

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL

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Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
Telus 134

## LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2012-23)

- 2012-23/1      SPEAKER'S BUSINESS
- 2012-23/2      PRESENTATIONS
- 2012-23/3      EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
- 2012-23/4      BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 2012-23/4a     Ruling 2012-11 of the DIE Board (Mah v. CRO)  
Please see document LA 12-23.01
- 2012-23/5      QUESTION PERIOD
- 2012-23/6      BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS
- 2012-23/6j     **CRONE/CHELEN move** that the Capital Projects policy expire on April 30th, 2016.  
Please see document LA 12-23.02
- 2012-23/6k     **KHINDA/CHELEN move** to renew the Capital Projects policy.
- 2012-23/6l     **KHINDA/SMITH move** to rescind the General Elections Rally policy in second reading  
Please see document LA 12-23.03
- 2012-23/6m     **McGINN/CRONE move** to rescind the Engagement Policy in second reading  
Please see document LA 12-23.04
- 2012-23/6n     **KHINDA/CRONE move** to rescind the Co-ops and Internships Policy in second reading  
Please see document LA 12-23.05
- 2012-23/6o     **BABIC/CRONE move** to renew the Academic Materials Policy as amended in second reading.

Please see document LA 12-23.06

**2012-23/7**

**GENERAL ORDERS**

**2012-23/7a**

**YAMAGISHI/SUMAR move that** Students' Council approve Bill #26 in first reading based on the following principles.

The Social and Environmental Responsibility Committee (SERC) will become a permanent committee of the Students' Union based on the following Terms of Reference [http://www.su.ualberta.ca/media/uploads/639/serc\\_tor.pdf](http://www.su.ualberta.ca/media/uploads/639/serc_tor.pdf).

**2012-23/8**

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2012-23/8c**

Brent Kelly, BoG Rep- Report

Please see document LA 12-23.07

**2012-23/8d**

Bylaw Committee- Summary Report

Please see document LA 12-23.08

**2012-23/8e**

Audit Committee- Summary Report

Please see document LA 12-23.09

**2012-23/8f**

VP External Report for 2013 Annual General Meeting

Please see document LA 12-23.10

## **DIE BOARD RULING 2012-11**

### **HEARING DETAILS:**

Style of Cause: Mah v. CRO

Hearing Date: March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Hearing Number: Ruling #11 2012/2013

DIE Board Panel Members: Cian Hackett, Associate Chief Tribune, Chair  
Eve Coppinger, Tribune  
Rebecca Gormley, Tribune

Appearing for the Applicant: Stephanie Mah

Appearing for the Respondent: Farid Iskandar, Chief Returning Officer of the Students' Union

### **BACKGROUND:**

Ms. Mah filled out an online application form with a short biography, thinking that it was the appropriate form to run for the General Faculties Council election for Faculty of Science undergraduate representatives. This form was confirmed at the hearing as the "GFC Committee Student Application Form" found on a University Governance webpage run by the University of Alberta. She submitted the form by the nomination deadline for the election, which was Tuesday, March at 5:00 pm.

As she did not receive further instructions about her nomination, on Wednesday Ms. Mah visited the elections office and spoke with Shane Crawford, the Deputy Returning Officer of the Students' Union. Mr. Crawford showed Ms. Mah the Students' Union nomination package which was posted online, and Ms. Mah confirmed that it was not the same as the form that she had filled out online. Because she had not submitted a completed nomination package by the deadline, Ms. Mah was not permitted to run in the General Faculties Council election.

Both Mr. Iskandar and Ms. Mah agreed that the language used on the University Governance form was confusing. Mr. Iskandar argued that it would not be fair to allow a candidate to run who had not filled out the correct form. There are 27 candidate running for positions on General Faculties Council in the current election, all of whom accessed and submitted a complete nominations package. It was found that the "GFC Committee Student Application Form" could be accessed through a link on the Discover Governance webpage of the Students' Union's website, which is separate from the Elections webpages. Mr. Iskandar agreed to include this potential confusion in the transition of his position and to communicate the confusion to Discover Governance.

