kept but they appeared to have less of a need for space then we do. There building also contained some very nice meeting rooms that seemed to be used frequently by students and staff. Their bar had the feel of a nightclub but also functioned as a full-menu restaurant. They indicated that it was very popular on them nights but had declined in popularity in the recent past. McMaster also had a Safewalk-like service where the volunteers were First Aid trained which was very interesting.

York University

York University had working examples of our SUtv concept across campus. The program could use an upgrade but it is good to see it working at another campus. They also had working examples of our Infolink Express concept, which gave us some good ideas on how the terminal could stand alone in buildings. Their building was owned and operated by a separate corporation from their Students' Association and there was a blur between their Student Groups and Student Services. There student group office space was pretty nice and always had frontage space. We found out that groups actually purchased the space when the building was renovated last. York had a great example of an information services with a walk-in concept called their "Member Services". York also had the nicest bar and restaurant that we saw and is a great example of what we could do with the Power Plant. Lastly, York also showcased a lot more student art in their building, which was a nice touch.

Wilfred Laurier University

Wilfred Laurier University is much smaller than the U of A in terms of population and real space. However, their restaurant/bar was really great and we were told was very popular. The space featured a lot of booths and seating banks, and also had some private reception space. Of note in their building was a Seal of their Students' Association on the floor of their building that apparently was requested by students at large. They were also in the process of moving their Safewalk service to a more flashy location and we were told that it was one of their most popular services. It was also interesting to hear that they had just contracted their food service to Aramark in search of greater profits.

Waterloo University

Waterloos building featured a glass feature wall that allowed a lot of natural light to enter their building. They had nice Student Group and service space that offered a lot of frontage on the upper floors. We also received a tour of their restaurant and bar, which also had the feel of a nightclub. The Federation of Students also own a venue outside of their building that seemed very functional for events but we were told it was being taking over by the University in the near future. We also saw some solar panels on one of their buildings that had an electronic reading of power generated and had a tour of their sustainability service which was similar to SUSTAIN SU but had some interesting food initiatives. Waterloo also has a service called off-campus Dons, which provides a sort of Residence Assistant to support students living off campus.

Guelph University

Guelph had a ton of space for their student groups and services. They dedicated an entire floor in their building to space for these organizations and the offices of their students' association. They had a very interesting food court with a single point of sale and some interesting food options that incorporated sustainability. The building also had a lounge-area where students could relax on couches and watch TV. Guelph also had a coffee shop outside of their building that we were told was incredibly popular. Also of note was their Sexual Diversity Centre and the fact that they had a student-advocate position as well as an Ombudservice.

Western University

Western University was probably the nicest that we saw. The most unique thing that we saw in their Student Union Building was a grocery store. It seemed incredibly popular and we were told that it actually delivered to students who lived on or near campus. Western also has a very nice Welcome Centre, which is something that the U of A is likely going to build in the near future. Their Student Group space was in need of an upgrade and was similar to our lower level accept on an upper floor. Their building also featured a movie theatre, which was interesting. While there, we also got a tour of their new Physical Activity Centre, which was very nice. It was funded in a similar way to the PAW Centre and we were able to get some ideas of what to put into the design of the PAW Centre.

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.

September 19th, 2011

To: Policy Committee

Re: VPX Report to Policy

Progressive Conservative Leadership Debates

I attended two Progressive Conservative Leadership Debates in the last two weeks. The first was a CBC radio show called "The Tories at 40", on Friday Septrember 9th. I asked all six candidates the following questions: "This week we are welcoming about 6000 new students on our Campus who were able to predict the cost of postsecondary education thanks to the 2004 freeze on tuition and then capping tuition to CPI after that. Question to all the candidates: will the CPI cap on tuition remain during your time as Premier?" The answers were varied across the spectrum. Rick Orman (no longer in the leadership race as of Saturday" said that he won't commit to an answer. Doug Griffith (no longer in the leadership race either) stated that it would absolutely not remain. Gary Mar (1st place on the first ballot) said "without hesitation the answer is yes I would maintain the tuition cap." As well as he stated that he would remove the parental contribution as a requirement for eligibility from the Student Financial Assistance. Doug Horner (third place on the first ballot) said that keeping the CPI cap is entirely doable, and that he maintained it when he was Minister of Advanced Education and Technology and that "the CPI cap should stay". Alison Redford (2nd place on the first ballot) agreed that the cap should remain and that we would have to deal with fees. Ted Morton (no longer in the leadership race) did not answer the question. You can find the video for the CBC debate here: http://www.cbc.ca/alberta/features/tories40/audio.html. I also attended another debate on Thursday September 15th organized by the party.

Statistics Canada "University tuition fees" Report

StatCan released a report on Friday September 26, 2011 on average University tuition fees across the country. It can be found here: http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/110916/dq110916b-eng.htm. The report found that "Canadian full-time students in undergraduate programs paid 4.3% more on average in tuition fees for the 2011/2012 academic year this fall than they did a year earlier. This follows a 4.0% increase in 2010/2011." The Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 2.7% between July 2010 and July 2011.

Alberta has the fourth highest tuition out of all the provinces on average it is $5,662 which is nearing Nova Scotia (3rd highest) at $5,731 and New Brunswick (2nd highest) at $5,853. Mandatory Non-Insturctional Fees are not included in those price tags.

What was the most interesting in this report was the fact that Alberta pays the most compulsory fees (a.k.a Non-Instructional) out of all the provinces. Leading the country with $1,133 average on Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees, this goes on to show the desperate need to regulate non-instructional fees. The lowest province with compulsory fees is Newfoundland and Labrador with $212 (the CoSSS fee alone is $290).

