

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday July 24th 2012
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2012-07)

2012-07/1 SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

2012-07/2 PRESENTATIONS

2012-07/2a Executive Goals - Presented by the Executive - Sponsored by Colten Yamagishi, President.

The executive will present Council with their goals for the 2012/2013 year. This presentation is meant to provide Council with a first look at the executive goals and facilitate the opportunity for Council to provide feedback for the final goals document that will be published at the end of the month. Make sure to ask lots of questions!

2012-07/3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

2012-07/4 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

2012-07/5 QUESTION PERIOD

2012-07/5a Councillor McGinn to Colten Yamagishi, President:

"A University of Alberta student named Chevi Rabbit, aged 26, was attacked on his way to Safeway last Thursday evening allegedly due to his sexuality. Would the Students' Union be willing offer their support to the individual and/or the broader LGBTQ community by issuing a statement or through some other means? "

Colten Yamagishi, President response:

Mike, thank you for the great question and thank you for submitting it to the order papers. Written questions are always better for the exec as they provide us with time to afford you with a thorough and thoughtful answer. Since receiving your question I have made sure to publish a public statement regarding the issue both on Twitter and in my Council Report. Attached are the contents of both my tweet and the section of my report dedicated to the incident.

Tweet: So sad... especially so close to our campus. Let's do what we can to support the LGBTQ

community! #yeg #uasu #ualberta<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/story/2012/07/23/edmonton-gay-university-student-attacked.html> ...

Report: Hate-Crime Near Campus. I also wanted to mention that fact that a terrible hate-crime recently occurred on our campus when one of our students Chevi Rabbit was assaulted near his home in the nearby Garneau Community. News reports state that Chevi was attacked for wearing makeup and being openly gay. Crimes like this are absolutely nauseating and we need to make sure that the LGBTQ not only feels safe and respected at our university but that they ARE safe and respected. We will do everything in our power at the SU to foster the development of an inclusive and tolerant community. My thoughts go out to Chevi and the LGBTQ community for this terrible incident."

2012-07/6

BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2012-07/7

GENERAL ORDERS

2012-07/7b

KHINDA MOVE THAT Students' Council nominate one (1) member of Students' Council to the Policy Committee

2012-07/8

INFORMATION ITEMS

2012-07/8g

Saadiq Sumar, VP Student Life- Report

Please see document LA 12-07.01

2012-07/8h

Colten Yamagishi, President- Report

Please see document LA 12-07.02

2012-07/8i

Andy Cheema, VP Operations and Finance- Report

Please see document LA 12-07.03

Prepared by: Saadiq Sumar, Vice President (Student Life)

To: Students' Council 2012/13

Hey Everyone!

My apologies for not submitting my council report earlier. The last couple of weeks have been quite busy with formalizing my goals document and presentation, among other things. Without further delay, here's my report!

Programming

Week of Welcome

The Week of Welcome Theme has been finalized. The theme for WoW 2012 is...DR. SEUSS! There will be a lot of work to do in the next month and a half in preparation to Week of Welcome. Let me know if you'd like to help out with the decorations or with WoW.

Services

U-Pass

The VPOpsFi and I attended a U-Pass Advisory Meeting earlier this week. The discussion became quite heated over the pricing structure for the new contract. It is still unclear as to what the price point will be but the student associations are hoping to meet in the next couple of weeks to discuss a counterproposal, along with a timeline to lobby City Councilors and the City of Edmonton Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

I also attended the U-Pass Admin Meeting with several other University Administrators. We had a chance to discuss several items including the current negotiations but also potential opt outs and the Spring/Summer U-Pass.

SFAIC

The Director and Associate Director of SFAIC sat down with the VPOpsFi and myself. They gave us a better understanding of the new incoming Alberta Student Loan Policy as well as potential changes that we could consider to the Access Fund. These changes will come to GAC before taking effect.

Centre for Student Development

A few members from Services, a representative from the Office of the Dean of Students, and I sat down to talk about the Co-Curricular Record and the rollout of this program. Things are looking positive and the program should be ready by September.

Student Group Services

The VPOpsFi and I were involved in the first round of Student Group Granting. It was a very long and technical meeting, but we awarded several groups with grants for start-up, conference, and other club activities.

Advocacy

Residence

I met with the Director of Residence Life, Dima Utgoff, last week. The agenda extended from items like Unit Cleanliness and Aboriginal House to Orientation Filming and the LHSA-RHA MOU (which has finally been signed by all parties!). The agenda for the meeting was quite extensive and there was a lot of positive feedback that came from the meeting.