**ISSUES:**

[1] Should the DIE Board uphold the decision of the Students' Union elections office to not allow the applicant run for General Faculties Council?

**RELEVANT BYLAWS:**

[2] **From Bylaw 2300, section 5:**

5. Candidate Nomination Deadlines

The C.R.O. shall determine and announce the deadlines for the nominations of candidates prior to the end of November each year, to occur not fewer than nine (9) days before the date of the Faculty Councillor Election.

[3] **From Bylaw 2300, section 6:**

6. Candidate Nomination Packages

(1) The C.R.O. shall make available to every member nomination packages not fewer than twenty (20) days before the nomination deadline as set out in Section 5.

[4] **From Bylaw 2300, section 8:**

8. Acceptance of Candidate Nominations

Where a member submits valid nomination papers, as set out in Sections 6(3) and 7 and prior to the nomination deadline as set out in Section 5, that member's nomination shall be accepted by the C.R.O. within twenty-four (24) hours of the nomination deadline.

**DECISION:**

The following decision was made unanimously.

[5] While the panel finds that the candidate made an honest mistake, the panel finds that the decision of the Students' Union elections office is reasonable and consistent with Students' Union bylaw, as the deadline for nominations to run in for an undergraduate representative position on General Faculties Council had passed without the submission of the correct documentation. The panel is satisfied that the Chief Returning Officer did make the nomination package available to every member.

[6] The DIE Board does not have the authority to make rulings on the websites of external parties, such as the University of Alberta, and acknowledges that the Students' Union had no control over the University Governance form in question.

### **III. CAPITAL PROJECTS**

WHEREAS the University has numerous sources of revenue and should not depend solely on students to finance capital projects;

WHEREAS the University should not be spending tuition revenue on capital projects;

WHEREAS as capital projects benefit the University and serve a wide range of communities beyond undergraduate students;

WHEREAS there should be consultation with students as to the creation, use, and termination of student fees;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT tuition revenues shall not be used to fund capital projects;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a dedicated student fee for a capital project shall not be used to fund the construction of academic or research space;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall participate in defining the purpose and scope of any project where a student fee is involved;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all capital projects funded directly by a student fee dedicated to that project must include proportional commitments from other stakeholder groups;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a dedicated student fee for a capital project shall not be implemented until such a time as students have the ability to receive benefits from their contribution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any capital project funded directly by a dedicated student fee shall have a governance structure that includes adequate student representation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any dedicated student fee that funds a capital project shall be eliminated upon the final payment of the agreed upon student contribution.

## IX. GENERAL ELECTIONS RALLY

WHEREAS the Students' Union is founded on the basis of democratic representation, which fundamentally depends on voters making an informed choice when electing their representatives;

WHEREAS General Faculties Council policy states that one outcome that should be expected from a program of undergraduate study at the University of Alberta is "an informed understanding of and a desire to participate in the intellectual, cultural, social and political life of local, national and global communities";<sup>5</sup>

WHEREAS attending a live forum of candidates is one of the best ways to actively garner information about candidates;

WHEREAS the University of Alberta is largely a commuter campus where the only reasonable time to attend a forum for many students is during regular class time hours;

WHEREAS no student should have to choose between the fundamental right to be involved in their democratic process and their academics;

WHEREAS the general election forum is an integral part of the SU campaign process, in large part due to cancellation of classes from 12:00-13:00 for the purpose of attending the forum;

WHEREAS the general election forum generally runs from 12:00-15:00;

WHEREAS the Students' Union Chief Returning Officer has the discretion to change the format of the forum;