I did two phone interviews for the Calgary Sun (http://www.calgarysun.com/2011/09/17/fee-ride-for-alberta-students) and Canadian University Press regarding the StatCan report on Friday.

Cheers,
Farid

Single Transferable Vote

When is NotA not a problem?

Michael Ross

8/12/2011

The round-by-round results print-outs from previous Students' Union Instant Runoff elections from 2007-2011 are analyzed following the new Single Transferable Vote algorithm in order to investigate the effects of the None of the Above voting option under the new system.

Contents

Introduction and Background

In May 2011, the Students' Council at the University of Alberta adopted a new vote-counting system for elections known as Single Transferable Vote (STV), to replace the previous Instant Runoff (IR) vote-counting algorithm. It was later discovered that STV, when implemented alongside the current Students' Union rules regarding a None of the Above (NotA) voting option, could lead to an increased number of seats becoming vacant as a result of an election, relative to IR.

This report analyzes the results from the 2007-2011 Students' Union elections in order to determine what effect the change in electoral system would have on the rank of, and subsequent vacancies caused by the NotA option.

Electoral Descriptions

Instant Runoff (IR)

The Instant Runoff method of counting votes is a common algorithm for determining the winner of single-seat elections where voters have a chance to rank candidates in order or preference, as opposed to casting a single vote for a single candidate. IR works by counting the first preference votes of each voter, and determining whether any candidate has an absolute majority of votes. If none do, the candidate with the fewest number of votes is eliminated, and the next preference of each ballot that was cast for that candidate receives that vote. This process is repeated until one candidate has an absolute majority of votes, and is declared the winner.

The IR vote-counting method was developed to choose a winner that in some fashion would have a majority support from voters, as opposed to a first-past-the-post system which has no such guarantee. The University of Alberta Students' Union has a unique variation of IR, where for elections that elect multiple winners (such as faculties within Council), after one candidate wins the election the vote counts are reset, the previous round's winner is eliminated, and the ballots that elected the winner are awarded to the next available choice. This overall process is repeated until all seats have been filled.

Bylaw 2000 of the Students' Union includes a voting option known as None of the Above (NotA). When votes are counted, NotA is treated as any other candidate, except that should NotA be elected to any position, only the candidates that were elected above NotA are elected, and all other positions are declared vacant.

Due to the doubly-recursive nature of this IR variant, the results tend to penalize candidates who are unique in some way, as the subsequent choices of voters who elect an early winner have an impact on further rounds that other voters do not get. This is demonstrated by the fact that, regardless of first-round votes, NotA has only ever placed last in elections, and that in the 2010 elections a slate of candidates (all identified on the ballot papers as being a part of the same slate) won every seat in their faculty, despite only having a collective 56% of first-round votes.

Single Transferable Vote (STV)

The principle behind Single Transferable Vote is that, for elections designed to elect multiple winners to a position, a certain quota of votes is needed by each candidate in order to be elected. This quota is established as the minimum number of votes needed in order to elect the requisite number of candidates. For instance, in an election to elect one member to one seat, 50% of all votes cast plus one is required, as only one candidate can win the 50% +1. Because of this, STV and IR work exactly the same in elections when there is only one seat to be filled. Similarly, for a position that is to be filled by two people, 33% +1 would be the quota of votes needed, as it is the smallest number that only two people can each obtain. All candidates who receive more than the quota are elected, and any votes they have above the quota are transferred to the subsequent choices on the ballots at a fractional transfer value based on the size of the surplus of votes. Similar to the IR method, if at any point no candidate has more than the minimum quota, the candidate with the fewest number of votes is eliminated, and any votes cast for them are transferred, but at full value.

The way that STV was implemented by the Students' Union includes the NotA option from the previous IR method. The difference in the eventual placement of NotA between the two methods is quite substantial, and is the subject of this report.

Analysis Accuracy

As there is a significant difference between the two methods, without having the actual ballots from all previous years, an STV analysis based on IR round-by-round reports cannot be 100% accurate in the final number of votes each candidate receives. The accuracy of an STV analysis of IR results depends on the whether the order of elimination of candidates is similar between the two sets of results, and is

less accurate for further rounds of vote-counting. For the most part, though, the analysis was likely very accurate in determining whether or not NotA was elected above any human candidates.

Results

Table 1 outlines the results of the STV analysis of previous years' election results for the Executive, Students' Council, and General Faculties Council elections, where available:

Table 1: STV Influence on NotA Results					
Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Seats analyzed	63	56	75	66	66
Vacancies due to NotA victory	+5	0	+4	+4	+21
Vacancies	8%	0%	5%	6%	32%

The results show a fairly low and consistent range of vacancies across the races analyzed, with the notable exception of 2011 (see below for further investigation into the results from 2011). Also noteworthy is that the vacancies due to NotA only occurred in the same races, Science Students Council (3 times), Science GFC (3 times), Engineering Students' Council (twice), Arts GFC (twice), Engineering GFC (once). These are notable for all being races with more than four seats contested each, but it is also noteworthy that Arts Students' Council (typically 6 seats) would never have resulted in a vacancy.

