

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

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Tuesday September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
ETLC E1 008

## LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2014-09)

|            |                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2014-09/1  | <u>SPEAKER'S BUSINESS</u>                                                                                                                                       |
| 2014-09/2  | <u>PRESENTATIONS</u>                                                                                                                                            |
| 2014-09/3  | <u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT</u>                                                                                                                               |
| 2014-09/4  | <u>BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS</u>                                                                                                                              |
| 2014-09/5  | <u>QUESTION PERIOD</u>                                                                                                                                          |
| 2014-09/6  | <u>BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS</u>                                                                                                                             |
| 2014-09/7  | <u>GENERAL ORDERS</u>                                                                                                                                           |
| 2014-09/7b | Amendment to Bill #4:<br><br>DFUs that have the condition of being opt-out as part of the referendum question shall conduct opt-outs through an online process. |
| 2014-09/7d | <b>GRUHLKE/BANISTER MOVE TO</b> appoint one (1) member of Students' Council to the Elections Review Committee.                                                  |
| 2014-09/8  | <u>INFORMATION ITEMS</u>                                                                                                                                        |
| 2014-09/8i | Nicholas Diaz, VP Student Life- Report<br><br>Please see document LA 14-09.01                                                                                   |
| 2014-09/8j | Navneet Khinda, VP External- Report<br><br>Please see document LA 14-09.02                                                                                      |
| 2014-09/8k | William Lau, President- Report<br><br>Please see document LA 14-09.03                                                                                           |

September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014

To: University of Alberta Students' Council 2014/2015

Re: Vice President Student Life Council Report

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*"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."*

*Maya Angelou*

Hi Council,

This report will cover the dates August 1st through September 7th.

## **Advocacy**

Discover Governance has organized lunch meetings with **Residence Associations** to discuss what their issues have been, and how the new Student Representative Association bylaw affects their relationship and potential with the Students' Union. Thus far, I have had meetings with the East Campus Students' Association, and the Hub Community Association.

On Monday, August 18th, I had a meeting with the Students' Association of MacEwan University (SAMU) Vice President Student Life. Our conversation was primarily on the similarities and differences between residence complaints that both University of Alberta students and MacEwan students are making. Our team has launched a **residence complaint form** for the University of Alberta and distributed it through the State of the Union address, so feedback from that form will be ongoing.

Due to issues with gathering people together for the old iteration of the Student Life Working Group, I have re-branded it as a **Non-Academic Relations Group**. I had a meeting with Councillor Kwan, RHA President Jordan Simao, and our Advocacy, Outreach, and Campaigns officer Patrick Cajina. We used the meeting to update each other on what we had all been working on, and what opportunities there were to work together moving forward. We discerned that the group should have a health representative, a Students' Union advocacy team representative, a Residence Halls Association (RHA) representative, a Lister Hall Students' Association representative, an athletics representative, and a greek life representative. This will hopefully provide a better foundation through which to conduct non-academic advocacy.

## **Council and Governance**

The **Health and Wellness** policy and the **Residence** policy are ongoing. Other priorities have pushed back the date for the brief I requested on residences and resident rights.

I have invited the Alberta Public Research Interest Research Group (APIRG) to do their annual presentation to council in the coming weeks, as schedules allow.

## **Access and Communications**

Work on the this project is ongoing. President Lau, VP Hodgson, and I have had fruitful conversations about how we categorize and present the breadth of what we do at the Students' Union.

The Students' Union was invited to create a module for the Residence Basecamp project, which is a great way for us to keep in touch with our students in residence.

VP Oryzduk and I have had meetings with the Office of the Registrar regarding our **Information Sharing Agreement**. The hope is that our Students' Union could have more convenient access to communicate with undergraduate students on specific non-commercial topics, and that Faculty Associations could distribute emails to their constituents through us. VP Oryzduk has taken on the revisions that relate to the University calendar and contract, and I will be working with staff to lay out how a newsletter management system could look.