Additionally, there was a great deal of movement on the East Campus Village Housing Project. The selection committee met with both proponents to give them a clearer understanding of the project and the steering committee met for updates and moving forward with the project.

The RHA will also be meeting quite soon and I will inform them of the updates to the ECV Housing Project, along with members of the Greek Community.

Other

Meeting with Todd Bergen-Henengouwen from UAB

I had a chance to meet with the Chair of the University Athletics Board earlier this week to discuss upcoming plans for UAB this year, Athlete Orientations, and some marketing strategies to increase attendance at Bears games.

Safe Spaces Resource Leader Training

Along with several staff from SU Services, I received training and information from iSMSS (Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services) around safe spaces.

Although I learned a lot through this session, I'm also still quite confused about a great deal of items. I will hopefully be following up with iSMSS about any areas in which I need more information.

Building Projects

The PAW Centre Steering Committee met last week to discuss updates to the project. Hopefully, the SU will be getting estimates for what a Bike Library may cost and will be looking into grants for such a space as well as the Teaching/Community Kitchen.

I also sat in on a very short meeting regarding the SUB Renovations. Seems like the project is moving along quite nicely and things are falling into place!

Upcoming Items

- Meetings with Frank Robinson (July 23rd and 24th)
- New Student Experience Working Group (July 24th)
- Residence Community Standards Review Committee Meeting (July 25th)
- SUB Renovations Steering Committee Meeting (July 25th)
- Meeting with GSA's VP Student Services (July 25th)
- Student Loan Crash Course (July 26th)
- University Integrated Planning and Budgeting Process (July 27th)
- Residence Budget Advisory Committee (July 31st)
- UofA Protective Services Commission (July 31st)
- Meeting with Director Residence Life (August 7th)
- Services Staff Meeting (August 9th)
- Infolink/SFAIC Training (August 11th)
- ECV Housing Project Design-Build Presentations (August 13th)

Takeaways:

- Volunteer for Week of Welcome
- Meet with me if you are interested in the portfolio or just to chat!

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

Saadiq Sumar
780-690-4765

July 24, 2012

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

Dear Council,

My apologies for the late report! I missed the main additions deadline as I was with the VPX and DRPA in Sackville, New Brunswick for CASA Policy and Strat all last week until Sunday night. I was planning to draft the report yesterday but I am sure you all know that I was up to my nose in work with the new Lister changes. Please forgive me for my tardiness.

This report (for the same matter) will be extremely short as I have some very pressing issues to get to.

Lister Changes

As I am sure most of you are aware the Students' Union has been extremely involved in the discussions (or lack there of) that have recently come up regarding the university's decision to make a number of enormous changes to the Lister Residence without consulting the Lister Hall Students' Association or the Students' Union at all. The news release for the changes came out simultaneously with the first meeting that the University had with us to discuss these changes. This action is completely egregious, as the proposal did not only bypass student consultation but also consultation with the university Board of Governors. The sum of the changes include modifications to the residence system such as making Lister a first year only residence, limiting alcohol use to resident rooms only (no longer allowed in lounges or hallways), and eliminating the Floor Coordinator position (that was previously jointly employed by the university and the Lister Hall Students' Association) and replacing it with an RA position solely employed by Residence Services. These changes are drastic and more than worthy of our scrutiny. I am extremely disappointed in the university's conduct and will end at no avail to ensure that our students voice is heard.

The University's article can be found here:

<http://www.news.ualberta.ca/article.aspx?id=1DACCC78F8F2C431A852A83BEAB1B63B2>

Make sure to read the comments under the article.

How can you help? Please read and share our SU briefing notes that provide information on the situation from our side <http://www.su.ualberta.ca/about/news/entry/124/no-consultation-university-of-alberta-lister-residence-changes/> as well as our FAQ section

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/governance/advocacy/lister/info/>. We also have an e-mail form ready for individuals to automatically send a letter to the university expressing their concerns with the click of a button. We have already sent over 200 letters and this number is growing at a rapid pace. Please share this link and get supporters to join you <http://www.su.ualberta.ca/governance/advocacy/lister/mail/>

Fall Reading Week

I had a meeting with the Registrar, the Dean of Students, and one of the Associate Registrars to discuss our plan moving the Fall Reading Week proposal forward. The meeting went well and I received a number of solid recommendations.