Figure 1 is a box plot of the first-round NotA votes for each year analyzed. The box represents 50% of individual race values, with the middle line at the median of values, and the bar lines extend to the full range of values. As there is no difference between STV and IR for races with only one seat (see above), only races with more than one seat are presented.
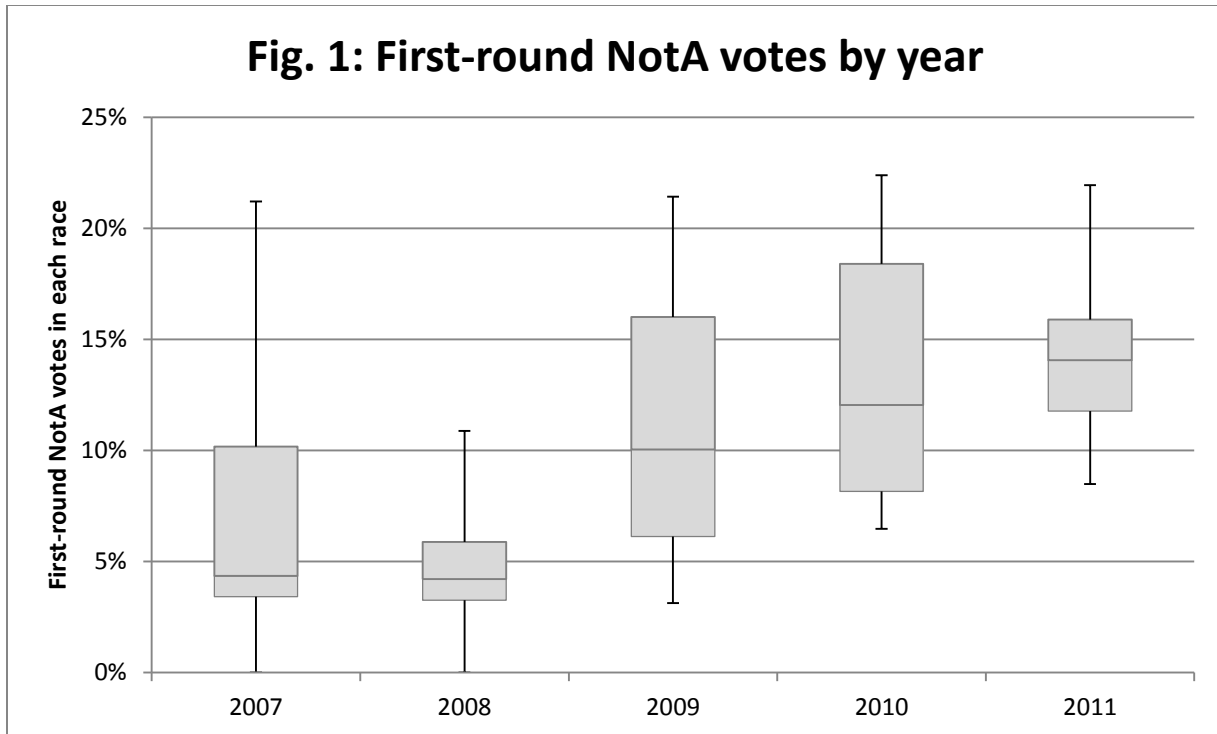
Fig. 1: First-round NotA votes by year

Figure 1 suggests that, over the last 5 years analyzed, the number of students who indicate None of the Above as their #1 choice across all elections has approximately doubled. As well, Figure 1 in general follows the trend of NotA-induced vacancies observed in Table 1, where 2008 has both no vacancies and the lower NotA vote in the first round, and 2011 has both the highest median NotA vote and vacancy rate.

The reason that first-round voting for NotA is examined in such detail is that, for STV, the first place preference on ballots has by far the greatest impact on the election results, whereas this is not necessarily the case in IR. The example of the Science GFC race for 2011 later in this report will go into further detail for this.

A more visual demonstration of the link between first-round NotA votes and NotA vacancies is shown in Figure 2:

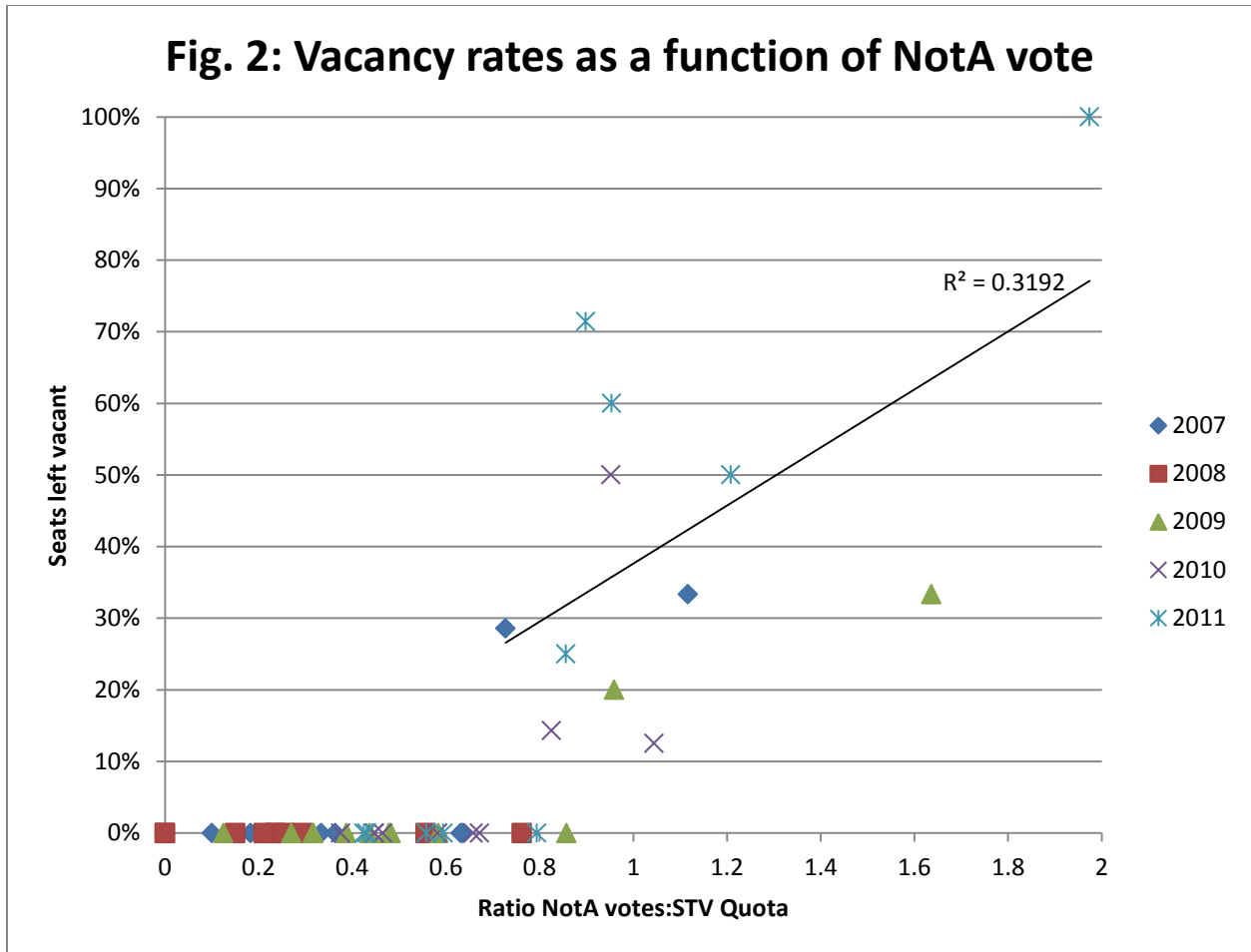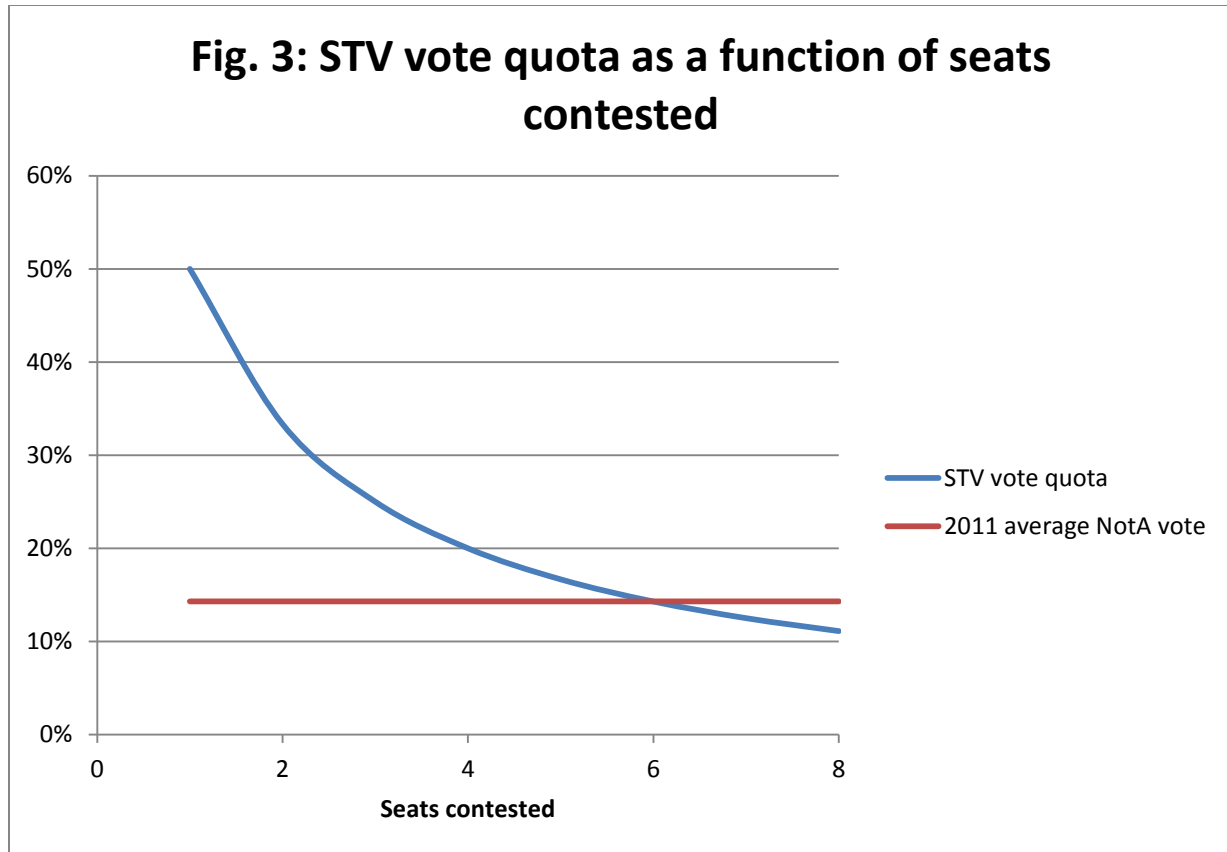**Fig. 2: Vacancy rates as a function of NotA vote**

Figure 2 suggests that when the number of first-round NotA votes approaches 80% of the STV quota (the minimum number of votes in order to get elected), there is approximately a 50% chance of vacancies occurring. Naturally, if the number of first-round NotA votes exceeds the quota, vacancies will necessarily occur – the number of vacancies is then determined by how many actual candidates ranked above NotA on the first round.

