

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday June 18th, 2013
Telus 134

LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2013-04)

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2013-04/8g	Letter from the Interdepartmental Science Students' Society (ISSS) Please see document LA 13-04.01
2013-04/8h	William Lau, VP Student Life- Report Please see document LA 13-04.02
2013-04/8i	Brent Kelly, BoG Rep- Report Please see document LA 13-04.03

Undergraduate Science Lab Fees

June 14, 2013

Dear Dean Schaeffer,

The Faculty of Science is pursuing the introduction of a lab fee levied upon undergraduates as a response to recent budget cuts. The ISSS would like to state its concerns surrounding such extra fees for the undergraduate population, as students were not properly consulted prior to the decision being made. While provincial funding for our University has been cut excessively, and there has been a short time frame to handle the changes, the ISSS believes that undergraduates should not be forced to financially bear the weight of the current cuts.

Extra fees already make it difficult to attend post-secondary in our province, which has the lowest participation rate in the country. Lab fees specifically will deter students from obtaining a Science degree at our University. As students, we should be allowed to choose their degree based on our career preference without the consequence of lab courses resulting in larger loans and student debts. More specifically, Science students at our faculty should not have to pay more for a specific major, specialization, or honors degree that has more labs. The future graduates and leaders of our province deserve access to an introductory Chemistry or Biology lab in order to have a better handle on practical skills that will be essential to their career paths without additional financial burden.

The ISSS recognizes that the Faculty of Science has been placed in a very difficult situation; \$4.8 million to be cut for 2013-14, with future cuts pending, is an extremely difficult task. In difficult times, of course, harsh decisions need to be made. Unfortunately, this harsh decision may leave over 6000 digging deeper into their pockets than they perhaps needed. Proper consultation with a student representative prior to decisions being finalized could ensure that the students are at least prepared for the change, and perhaps more comfortable with a change. Moreover, student opinion is very diverse on this issue. While we are sure some students may find your position understandable, lack of communication with student representatives during the decision making process prevents both support and opposition from surfacing.

For the outlined reasons above, the ISSS believes that implementing lab fees will be potentially damaging to both the Faculty of Science and its current and prospective undergraduates, and does not support its introduction. However, we are able to understand the difficult situation the Faculty of Science is in. What is important is that the over 6000 Science students are heard in the decision making process, who will be directly affected by this decision, as opposed to being told post-hoc. The ISSS welcomes future communications from all parties involved in navigating the tough financial climate ahead, as it will enable everyone to act in a more informed manner to better address the needs of its' members. The ISSS believes that the Faculty needs to include an undergraduate representative in the decision making process rather than leaving students to hear the result. As adult representatives, we simply want to ensure that students are not forgotten in this ordeal.

Sincerely, on behalf of all members of the Interdepartmental Science Students' Society (ISSS),



Fahim Rahman

ISSS VP Academic



Shauna Regan

ISSS President

June 18th, 2013

To: University of Alberta Students' Council 2013/2014

Re: Report of the Student Life Portfolio

Hello Council,

First, let me apologize for not sending in my report in time for the main agenda. As some of you may know, I was on vacation for pretty much all of last week. In case you're curious, yes I had a blast ;)

So – let's see what I can update you on!

I. Programming

Athletics

The most recent addition to the “end of September” Augustana/tailgate/athletics party is the Inter-Fraternity Council's (IFC) Toga Party. The possibility for collaboration is high, and would create an opportunity to introduce students from Augustana to the Greek community on main campus. However, an alternate date will be required, since the Relay for Life also happens to fall on the Friday, September 27th, which removes a large group of the Greek community.

I will continue communications between Programming and Venues (P&V), Athletics and the Greek community.

Terry's CAUSE on Campus

In a meeting with University Relations, the SU executives were asked to explore the possibility of collaborating with the Terry Fox Foundation in one of their new initiatives that have been spreading across Canadian campuses.

Since P&V is already quite bogged down, I have been in touch with both MacEwan and NAIT to examine their planning processes. We are currently setting up a collaboration with MacEwan to plan a collaborative Try-athlon (Swimming, Running and Biking) on their downtown campus. This will allow for an interesting exchange of knowledge/information. Grant MacEwan will use the opportunity to showcase some of their unique programs such as Acupuncture and Massage Therapy, while we could use the opportunity to showcase our Greek community that they lack.

II. Services

Student Group Services

Chelsea Livingstone has accepted the position as the Interim Manager of Student Group Services while Kelin Flanagan temporarily takes Johanna Scheck's position as Assistant Manager of Student Services since Johanna is on maternity leave.

III. Other

City of Edmonton Recreation Facilities

I mentioned last time that a conversation has started with the Operations Supervisor of the City's Leisure and Recreation Facilities. The current plan is that we will not agree to a partnership unless students have the choice to opt-out. With this in mind, the price for the annual pass will be much higher than \$25, but may still be a decent cost. Will keep you updated!

Light the _____

I want to increase the lights in Quad soooooo bad. So I met with the team that is coordinating the "Light the Bridge" campaign to see how they started their initiative to get a sense of what groundwork is required. It's really quite inspirational – their budget is literally \$0.00.

I will be attending a Campus Open Space Master Plan Committee meeting Tuesday morning to learn more about what the plans are for Quad, to see if such an initiative can be implemented.

Health Campus Seed Funding

A pool of approximately \$25,000 will be available from University Wellness Services in the upcoming year to support initiatives geared towards promoting positive mental health. This will be open to all staff and students.

Cheers,

William Lau

[Electronically Submitted]

June 17th, 2013

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

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 Sioux.

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 make a similar statement available for public viewing.

Not too much to report! It's been a quiet few weeks and not much has happened BoG-wise. I have a meeting of the Board on the 21st, so I'll have more information to share in my next report.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on Tuesday!

In Solidarity,

Brent Kelly

Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative 2013-2014 | [University of Alberta Students' Union](#)
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