## **Student Groups and Associations**

The **Bearsden** contract is between the Office of the Dean of Students and Higher One through subsidiary Collegiate Link. The contract has been re-signed by the Office of the Dean of Students for an additional three years, without any consultation with our Students' Union staff who work most closely with the product.

VP Oryzduk and I were exploring an American company entitled "CheckI'mHere". Unfortunately, with the Bearsden contract having been signed, we are not in a position to pursue their product. I have a meeting on Monday, September the 8th to follow up with Check I'm Here. I will continue to look for ways to improve the Bearsden service for students.

VP Orydzuk and I continue to meet with staff regarding **Student Group Procedures**. I will be wrapping up new finance resources in the coming week.

The **International Students' Association (ISA)** is now registered! Their constitution took quite a bit of work, but both the Office of the Dean of Students and Student Group Services have now signed off on it. I have sponsored a printed banner from SUBprint for the ISA for use in their International Transitions Clubs Fair and Students' Union Clubs' Fair booths.

**International Transitions** happened from Wednesday, August 27th, to Friday, August 29th. VP Hodgson and I secured a table at their merchant fair that Wednesday to table and let students know what their Students' Union provides for them! We discussed Orientation, WOW, and Clubs' Fair prominently, in addition to the campus bars, and support services.

## Health and Services

The **Healthy Campus Unit** held a panel discussion about high risk drinking for the **PartyMODE** program. The discussion was good, and our panel agreed that anti-drinking messages were not as effective as alternative party messages, such as hosting friends with nicer drinks and foods, or engaging in events that focus on activities rather than drinking.

On Friday, August 1st, I met with the Director of Community Partnerships of the Society for Safe and Caring schools and communities to discuss potential linkages between our campus health strategizing and the broader Albertan context.

There will be a Spring-Summer **U-Pass referendum for Doctor of Medicine** students during the by-election. This came to be following discussions with the Office of the Registrar, the Medical Students' Association, CRO Jessica Nguyen, and VP Hodgson.

The Landing had an Open House on Wednesday, August 20th. Hopefully some of you dropped by! Program and volunteer development is going well.

On Wednesday, September 3rd, in the middle of Week of Welcome, we went on a tour of the **PAW Centre Social Street** with the Gateway. I will be following up with the Director of Operations in Physical Education about allocating equipment to Campus Saint Jean and



Augustana, as well as putting up signs to clearly designate which entrances to the new facility are wheelchair friendly.

## Events

**Orientation** went very well! We moved the President's Address (and Candle Lighting Ceremony) into the Jubilee Auditorium this year. It proved to be an amazing venue, especially for the Light Ceremony, where we had over a thousand students light glow sticks at once.

For **Clubs' Fair**, we had a booth in the Butterdome for Monday, Tuesday, and in QUAD for Thursday, Friday. Thank you to our staff who filled in the gaps in the schedule, and the few councilors who came and tabled with the executive committee throughout the week.

**Week of Welcome** went phenomenally! The VP SL calendar proved an easy and effective way to let people know what events were going on from one place. **WOW Mainstage** was well received, as we were at capacity in QUAD for many portions of the week. **Pancake Breakfast** was a great experience to serve at - students were appreciative of the free food. The **Movie Night** was better attended than any other movie night to date, according to my knowledge, at over ~500 attendees. At the **Comedy Night with Sterling Scott**, we had to put out more than 100 chairs in addition to the ones already laid out because of all of the students that came. On Friday, VP Khinda, VP Hodgson, and I chose to attend the **Augustana First Class Bash** instead of Hypnotist Wayne Lee, and had a great time. Lastly, the **Headphone Disco** went very well and was well received, as the weather was quite warm until late in the evening. Hopefully you found some time to get out to a few of the events we had going on!

You may have seen our **ALS Ice Bucket Challenge** with Gooba from athletics! It was filmed on Wednesday, August 27th. We had a lot of fun with the group that came out. Check it out on the Golden Bears and Panda Facebook page. Our SU executive team was challenged again, and we will be doing it again with several Vice Provosts on Friday, September 12th.