Analysis

The average vote for NotA on the first round in 2011 was 14.3% across all races in which there was more than one seat at stake. If the NotA vote stays at a similar level to this in the near future, and the rules in Bylaw 2000 regarding NotA victories remain the same, there will be vacancies in future elections due to the Single Transferable Vote method that would not have occurred under Instant Runoff. This is best demonstrated by Figure 3, which shows the STV vote quota as a function of the number of seats contested:

Fig. 3: STV vote quota as a function of seats contested

Should the first-round NotA vote remain at its current level, the elections with more than six seats contested will almost certainly result in high vacancy levels, and elections with more than four seats will have a reasonable chance of low vacancy levels.

Example: 2011 Science Elections

If the elections for the faculty of science in 2011 had been run under STV, the results would have been particularly disastrous – a total of 13 out of the combined 15 seats available would have been vacant, accounting for virtually all of the deviation between the results from 2010 and 2011. Figures 3 and 4 compare the final rankings from Students' Council and GFC, respectively:

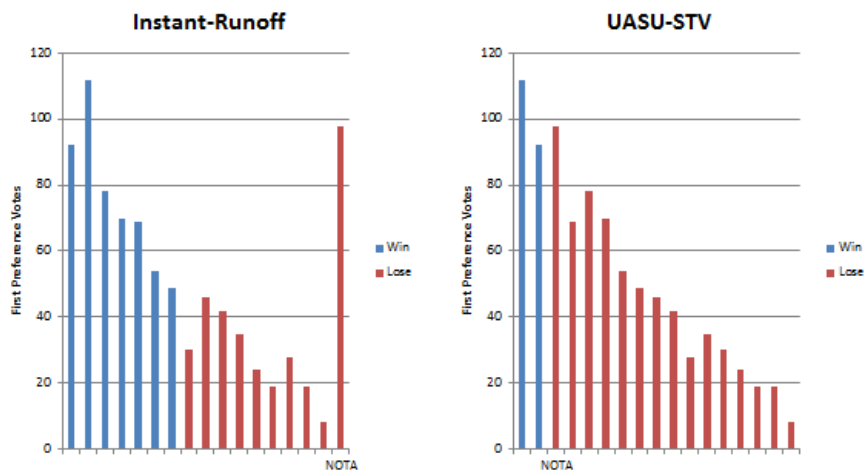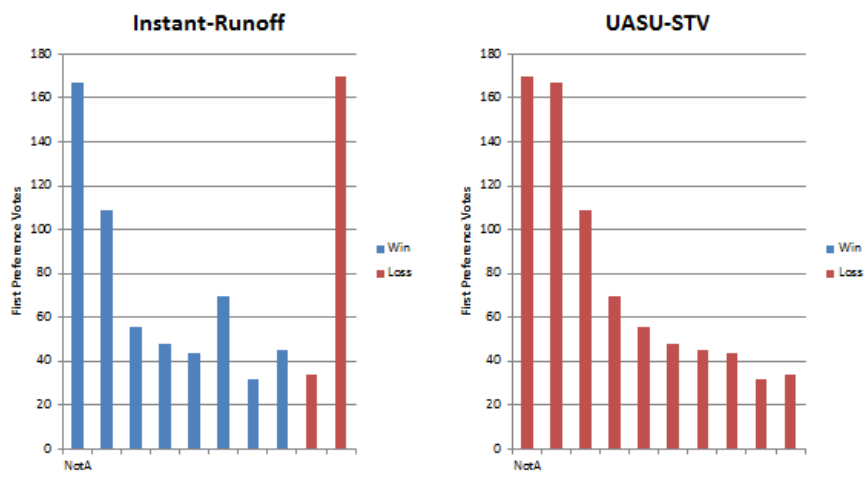Fig. 4: Science Students' Council

Fig. 5: Science GFC

In both Figures 4 and 5, the bars represent the first round votes for each candidate (including NotA). The bars in blue indicate candidates who end up winning, where bars in red indicate candidate who end up losing. As well, moving from the left of each graph to the right indicates the final ranking order of the candidates in both methods.

For the Science race in Students' Council, 11% of voters selected NotA as their number one preference. Put in stark terms, this suggests that one out of every nine students in science that decided to vote indicated that they would rather see nobody elected than somebody elected. This also resulted in NotA coming in second place for first place votes. In a first-past-the-post election, this would result in one out of seven seats getting filled. For STV, the quota of votes necessary to get elected would be around 13% of total votes, which means that no candidates would win on the first round. After several of the lower-ranking candidates are eliminated, several candidates would be declared winners – because of this, one candidate who was ranked slightly below NotA on the first round would end up getting elected. This results in a total of two candidates getting elected, and five seats remaining vacant. However, in the IR method, by the time that the 50%+1 quota has been reached on each round, every single non-NotA candidate received more votes than NotA, resulting in NotA finishing last.

For the Science race in General Faculties Council, 22% of voters selected NotA as their number one choice, which was also the highest-ranked candidate. This is notable since, for an 8-seat election, the minimum quota for STV is 11%. As NotA would receive both the highest number of vote and would be declared a winner on the first round, it would be ranked first and all other seats would be vacant. Similarly in a first-past-the-post system, NotA would be ranked first. However, yet again, in the IR method NotA would get ranked last.

A particularly fascinating fact is that for the Science GFC race, 19.4% of voters who put NotA as their first place choice then went on to vote for all remaining candidates in some order. The logic of this is astounding.