WHEREAS there are multiple forums and methods by which students may garner information on candidates;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union continue to support the cancellation of classes from 12:00 to 13:00 for the purposes of facilitating students attendance of the general election forum;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union support the implementation of a process that ensures no student is penalized for attending the forum in lieu of class between 13:00 and 15:00; and

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<sup>5</sup> University of Alberta General Faculties Council Policy Manual. GFC Policy 111.1 - *Teaching and Learning and Teaching Evaluations* (University of Alberta GFC 2000).  
[http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/gfcpolicymanual/content.cfm?ID\\_page=39298](http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/gfcpolicymanual/content.cfm?ID_page=39298)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall lobby the University to ensure that instructors comply with the existing stipulation that classes be cancelled for the purposes of the election forum, as outlined in the University of Alberta Calendar Academic Schedule (Section 11.1).



## 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;<sup>4</sup>

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.

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<sup>4</sup> 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.

## IV.CO-OP AND INTENSHIPS

WHEREAS having access to relevant professional experience through co-operative and internship placements forms an integral part of an engaging educational experience and allows students to gain practical experience, as well as relationships with employers in their professional community, thereby better equipping them to be effective contributors to the workforce;

WHEREAS a number of other Canadian universities have already adopted measures to facilitate the participation of international students in co-operative and internship opportunities;

WHEREAS six (6) faculties at the University of Alberta offer some form of cooperative or internship opportunity to undergraduates, not including practicum placements that are mandatory for professional certification after graduation;

WHEREAS only three (3) of these opportunities are currently available to international students;

WHEREAS students with valid study permits who wish to take part in a cooperative placements or internship program are eligible to apply for a work permit under federal statute provided that the co-operative placement or internship:

- a. Forms an essential part of their program of study in Canada;
- b. Is certified as part of the academic program by a responsible academic official of the institution; and
- c. Does not form more than 50 percent of the total program of study;<sup>3</sup>

WHEREAS off-campus work opportunities are not equivalent to co-operative placements or internships in University definitions nor according to federal regulation;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union negotiate with individual faculties to ensure that co-operative or internship programs are accessible to all students within the Faculty who are academically eligible to participate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall lobby the University, the government and other significant bodies to ensure that there is equality in admission requirements to faculty-specific co-operative or internship programs at the University of Alberta.

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<sup>3</sup> *The Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration*. "Work Opportunities for Foreign Students." <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/work-opps.html#coop> (8 August 2006).

## I. ACADEMIC MATERIALS

WHEREAS the true cost of being a student is composed of many factors, such as tuition, fees, cost of living, foregone wages, and academic materials;

WHEREAS the rate of textbook price increases have exceeded the rate of inflation over the last decade; at the University of Alberta, the average textbook price increased between 1995 and 2007 was 280%<sup>1</sup>. Over the same period, the Consumer Price Index only rose 22%<sup>2</sup>;

WHEREAS students are increasingly required to purchase peripheral academic materials and other equipment to succeed in their courses;

WHEREAS these peripheral materials are not standardized across courses and faculties, which often leads to the mandatory purchase of several versions of the same equipment;

WHEREAS the Government of Canada already has mechanisms in place for Goods and Services Tax (GST) exemptions;

WHEREAS there are no provincial sales taxes levied on books for Canadian provinces that use a Harmonized Sales Tax (HST);

WHEREAS the Book Importation Regulations approved by the Governor General in Council in July 1999 allowed book importers to charge a premium of 10% on books imported from the United States and 15% on books from any other country;<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS the use of copyrighted material for scholarship has ~~been affirmed in both the Supreme Court of Canada's 2004 decisions *CCH Canadian Ltd. v. Law Society of Upper Canada*, and *SOCAN v. CAIP*, where the Supreme Court articulated that the rights of creators must be respected, but that user rights must be given a liberal interpretation~~codified in S(29) of the Copyright Act RSC 1985 c C-42;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union, through its provincial and federal lobby organizations, will pressure academic material manufacturers, retail outlets, other student organizations, and post-secondary institutions to engage in practices designed to lower the costs of academic materials to students;