From August 14th to August 17th, our executive team was in Vancouver for the **Students' Union Development Summit (SUDS)**. We were able to meet student leaders from across the country to discuss best practices on services, and advocacy. I also had the opportunity to get some information about how the City of Vancouver is developing their transit infrastructure, as well as how they distribute small grants for community initiatives.

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See you Tuesday!

Nicholas Diaz  
Vice President Student Life 2014-2015

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**To:** Students' Council

**Re:** Report to Council (for September 9th meeting)

## **Executive Summary**

- **Introduction**
- **Market Modifiers:** Briefing on the UofA and provincial context
- **Provincial Politics:** Prentice is Premier; talking to NDP leadership candidates
- **CAUS:** aftermath of media storm on market modifiers
- **University Community Engagement**
  - **Senate**
  - **Student Representative Associations**
  - **SU Staff**
  - **UA Ambassadors**
  - **Week of Welcome!**
  - **Other** (shenanigans!)
- **Municipal and Federal Politics:** meeting with City Councillors; NDP summer caucus in Edmonton

## **Introduction**

Wow! It's been a long time since I've last updated you officially on the VPX portfolio. As such, this report will be longer than usual, so please bear with me!

## **Market Modifiers**

I'll start with an update on market modifiers. This has been the most high-profile issue the Students' Union has dealt with since May. On August 11<sup>th</sup>, I had a CAUS meeting in Calgary, where much of the agenda was spent discussing this issue. (This was the same day that the President and VPA met with the Dean of the Faculty of Law). While we were away at SUDS in Vancouver, the UASU alongside with the rest of CAUS, were having discussions about market modifiers and our strategy. Most of the action with the media happened between August 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, which was great! I wrote a pretty thorough blog post on the topic, which I really encourage you to read. Links to several news stories are also included. It's titled "[What are 'market modifiers' and what does this process mean for students?](#)" Here's a short summary:

Market modifiers are tuition increases applied differentially to a respective faculty. The attempt to justify their use is based on perceived market anomalies. They go around the legislated tuition cap, thereby highlighting loopholes in Alberta's legislation.

The Students' Union believes that students know what is best for them, but we also believe in good process. A referendum or a plebiscite is the best, if not only, way of gauging student opinion on such an important issue, in the clearest manner. This is an important part of process that ensures our tuition and fees are not increased without appropriate consultation and sound reasoning.

However, University administrations (currently the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary) and the Government of Alberta (Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education) are changing the deadlines for the submission of a market modifier proposal, making it impossible for students to be consulted. This ultimately disregards process that ensures fairness and trust between all stakeholders.

## **Provincial Politics**

As you're likely aware, Jim Prentice has been selected as the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party and is therefore the new Premier of Alberta (but he still has to be sworn in!) CAUS will do our best to get a meeting with him soon.

Prior to the vote, I had a few opportunities to ask Mr. Prentice about post-secondary education and even got the chance to ask him about market modifiers. If you were at the PC leadership debate, you would also know that Mr. Lukaszuk certainly does not approve of the use of market modifiers. I'm looking forward to seeing what happens in the portfolio of Advanced Education!

On Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, the [Social Capital Coalition](#) hosted the three NDP leadership candidates to a unique forum. It was quite an interesting layout where we broke off into discussion groups and interacted with all three candidates. I'm very interested to see how this race plays out for the NDP!

## **CAUS**

For the CAUS file, it has primarily meant dealing with market modifiers and liaising with our members at other schools. For instance, the University of Calgary is also dealing with similar issues with their Faculty of Engineering.

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, I represented CAUS at the Tuition and Fees Guidelines Subcommittee. It was an all-day meeting where the members got into quite a bit of detail around topics like the categorization and definition of different fees in the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*.

On August 26<sup>th</sup>, myself, the Executive Director of CAUS, and our Director of Research and Political Affairs had a meeting with senior Ministry staff to clarify our positions in regards to the media.