In either of these two situations, a proportional electoral method would hypothetically result in 0-1 vacancies for Students' Council (11% of 7), and 1-2 vacancies for GFC (22% of 8).

Recommendations

In general, it appears as though the two most recent electoral methods used by the Students' Union, Instant Runoff and Single Transferable Vote, are both prone to misrepresenting the None of the Above option in Students' Union elections. The rules regarding what happens should NotA get elected have been consistent for both – any candidates ranked below NotA are not elected, and instead the seat they would have been allocated is vacated. On one hand, the IR method has resulted in a vacant seat due to NotA over the last five years, despite a background 7-14% first-round NotA vote. On the other hand, if STV had been implemented for these same years with the same rules, 11% of all seats run for would have been vacant (with a very disproportionate 32% vacancy rate in 2011).

Depending on what direction the Students' Union wishes to take, there are a variety of recommendations that can be made:

1. If the priority of the Students' Union is to not have any vacancies after elections, there are two main options:

a. Remove the NotA option. This would guarantee no more vacancies as a direct result of voting.

b. Revert back to the Instant-Runoff method. This method would still allow for the possibility of a NotA success, but has not historically resulted in a vacancy over the last five years.

2. If the priority of the Students' Union is to keep an option for voters to express dissatisfaction with candidates, and keep the STV system, then there are several options as well:

a. Amend the rules surrounding a NotA victory. Currently no candidates ranked below NotA can get elected, which has been noted to cause disproportionate vacancy rates. Several options for this include:

    i. Re-Open Nominations (RON). In this method, a RON option would work within the STV system and replace NotA, but if RON were to get elected only one seat would be vacated, and the process would continue as normal.

    ii. Re-Open Nominations Variant (RON-2). This method is very similar to the RON option, but if RON gets elected, any further votes to RON do not get passed to the next ranked candidates as normal. Instead, the votes go into another pool for RON votes, and if that pool also gets elected a further seat is declared vacant.

The major difference between RON and RON-2 is that, no matter how many votes RON receives over the STV quota, only one seat will become vacant. However, the RON-2 variant allows for a more proportional distribution of vacancies. For instance in the case of the Science GFC race, as the first round NotA vote was nearly twice as high as the STV quota, it is reasonable to be expected that two seats may have become vacant. This coincidentally is very similar to the first round vote for NotA (22% of first-round votes compared to one quarter of seats vacant).

Conclusions

After analysis of the election results print-outs for the 2007-2011 elections, the following conclusions have been made:

1. Under the current version of Bylaw 2000, an increase in the number of vacant seats would have occurred in four out of the five years, ranging from 6-32% of total seats contested.

2. In general, Single Transferable Vote does not give an advantage to NotA as a candidate, but as it can lead to the election of NotA, the current rules regarding what happens should NotA win may cause a disproportionate amount of vacancies.

3. Several methods for accommodating the potential increase in vacancies as a result of STV have been presented.

September 22, 2011

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

Introduction

Last week I was sick and so had to take a bit of time off of work but I was able to make most of it up over the weekend. These past couple of weeks have been incredibly busy just keeping up with day-to-day requests. With students back and University Governance in full swing it has been a challenge just to keep up with emails and meetings.

On a lighter note, we just found out today that our building has been certified BOMA Best level 2, which is a sustainability rating. We are very proud of this unexpected recognition.

Building Project

I have been working with the General Manager and the Vice President (Operations & Finance) on the building renovations project. We have been working with the Universities Administration to see if there is any space for us to expand into as a part of this renovation. The outcome of these conversations will determine what scale of renovation we embark on.

Fall Reading Week

We have just finished the Fall Reading Week Task Force's final report. I have submitted the report to the Provost and await his guidance on how to look forward. The task force was very efficient and productive over the summer and I am very happy that we met our original timeline. I very much look forward to pursuing this initiative further throughout the year.

Board of Governors

I attended a Board of Governors Orientation meeting on Monday, September 19. The meeting was overseen by the Chair of the Board and the University President. It was very useful to hear their perspective on the role and importance of the Board. It was also a great way to meet some of the other members.

I also attended a Board Finance and Property Committee Meeting on Tuesday, September 20. At this meeting we had our first introduction to the tuition and budget approval. I was able to ask about many subjects including: the CoSSS fee, tuition increases, and deferred maintenance. You will be receiving a presentation from the Provost at this council meeting on tuition.

PAW Centre

We have been corresponding with our lawyers to get all of the information needed to move forward on the PAW Centre Agreement. We have also met multiple times with the Graduate Students' Association to discuss how best to move forward. The General Manager has been working very hard on a summary of all of the issues and we hope to try to resolve the final issues sometime within the next 6 weeks.

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.

Vice-President Academic Council Report
Date: September 23 2011
By: Emerson Csorba

INTRODUCTION

September has been a very busy month, but an equally enjoyable one. Because of the sheer amount of meetings, reports and planning that has taken place or been written over the last two weeks, this report may be a bit longer than usual. I will, however, keep each heading explanation as short as possible. Here goes:

STUDENT ATTRIBUTES

I co-chaired the first full membership of the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies. As co-chair, I kept the meeting to exactly one hour (we started at 1pm and ended right at 2pm, with no exceptions). The meeting began with a presentation about the student attribute literature, led by Dr. Heather Kanuka, the Centre for Teaching and Learning. We then did introductions, discussed the terms of reference and agreed on a future meeting schedule. Following this, I met with the co-chairs on September 21 2011, where we discussed an undergraduate and graduate-specific working group idea for the future.