Meeting with Minister Hancock

The VPX and I met with Dave Hancock – Minister of Human Services for the Provincial Government. We discussed the government’s new Social Policy Framework initiative and debated on a number of post secondary issues such as student loans and upfront grants. Minister Hancock was very interested with the work that we are doing within the SU and also asked a number of questions about the Greek (Fraternity/Sorority) Community on campus as he is a very involved graduate member of my Fraternity.

Premier’s Capital Ex Breakfast

This morning the VPX, the CAUS staff, and I went to Premier Allison Redford’s pancake breakfast at the legislature building. We met with an enormous number of government officials and MLA’s. We have also posted a number of pictures on Twitter if you want to see whom we met up with. I am very pleased to say that the new government is showing a direct and authentic concern for improving the post-secondary education system for the future of our province.

CASA Policy and Strat

The CASA Policy and Strat conference was extremely useful. We had a number of plenary sessions and goal planning meetings to come up with this year’s set of federal lobby points. I am very happy to say that the UASU and CAUS had a very strong representation in these asks and that almost all of our asks are moving forward as CASA lobby priorities. We also had a great time meeting with our counterparts from all over the country.

Hate-Crime Near Campus

I also wanted to mention that fact that a terrible hate-crime recently occurred on our campus when one of our students Chevi Rabbit was assaulted near his home in the nearby Garneau Community. News reports state that Chevi was attacked for wearing makeup and being openly gay. Crimes like this are absolutely nauseating and we need to make sure that the LGBTQ not only feels safe and respected at our university but that they ARE safe and respected. We will do everything in our power at the SU to foster the development of an inclusive and tolerant community. My thoughts go out to Chevi and the LGBTQ community for this terrible incident.

Summary

Time to get back to the grind and make a huge difference for our students and future students at this great institution. Please lend your support as we need it now more than ever!

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.

Best,

-Colten Yamagishi

July 23, 2012

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

Hello Council,

Below are the highlights since my last report.

Lister Hall Repurposing and Restructuring

As you are most likely aware by now, the university yesterday surprised the Students' Union and the Lister Hall Students' Association with sweeping changes to the Lister Hall residence community, many of which are to take effect immediately. The changes include fundamentally changing many student staff positions, which have already been hired, converting three towers of Lister into a first-year only residence, and modifying alcohol policy. The university failed to engage in a well-intended consultation with any student stakeholders – in direct violation of a Memorandum of Agreement signed in 2009 to prevent this exact dismissal of consultation from being repeated.

As a past residence employee, a four-time Lister Hall resident and an officer of the Students' Union, I am not proud of my university's patent disregard for its written promises and due process. I am further concerned that the lack of consultation has resulted in proposed changes that may not represent the best course forward for Lister. I will be working with the SU executive in continuing to respond to this issue.

U-Pass

The Vice President (Student Life) and I attended a U-Pass Advisory Committee meeting last week. This group includes stakeholders from the relevant institutions, transit authorities and municipalities. The major topic of discussion was the future price of the U-Pass as we move into contract negotiations for a possible renewal of the Fall/Winter pass. Currently, there is considerable disagreement over the method of setting the price. We will be working with the other student associations to develop a strategy moving forward.

Student Group Granting

The Students' Union and Dean of Students collaboratively grant funds to registered student groups for events, conferences and start-up expenses. Funding decisions are spread out over five cycles annually, which each culminate in a Student Group Granting Committee meeting. The Vice President (Student Life) and I participated in the first of these meetings last week, after spending time reviewing all applications. The meeting went relatively smoothly and the total amount granted was under budget – remaining funds will be carried over to the next cycle as per standard procedure.

SUB Renovation

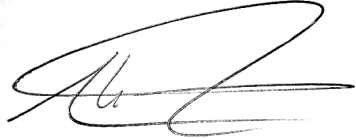
Since the last meeting of Council we have had one Steering Committee meeting and two weekly design committee meetings. We have held an internal stacking meeting to brainstorm and discuss various options. We are reviewing the preliminary schedule of accommodations and are expecting a preliminary functional program in the near future. Steering and Design Committee meetings are scheduled this week.

Miscellaneous

Other activities in the past two weeks include a DIE Board Selection Committee meeting and discussions about Access Fund policy.

Should you have any questions, comments or concerns, feel free to get in touch at 780-492-4236 or vp.finance@su.ualberta.ca. If you wish to discuss any topics in depth, I would welcome the opportunity to meet in person.

Cheers,



Andy Cheema