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<sup>1</sup> Government of Canada. Accessed Jan 2, 2013. "Book Importation Regulations. SOR/99-324. Copyright Act". *Justice Laws Website*. <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-99-324/FullText.html>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union will educate instructors about the costs of textbooks and about alternatives available to them;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union will advocate for peripheral academic materials to be standardized across the institution to avoid needless expenditures;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union will advocate to the Federal Government to exempt textbooks from the GST and/or any other federal sales taxes that may be implemented in the future;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT ~~that~~ the Students' Union will advocate to the Federal Government for the elimination of the 10% and 15% price premiums from the Book Importation Regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT ~~that~~ the Students' Union will advocate to the Federal Government that Canadian copyright laws be constructed in a way which does not derogate from the expansion of fair dealing rights as interpreted in recent legal decisions.

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**To:** Students' Council

**Re:** Report to Council

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Hey Council,

Before I proceed with my report, I would like to acknowledge that our university and our Students' Union are on Indigenous land. Specifically: Cree, Saulteaux, Metis, Blackfoot, and Nakota Siou.

They are faculty, staff, students, family, and friends, and they are still here. I acknowledge that we meet on treaty 6 territory. That treaty governs the relationship between first-nations and non-first nations citizens. I am thankful for this opportunity for us to meet on this land today. This statement will be included at the front of my report to council until either the time that my term ends, or Council moves to makes a similar statement available for public viewing.

Last week was a busy one. On Thursday I attended a Board of Governors dinner, followed by a meeting of the Board the next morning. After the meeting of the Board I attended a Coalition meeting, and then the assembly/march/rally organized by CAPSE.

#### **Board of Governors Dinner**

The conversation at the dinner focused around what was to be done about the budget cuts. The general consensus around the table was that we as a board were very dissatisfied with the decision the government had made. The board indicated its general willingness to take some sort of collective action against the cuts. More on that to come I imagine.

#### **Board of Governors Meeting**

Conversations regarding the budget cuts also permeated the board meeting the following morning. Both the President and Board Chair expressed their dissatisfaction with the burden that has been

placed upon the institution. The government has given the University an extra two months to reformulate its budget, but it is very likely that the U of A may have to run a deficit in the coming years to account for the cuts.

The Board is going to be attending a strategic planning retreat towards the end of April, and it's very likely that a number of ministers will be in attendance. I hope we will get a good chance to reinforce the importance of post-secondary education at that meeting, and I look forward to attending.

### **Coalition Meeting**

A meeting of the Coalition of Associations met just after the meeting of the Board. At that meeting we discussed what collective action we could take – as associations – against the cuts. We agreed upon a collective op-ed piece. We also agreed upon the importance of continuing to hold these meetings.

### **CAPSE Rally**

Finally, I made my way to the CAPSE event starting in Tory Turtle. I was amazed by the turnout, and also amazed by how much energy the attendees brought to the gathering. We collected a great deal of information for strategies moving forward.

The march and rally after the assembly were also hugely successful. We had a wide variety of important speakers make the case for post-secondary education – including representatives from all of the on-campus associations.

So it was a busy week! But I'm looking forward to seeing you all Tuesday.

In Solidarity,

### **Brent Kelly**

Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative 2012-2013 | [University of Alberta Students' Union](#)

**P:** (780) 999-8867 | **F:** (780) 492-4643 | **E:** [bog@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:bog@su.ualberta.ca)