NB: The terminology is now student attributes, rather than graduate attributes. The latter term is misleading, as many automatically think that we refer to actual graduate students. This is because the term "graduate attributes" was created in Australia, where graduates are undergraduates in Canada, and post-graduates are graduate students in Canada.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Following the release of the Academic Integrity Survey Report, I met with Chris Hackett of the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. Mr. Hackett also presented at the most recent Council. Over the last two weeks, I have put Mr. Hackett in touch with the ISSS and CBAS, and will attempt to do so with other faculty associations. Moreover, I sat down for an interview with *The Gateway*, and an article will be written in the near future on this subject.

SUSTAINABILITY: CERTIFICATE, GREEN GRANT AND SAW

With sustainability being one of my goals, I have taken some strides forward to promote academic sustainability. I will be hosting a session called "Sustainability and Student Attributes," to be hosted in the SUB Alumni Room from 4-5pm on October 19. This will be a panel of students and faculty, followed by an audience discussion. Moreover, I applied for a Green Grant to help fund the event. Finally, I met with Dr. Susan Barker from the Office of Sustainability Academic Advisory Committee to discuss the Sustainability Certificate, which is one its way.

We had a good discussion, and the certificate looks to be brought forward through university governance within the next few months.

ALUMNI AWARDS

Along with the rest of the executive, I attended the university's Alumni Awards. This is the second consecutive year that I have attended, as this is an outstanding event. I feel very proud to be a U of A student, and it is a great experience being around so many proud alumni. I can't wait for next year's edition of the awards.

TRANSFER CREDITS

I attended the monthly Transfer Credit Task Force, where the committee discussed internal transfers (between faculties) and recommendations to be included in the report to the Provost. On a related note, I was not able to attend the Standing Advisory Council on International Engagement on Wednesday September 21, because of Ombudservice interviews. However, councillor Zinyemba was there, and Ann Gordon proxied for me.

SPACE PROPOSAL AND URS IDEA

Later today, I will send off a space proposal to the Dean of the Faculty of Science, in order to secure a large space within CCIS for the Undergraduate Research Symposium. Right now, I have part of CCIS booked, though I want to maximize the space that we receive for the November 18 event. I also had the idea of hosting the symposium not only in CCIS, but in Telus Centre as well. This would allow for more posters to be presented, and ensure that both Science and non-Science students are able to walk through the poster competition, view the workshops and panels and truly interact with the event.

GFC AND STUDENT CAUCUS

The first GFC of the semester took place on Monday September 19. Most of the meeting was filled with presentations, such as the university's international student outlook and one on student engagement. GFC Student Caucus went very well, with an outstanding turnout. Moreover, the student turnout of around twenty students at GFC was excellent, and it is only going up from here.

GOALS DOCUMENT

I spent a few days completing the five-month executive goals review. Reflecting on the year up to this point was a valuable experience, and there are some evident areas of success and areas for improvement. Student attributes has gone quite well, but undergraduate research and academic materials will take up significant chunks of time over the next weeks. I look forward to you all seeing the goals update, and I encourage you all to be as critical as possible.

APC

I filled at the GFC Academic Planning Committee for the President. The agenda was fairly light, with three major documents on the table for discussion: the university's annual report to the government and external unit reviews for Arts and Pharmacy. The documents are online at University of Alberta governance, and I encourage you to read them. They are fairly quick reads at 10 pages for the external unit reviews and 65 pages for the annual report.

URI ADVISORY BOARD

Directly following the APC meeting, I attended the Undergraduate Initiative Advisory Board. We discussed the terms of reference for two sets of undergraduate research funds, and I presented for five minutes about the upcoming November SU Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS).

INTERVIEWS

I spent two half-days interviewing for the Student Ombudservice position that is vacant. We sifted through over one hundred applications, selected a handful of individuals for interviews, and are now in the process of selecting our top candidate. On a different note, I sat down for a handful of interviews with *The Gateway*, related to academic integrity, academic materials and the AcaDream Team. Interviews with Metro and the CBC were also conducted.

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

As sponsorship chair of the executive committee organizing the Canadian Nursing Student Association western regional conference, I put together a sponsorship package for health and nursing-related organizations in Western Canada. In only a few weeks, we have raised over $5000. I'm nearly finished the sponsorship package for the Students' Union URS, and will begin to meet next week with university stakeholders in order to fundraise.

CSL COURSE

I'm now registered in Community Service Learning 100, where much of the class discussed themes relevant to student attributes. We even discussed the Academic Plan in class. I think that this environment will ensure that I hear from a diverse group of students, rather than fall into the habit of not consulting students on a consistent basis.

THINK ABOUT VPA!

Although it is only September, I encourage you to think about running for VPA. There is so much to learn in this position, and you have the incredible opportunity to change others' lives for the better as they progress through university.

CONCLUSION

As you can see, the last two weeks have been hectic. Remember that my door is open, and that I encourage any student to come talk throughout the day. You can call me as well at 780.492.4236 and e-mail at vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca. Thanks for your time and enjoy the rest of the day. I look forward to your questions.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday September 13, 2011
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS (SC 2011-10)

2011-10/1   SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

   Meeting called to order at 6:11pnm

2011-10/1a   Announcements – The next meeting of Students' Council will take place on Tuesday, September 27, 2011

2011-10/7a and 2011-10/7b moved as a special order to be put on the main agenda

2011-10/2   PRESENTATIONS

2011-10/2a   APIRG Presentation- Presented by Louise, the Outreach Coordinator for the Alberta Public Interest Research Group (AP!RG). sponsored by Rory Tighe, president/Khinda.