Something important to note – after the week of media interviews (TV, newspaper, radio) the opposition parties also picked up on market modifiers and postsecondary in general. [The NDP](#), [Wildrose Party](#), and the [Alberta Liberal Party](#) all put out statements in defense of post-secondary education. This is definitely a win.

## **University Community Engagement**

### **Senate**

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, our exec team had a wonderful dinner and discussion at the Chancellor's house. Every year the SU exec and the Chancellor and his wife get together for a dinner to share our goals and foster a good relationship. You can find out more about the Chancellor and his role here: <http://www.senate.ualberta.ca/>  
Fun fact: three students and myself sit on the Senate on behalf of the SU.

### **Student Representative Associations**

The SU exec had quite a few lunches and dinners with some Faculty/Campus Associations. They're a great tool for getting to know each other! We also had a meet-and-greet with The Gateway, which was lots of fun!

### **SU Staff**

On Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, the SU execs were invited to a session during the InfoLink Training. It was a great opportunity to connect with the front-line staff who interact with students everyday!

### **UofA Ambassadors**

On the evening of Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, I attended a dinner hosted by the [University of Alberta Ambassadors Program](#). There were members of the Senate in attendance as well as from the Registrar's Office. I learned about the program and had the opportunity to have great discussions with some really involved students on campus!

**Week of Welcome!!!**

This entire last week has been crazy busy but so much fun! I spent the first day of Orientation walking around quite a bit and helping where needed. It was so great to see campus full and alive with energy after the quiet summer months.

Tabling during Clubs Fair was also really rewarding. Since we were giving away sweet water bottles, so many students would come up to us and ask us questions. 1 water bottle = 1 solid conversation. Throughout the week, I experienced the awesomeness that is beer gardens, checked out the Presidents' Address, handed out sausages (and subsequently smelled like breakfast all day), and went to both the Campus St-Jean and Augustana back-to-school parties. Excellent week if I do say so myself!

**Other**

The SU Vice Presidents as well as some Vice Provosts have been challenged to the ALS ice-bucket challenge! Come check it out Friday, September 12th, at 3pm in front of the Administration Building!

**Municipal and Federal Politics**

On Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, the SU execs along with the President and VPA at SAMU (Students' Association of MacEwan University) will be meeting with NDP MPs Linda Duncan and Dan Harris.

In fact, the federal NDP are having their summer caucus meeting in Edmonton! So all of the MPs will be in town for much of this week. This is why we're able to meet with some of the MPs. Furthermore, we're partnering with the Campus NDP club to host a meet-and-greet style event on the evening of Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. It'll be in the Alumni Room, which is on the main floor of SUB.

On Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, the execs from all the Edmonton Students' Associations will be meeting with some city councilors during our "post-secondary relations breakfast". This should be fun and thought provoking!

**Conclusion**

The execs have agreed to try something to get more Councillors engaged and informed about what we do day-to-day. Sometimes it's tough to figure it out – I get it. This is why I'd like to set up 2 hours a week as "office hours". I'll be in my office and you can stop by to ask me questions. This week, you can stop by **between 3:30-5pm on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**. Next week, between **12:30-2:30 on Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**!

Cheers!



**Navneet Khinda**

Vice President External 2014-2015 // University of Alberta Students' Union  
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September 9th, 2014

**To:** University of Alberta Students' Union Students' Council 2014-2015

**From:** William Lau, President 2014-2015

**Re:** Report to Students' Council (for September 9th, Meeting)

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Dear Council,

Wow. Not "Week of Welcome", but actually - wow.

The past couple weeks have been so extremely energizing yet so... draining. Since students have been arriving on campus, things have been going extremely well. From Basecamp (1st year residence orientation) and Transitions (international student orientation) to New Student Orientation and Week of Welcome, every interaction, speech, and activity has been pure bliss.

One item I'm extremely proud of is the unprecedented turnout at Week of Welcome events. The Movie Night on Wednesday filled the Horowitz, and the Comedy Night afterwards filled Dinwoodie Lounge. I'll use photos to share a few highlights throughout my report : )

I don't know which action triggered our students to be so hyperengaged this year, but hopefully they sustain the energy and carry the momentum throughout the year. If any of you visit our services in the lower level or our staff in SUB 2-900, please do reach out and show your appreciation to our programming staff and services staff that made it all happen.