## BYLAW COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: **March 14<sup>th</sup> 2013**

Time: **4.42pm**

2012 – 2013 **MEETING #**

### **Motions**

1.	<b>CHELEN</b> moved that <i>the March 14, 2013 agenda be approved as tabled.</i>	<b>CARRIED</b> 5/0/0
2.	<b>CHELEN</b> moved to <i>amend bylaw 8200 18-a, to read “all the base members”.</i>	<b>CARRIED</b> 5/0/0
3.	<b>SMITH</b> moved to <i>omnibus bills 16-22 as amended.</i>	<b>CARRIED</b> 5/0/0
4.	<b>CHELEN</b> moved to <i>approve the omnibus motion.</i>	<b>CARRIED</b> 5/0/0
5.	<b>KHINDA</b> moved to <i>adjourn the meeting.</i>	<b>CARRIED</b> 5/0/0



## AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: **March 14<sup>th</sup> 2013**

Time: **5.05 pm**

2011 – 2012 **MEETING**

### **Motions**

1.	<b>HODGSON</b> moved to <i>approve the disbursement of Student Legal Service's fee.</i>	<b>CARRIED</b> 4/0/0
2.	<b>HODGSON</b> moved to <i>adjourn the meeting.</i>	<b>CARRIED</b>





Hello Members of Students' Council!

The President and I are in Vancouver for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations' Annual General Meeting until Saturday morning. Here we will be going over a slew of political policies (over 16) and some other important motions. Since Council was only a week ago, I decided you might be more interested in my Director-At-Large report to CASA's General Membership.

Also, in other news:

- The SU will be having a townhall on the budget cuts on Tue, March 26<sup>th</sup> at noon at SUBstage. Here we're hoping to not only communicate to students what's going on with these cuts and how they'll be impacted, but we'd love to also hear from them in terms of the SU's responses. Please come by and spread the word! It'll be in partnership with the Gateway and CJSR.
- Last week the Coalition for Action on Post-Secondary Education (CAPSE) had an excellent General Assembly and protest. Check out [www.capse.ca](http://www.capse.ca) for information! They'll be having a protest this Thursday, I believe.

Enjoy!  
Petros

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March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**From:** Petros Kusmu, CASA Director-At-Large 2012-2013 ([director2@casa.ca](mailto:director2@casa.ca))  
**To:** CASA Board of Directors and Membership  
**Re:** Director-At-Large Report for 2013 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Hello CASA members!

Since my election as Director-At-Large in July 2012, I have worked on a number of projects, objectives, and initiatives within CASA. Unfortunately, for the past 3-4 weeks, I took a leave of absence from CASA due to the University of Alberta Students' Union's (UASU) bylaws which states that I have to leave all of my Vice President External-related posts during any UASU campaign. (By the way, I ran for President and won, so I'll be around next year.) This explains my tardy report and policy submission. But to make up for my tardiness, I've tried making my report as comprehensive (but somewhat fun/informal) as possible. (Bear the poor editing, though.)

With that being said, below is a summary of my activities – in addition to my regular duties – since I've been elected as Director-At-Large. Furthermore, I'll also propose recommendations for next year's membership on how to better improve CASA:

### **1. National Advocacy Team + Satellite Lobbying**



As the Director-at-Large who's focus is primarily on the Advocacy efforts of CASA, I have been delegated as the Board liaison to the National Advocacy Team (NAT). This has been extremely interesting experience. A neat initiative of the committee is that each NAT member is delegated with a number of schools to follow-up on with advocacy initiatives to ensure that satellite-lobby occurs regularly. But a stumbling block for NAT was its poor attendance. Unfortunately, this is an issue prevalent with a lot of CASA committees due to the nature of them being "phone-in". (Admittedly, my attendance to NAT has been mixed because of scheduling conflicts – sometimes due to the fact that as an unofficial member of the committee I wasn't afforded the opportunity to input my time availability for meetings.)

The schools in Alberta have tried to host a provincial-wide MP event, a novel effort that has yet to work completely due to time constraints. As per the initiatives from NAT, I've also tried working with Amanda Nielsen, CASA's Secretary, to arrange meetings with all of the Edmonton-area MPs sometime in November but that didn't really work out completely. Personally, I've had numerous lobby meetings with MPs and Senators. Some highlights: Liberal Senators, NDP MP Critic for Post-Secondary Education, and a seasoned Conservative MP. But, as time passed, my focus on satellite lobby meetings kind of faded.