Abstract: The Alberta Public Interest Research Group (AP!RG), a dedicated fee unit (DFU) will give their annual report to Students' Council on what AP!RG does, its governance structure, its budget and finances, and updates on AP!RG's successes in 2011/2012 as well as upcoming projects and activities for the year. There will also be space for questions and answer to a board member and staff of AP!RG.

2011-10/2b   Academic Integrity Survey Report- Presented by Chris Hackett, University of Alberta Discipline Officer. Sponsored by the Vice-President Academic/Sumar.

Over the last year, a team of students, professors and administrators surveyed various members of the university regarding academic integrity. The team's report is now complete, and provides analysis of the findings and a set of recommendations as the university moves forward with academic integrity. This presentation focuses on the analysis and recommendations in the report and encourages Council members to pose questions pertaining to academic integrity.

2011-10/7   GENERAL ORDERS

2011-10/7a   YAMAGISHI/KARUVELIL MOVE to appoint one (1) member of Students' Council to the Health Centre Advisory Committee.

Nominations: Csorba

Nominations closed

Appointed: Csorba

2011-10/7b   TIGHE/ZINYEMBA MOVES to appoint two Councillors to the DIE Board Tribune Selection Committee.

Nominations: Fehr, Ferguson, Gulyas

Nominations Closed

Appointed: Fehr, Ferguson

CHEEMA/KHINDA MOVED TO move a motion from the floor

Motion: CARRIED

2011-10/7c   CHEEMA/KHINDA MOVED TO appoint one (1) member of Students Council to the APIRG board of directors

Nominations: Power, West

Nominations Closed

Appointed: West

2011-10/3   EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Rory Tighe, President- Oral Report

Emerson Csorba, VP Academic- Oral Report

Raphael Lepage Fortin, BoG Rep- Oral Report

Colten Yamagishi, VP Student Life- Oral Report

2011-10/4   BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Kim Ferguson, CAC Chair- Oral Report

Petros Kusmu, Policy Committee Chair- Oral Report

Adam Woods, Bylaw Committee Chair- Oral Report

2011-10/5   QUESTION PERIOD

Question Period extended 15minutes

WOODS/KUSMU MOVED TO extend question period another 15 minutes

Motion: CARRIED

2011-10/6   BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2011-10/6a   ISKANDAR/CSORBA MOVES THAT the Policy Committee recommends to Students' Council approve Bill #9 Political Policy, Academic Materials, in first

reading based on the following principles:
- that the Students' Union will encourage academic material manufacturers, retail outlets, other student organizations, and the University of Alberta to engage in practices designed to lower the costs of academic materials to students;
- that the Students' Union will educate instructors about the costs of textbooks and about alternatives available to them;
- that the Students' Union will advocate for peripheral academic materials to be standardized across the institution to avoid needless expenditures;
- that the Students' Union will advocate the Federal Government to exempt textbooks from the GST and/or any other federal sales taxes that may be implemented in the future;
- that the Students' Union will advocate to the Federal Government for the elimination of the 10% and 15% prices premiums from the Book Importation Regulations;
- that the Students' Union will advocate that the Canadian copyright laws be constructed in a way which does no derogate from the expansion of fair dealing rights as interpreted in recent legal decisions; and

that this policy will expire April 30th 2012.

Speakers List: Iskandar, Luimes, Csorba, Bellinger

Motion: CARRIED

Meeting adjourned

Councillor Attendance Records
2010-2011

Council Seats (40 total)	Name	Attendance 9/13/2011 SC 11-10				
Ex-officio Members (6 voting seats)						
Ex-officio Members (6 voting seats)						
President	Rory Tighe	0.5				
VP Academic	Emerson Csorba	Y				
VP External	Farid Iskander	Y				
VP Operations & Finance	Andy Cheema	Y				
VP Student Life	Colten Yamigishi	Y				
Undergraduate Board of Governors Rep	Raphael Lepage Fortin	Y				
Faculty Representation (32 voting seats)						
ALES	Andrew Fehr	Y				
Arts	Petros Kusmu	Y				
Arts	Navneet Khinda	Y				
Arts	Adam Woods	Y				
Arts	Brent Kelly	Y				
Arts	Chaka Zinyemba	Y				
Arts	Kelsey Mills	Y				
Augustana (Faculty)	Nathan Sereda	N				
Business	vacant					
Business	vacant					
Education	Vanessa Johnson	N				
Education	Brit Luimes	Y				
Education	Mallory McMurtrie	Y				
Engineering	Aaron Eslinger	Y				
Engineering	Lyndon Crone	Y				
Engineering	Saadiq Sumar	Y				
Engineering	Adam Gulyas	Y				
Law	Scott Nicol	Y				
Medicine & Dentistry	Rebecca Gould	Y				
Native Studies	vacant					
Nursing	Eric Bellinger	Y				
Open Studies	vacant					
Pharmacy	Sarah Zhao	0.5				
Phys Ed & Rec	Susan Amer	N				
Saint-Jean (Faculty)	Kinnar Power	Y				
Science	Kim Ferguson	Y				
Science	Amelie Roberto Charron	Y				
Science	Avinash Karuvelil	0.5				
Science	Peter West	Y				
Science	Arun Thomas	Y				
Science	Su Su Liang	Y				
Science	Brett MacGillivary	Y				
ALES	Andrew Fehr	Y				
Arts	Petros Kusmu	Y				
Ex-Officio Members (2 non-voting seats)						
Speaker	Michael Ross	Y				
General Manager	Marc Dumouchel	N				
Resigned:						
Josh Le						
Samaar Haider						
Jake Archie						
Elauna Boutwell						