\*Retention from day 1 to day 2 of orientation was amazingly high this year; Presidents' Address on day 2 of orientation filled the entire Jubilee Auditorium, and tears were flowing...

In the midst of all the joy has been the uncertainty around market modifiers. Our team has tasked Vice President Hodgson with moving forward a process to help clarify our Policies and Bylaws in hopes to give Faculty Associations clearer guidance as to what "council approval" may require. Following up on our fear presented at the previous Council meeting, the Faculty of Law isn't the only faculty submitting a proposal for market modifiers, and it is more important now than ever to ensure that our Students' Unions processes are clearly outlined. On the bright side, the Ministry has communicated to the University that proposals will be accepted until mid October, which will hopefully allow Faculty Associations to pursue due diligence in presenting to Council and seeking our approval. I am also asking for permission to present to Deans' Council to outline to the deans what the Students' Union's stance is on market modifiers and how to work with us together through the process.

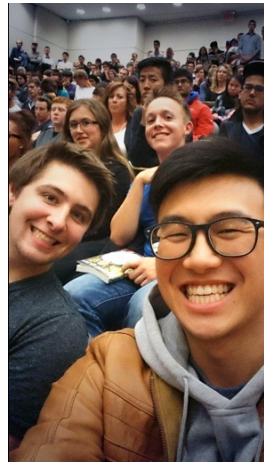
Some might think that the excitement is winding down, but the entire month of September is packed. Come September 15th, our entire exec team will be running a campaign across campus to encourage students to join us in doing great things. We will be out doing class talks and one-on-ones now that we know what our jobs entail, and encourage other students to start planning for their university life and perhaps even considering running for office. At the end of this week, on the **19th, it will be Green & Gold Day**, where we are all encouraged to wear our Green & Gold and meet out in Quad at noon for a group photo. This day is also complemented by a T-shirt and hoodie sale in the bookstore. I hear there is also a sock fight (like a snowball fight) in Quad as well...The weekend of the **20th also marks Alumni Weekend**, where I would encourage you all to come out at 9:30AM to meet with past SU alumni that took part in previous SUB renovations. Later that night, there will be a part in Quad where the band **The Wet Secrets will be performing**. Please mark these dates in your calendar ; )



\*Our Provost was kind enough to take the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge and also invited me to join him : )



Another highlight over the past couple weeks was the ALS ice bucket challenge with our dear Provost, Dr. Carl Amrhein. As he accepted my nomination, he agreed to not only complement his ice bucket challenge with a donation, but also offered to double the donation if I was to accept his counter-challenge. In response to his counter-challenge, I asked that he simply mirror the donation and contribute to Student Group Grants rather than double his donation to ALS. This experience, doubled with my time on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee has lead me to think about my role as SU President, and whether there is merit or potential in having me play a larger role in revenue generation for our organization, like many University Presidents are now expected to do for their institutions. Anyways, this was a good start, and allowed us to acquire a donation equivalent to a modest start-up grant. We followed up this challenge by nominating our VPs - the Students' Union Vice-Presidents, and the University of Alberta Vice-Provosts. They will be completing the challenge this **Friday at 3:30pm outside the Admin Building.**



\*Speaker Brett Wilson filled a CCIS lecture hall, with students sitting in the aisle steps, waiting outside, and even sitting on the floor in the front of the lecture hall.

So if you can't tell, I really have been having a lot of fun. It's not all fun though. As the months roll on, business is still taking place. One process we are now kicking off is the Students' Union **Strategic Planning Committee**. We will be nominating two Councilors this meeting to join me at the table. We have also gotten a start to planning programming for Fall Reading Week 2015.

Cheers 🍷

**William Lau**

[President](#) 2014-2015 | [University of Alberta Students' Union \(UASU\)](#)

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