*Recommendations:*

- In my personal opinion, greater emphasis and resources should be given to NAT, but there are certain roadblocks. For instance, NAT's work needs to start earlier. But with Policy & Strategy (P&S) taking place post-June 30<sup>th</sup> this year (which violates CASA's Operating Policies, by the way – *Operating Procedure 1: Section 1.b*), it made it more difficult for the committee to get the ball going in terms of its committee membership encouraging CASA's delegates to go out and have satellite meetings. The summertime is a perfect window of opportunity of new CASA delegates to not only score meetings with MPs but to also get excited and passionate about CASA.
- With that being said, I personally think that the selection of committee members should take place during National Transition so that a lot of the work done by committees can start right away rather than in July (post-P&S). Why? Well by the time July hits and committees start doing work, most of us delegates are already a quarter through our terms.
- Besides the summertime as being an excellent opportunity for satellite lobby meetings, post-Advocacy Week is normally quite difficult to set-up advocacy meetings. Since Advocacy Week normally happens in November, satellite meetings normally can't take place in December (unless they're with MPs that didn't meet with CASA in Ottawa) and January is too soon of a time to set-up meetings with MPs since we met with most of them only two months ago. A possible solution would be to have Advocacy Week earlier in the year by it taking place mid-late October so that window of opportunity has greater potential for satellite lobby meetings to take place.
- Anyways, besides my recommendations, Kyle Power's (NAT Chair) recommendations are excellent and should be taken seriously. (Only after reading his report I realized that I've covered one of his recommendations already. Oops.)



## 2. CASA's Overall Advocacy Efforts

As the Director-at-Large who's focus is primarily on the Advocacy efforts of CASA, I have been delegated with the task of regularly meeting with CASA's Government Relations Officer (Rob Leforte). While there exists great opportunity for improvement in our satellite lobbying efforts (as Kyle Power has said in his report), I feel confident in the direction of our general advocacy efforts. Our Advocacy Week is getting larger and larger and our presence on Canada's advocacy front is getting better. This year we've had our largest Advocacy Week ever by having more meetings with Senators. Additionally, CASA had the fourth most active registrations for lobby meetings out of all the advocacy groups in Canada in November (check out the link for more information: [https://oclc.cal.gc.ca/app/secure/ork/lrrs/do/cmmnctnsByRprtngPrd;jsessionid=00013\\_X04Br4I4oa-B-AEIQQARG:3N59RNUS3V](https://oclc.cal.gc.ca/app/secure/ork/lrrs/do/cmmnctnsByRprtngPrd;jsessionid=00013_X04Br4I4oa-B-AEIQQARG:3N59RNUS3V)). This is huge considering that November was the most active month for lobbying in 2012.

I'm really looking forward to CASA's new focus and interest in advocating for polytechnic students and I applaud the work of fellow Director-At-Large, Matthew Armstrong, for getting this issue going. Kudos, good sir! With the federal government's great interest in the trades, this presents a great opportunity for CASA moving forward.

### *Recommendation:*

- Keep on keeping on, CASA. (Curtis Mayfield, anyone?)

## 3. Recruitment

This year I have spent a fair amount of time trying to recruit new members to CASA. After Advocacy Week, Amanda Nielsen (CASA's Secretary) and I presented to the Grant MacEwan's undergraduate student association on the prospects of joining CASA. Our presentation was very well received from their executives and council members. Furthermore, I have chatted with the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology's undergraduate student associations about joining and they seem really interested (FYI: NAIT is a polytechnic school). With CASA starting to advocate more for polytechnics, this should assist us in recruiting more members from this area. Additionally, I have played a role in encouraging the University of Alberta Graduate Students' Association (UAGSA) in joining CASA and I'm looking forward to their attendance to our AGM.

### *Recommendation:*

- In spite of my activeness in trying to recruit new members, I think that as an organization we shouldn't place too much importance on it. Yes, I know, "the more members the more resources we have as an organization to represent our students". But I personally believe CASA is at an extremely comfortable spot right now in terms of representation and finances. We should be focusing more of our efforts at being an excellent organization (and by "excellent" I mean one that surpasses our strategic plan's goals) rather than one that cares primarily about our size. This will not only recruit more members to CASA but it will retain the ones that we currently have (which is always really important).
- It should be noted that I'm not saying that this is a prevalent problem within the organization now, but I think it is important to state this (in hopes that future board members read this).



#### 4. F05 Committee

This year I spent a tremendous amount of time sitting on the F05 Committee. The committee was divided on the issue and it resulted in some great debates. At times I was highly concerned with the committee's process since I truly believe it didn't completely subscribe itself to an evidence-based ethos. Furthermore, I don't necessarily think it's the best idea to have a committee centred around one policy – especially if the committee's membership has remained largely the same for over two years. But, with that being said, the committee and issue have been resolved for the most part and I'm glad that it's over. (Apologies if this sounds bittersweet!) In conclusion, the F05 folks were great (I bizarrely miss the biweekly/monthly calls!) and Viviane was an incredible resource and deserves a tremendous amount of props!

#### *Recommendation:*

- Next time contentious issues arise surrounding a particular policy, CASA should prevent from having a committee struck to just deal with that issue. If it does go through this route, its membership should completely rotate from year-to-year to have some “fresh faces” look at the issue rather than individuals (like myself, for instance) who have cemented their own thoughts on the issue and hardened their stances as time passes on. Lastly, as always, CASA should subscribe itself to an evidence-based approach with its policies.

#### 5. Student Work Programs

A great personal interest of mine has been creating a student work programs policy. During P&S, I proposed that CASA begins to advocate on this issue. While we all agreed the political interest is definitely there, CASA didn't have research and/or a policy on this issue. This year I spent a lot of the UASU's resources on researching this provincial and federal issue. Unfortunately, Viviane was incredibly busy with renewing the slew of policies that her and the Policy Committee were going through, so I didn't employ her and the committee's time as much as I would've liked to (despite Viviane's consistent willingness to always help out). Furthermore, my three-week leave of absence really threw a wrench into things since I wasn't able to pitch my newly researched policy document to the policy committee during that window. But, with that being said, I do feel confident with the work my staff and I have done on this issue and I'm really looking forward to it being approved.

#### *Recommendations:*

- On a somewhat unrelated-CASA note, I recommend other schools look into creating a student work programs policy for themselves and their respective provincial advocacy organizations. In Alberta we recently had our program scrapped and I truly believe that programs like these are vital to bettering the student experience here in Canada. If you'd like to see my “provincial” version of this policy document, just fire me an email. (My contact information can be found below.)
- Approve the Student Work Program policy, please!

Well, that's it with my report. Please feel free to give me any thoughts, comments, critiques, compliments, you may have in regards to it.



*Canadian Alliance of Student Associations* DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE

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On a final note, it has been an absolute pleasure serving you as Director-At-Large and I'm looking forward to being with CASA next year!

Till next time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Petros Kusmu'.

**Petros Kusmu**

[Vice President External](#) 2012-2013 | [University of Alberta Students' Union \(UASU\)](#)

Vice-Chair | [Council of Alberta University Students \(CAUS\)](#)

[Director at Large](#) | [Canadian Alliance of Student Associations \(CASA\)](#)

**P:** (780) 492-4236 | **F:** (780) 492-4643 | **E:** [vp.external@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:vp.external@su.ualberta.ca)

**Address:** 2-900 Students' Union Building; Edmonton, AB T6G 2J7

**Twitter:** [@UASUVPEexternal](#)

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