

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

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Tuesday June 15, 2004 – 6:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

2004-04/6

REPORTS

2004-04/6e

Lisa McLaughlin, Vice President Academic

Please see document LA 04-04.01

2004-04/6f

Alex Abboud, Vice President External

Please see document LA 04-04.02

2004-04/6g

Duncan Taylor, Vice President Student Life

Please see document LA 04-04.03

2004-04/12

NEW BUSINESS

2004-04/12c

**MOTION BY LAW/LEWIS, RESOLVED THAT** Students' Council upon the recommendation of the Budget Committee approve an expenditure not to exceed \$45 800 from the Capital Equipment Reserve and the addition of \$3000 to line 8721 (Professional Fees) in each of Department 832 (RATT) and Department 838 (Powerplant) for the purpose of revitalizing campus bars.

2004-04/12d

**MOTION BY KNISELY, ORDERED THAT** the Tribune Selection Committee nominate as many persons qualified to serve as tribunes on the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board as may be required for the Board to achieve quorum and report its nominations to Council not later than June 28, 2004.

## Report to Students' Council, June 15, 2004

Lisa McLaughlin, VP (Academic)

For period June 2 – 15, 2004

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### Hi Council!

While you're reading this, I'll be settling into my room at the University of Ottawa residence and (cross my fingers) getting a few sightseeing priorities checked off on my list. I'm at the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education conference (the actual title is too long to remember). I'll be back in the office on Tuesday, June 22, so if you need anything before then, Samantha Power, the Associate VPA, is a valuable resource. You can expect a conference report for the next Council meeting.

### So, what have I been up to in the past couple of week?

**AAB x 2!** That's right – TWO AAB meetings. The first one was an introduction to the SU and the University governance and decision-making processes, and the second meeting was ... well ... fantastic. We talked about the components and indicators of a quality education and about what an "ideal" university might look like, if we were to create one with no constraints. It was really helpful, as I'll be discussing these issues in Ottawa.

### Meetings (are you really that surprised?)

**Administrative Information Systems Steering Committee**

**Committee on the Learning Environment**

**CLE subcommittee on the First-year Learning Experience**

**Academic Planning Committee** as a delegate for Jordan, who was away on rural tours

**University Cup Selection Committee** – to recognize professors with over 20 years of faculty experience (10 or more at the U of A) who excel in both teaching and research

**GFC Replenishment Committee** – to nominate members to replace GFC Exec members whose terms are expiring

**Executive Committee Meetings** x 4

**Students Groups** re: Faculty Associations

Phone: 492.4236

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**Alberta Pharmacy Students' Association** – with Sam re: issues, governance structure, needs from SU, ideas for CoFA  
**GFC Executive Committee**

**Lunch with Brad Wuetherick and Jordan** (our president) – Special Projects Officer in the Office of the Vice-President (Research), who is also involved in the Working Group on Teaching and Research

**Budget defense at the Budget Committee!**

**Convocation** – I'm proud to announce that I can now write "Lisa McLaughlin, BA" and will be an Open Studies student next year.

**Gave an interview to CBC at the Media Conference** on Monday (14<sup>th</sup>) re: why we want students to vote, what we think students' concerns are (the issues), why Paul Martin in a leather jacket doesn't satisfy us, etc.

Other stuff I've been working on:

- Proposed changes to Awards Selection Committee
- SU survey questions and querying about other groups' involvement
- Finalizing budget
- UPIO job responsibilities
- Researching issues such as TurnItIn.com, teaching/research

Have a great week!

**Alex Abboud, Vice President External**  
**Report to Students' Council**  
**June 15<sup>th</sup> (Late Additions)**

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### **Vote! Society Activities**

As promised in my June 1<sup>st</sup> report, here's an update on the activities of the Vote! Society of Alberta (excerpted from email):

- **Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>: Democracy is Sexy Bar Crawl:** Escape, Armory, Standard, Cowboys bar crawl. Give away shirts; get the voting word out in a new demographic. Low messaging lots of fun. Tickets are \$10.
- **Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>: Band Event at New City Likuid Lounge:** A few local bands. T-shirt giveaways, messaging by bands and ourselves. Serve as a pre-election night party.

There are also tentative plans for a mock vote event with 96X, but I don't have concrete details on that.

### **Municipal Politics**

Had a meeting with Councilors Michael Phair and Jane Batty, who represent Ward 4. Discussed the Universal Bus Pass, as well as student housing issues – in particular the Residential Property Tax. I feel it was a very productive meeting, we discussed and debated the issues, and I feel I have a better idea of not only their perspectives on the issues, but also the perspective of City Council as a whole.

Both seem to support the Universal Bus Pass, and feel that the rest of City Council supports it as well – so long as it's revenue neutral. With regards to the issue of the Residential Property Tax, it could have support as long as we can prove that its elimination will save students money – and not go back into the University's general revenue.

### **Think of It As Good Pain – Campaign Launch**

We held a press conference Monday morning at SUB Stage to officially launch our campaign. Our press conference was very well attended, and we received a lot of positive media coverage – both on and off campus. Next big event is the Edmonton-Strathcona candidates' forum on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Senate - Installation of the Chancellor**

Eric P. Newell was officially installed as the 18<sup>th</sup> Chancellor of the University of Alberta on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> as part of the Convocation ceremony. I was privileged to attend and to be part of the platform party for this event.

Dr. Newell's installation address was very strong, and encouraging as well from a student perspective, as he outlined several issues he aims to address during his term, notably the

lack of funding for post-secondary, as well as the low participation levels among Aboriginals and students from a Rural background. The latter was particularly encouraging to hear a week to the day after Jordan and I returned from our first rural tour.

In addition to Chancellor Newell beginning his term, Derek Roy-Brenneis has begun his position as the new Senate Executive Officer and Assistant to the Chancellor. Congratulations and best of luck to both of them!

Lastly, I would be remiss in not thanking Chancellor Emeritus John Ferguson and his wife Bunny for their years of hard work and commitment to this University, and to the student body. Both of them are excellent role models for commitment and service, and the U of A is definitely a better place because of their involvement. Good luck to them in the future.

## CCSA Report

Dear Members of Students' Council,

I attended the Congress of Canadian Student Associations (CCSA) Conference from May 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. I missed most of the last day of the Conference in order to fly home for Chancellor's Cup on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

I found this conference to be very beneficial. There were a number of sessions that I feel I benefited and learned from, notably the VP External Roundtable session, where I had the opportunity to exchange ideas and brainstorm with my counterparts from across the country. Additional sessions I found to be of value dealt with topics such as public speaking, communication skills, successful lobbying, and of course, the '25 Tips for a Successful Year' session run by our own General Manger, Bill Smith.

The greatest benefit of this conference, as countless others have said, is the contact with other schools, and the informal discussions and networking we have. In particular, I made contacts with counterparts at other schools - Queens, Western Ontario, Calgary, York, to name a few – that will serve me well for the coming year in achieving many of my goals. It is invaluable to hear the experiences of your counterparts, and how they've dealt with issues similar to ones you are facing. Similarly, the opportunity to brainstorm regarding common issues you face is also greatly facilitated in an environment such as CCSA.

This conference was of great benefit to me, I thank Council for the opportunity to attend and participate, and give my highest recommendation for future Executives to attend as well.

Alex Abboud  
Vice President External  
University of Alberta Students' Union

**Duncan Taylor – Vice President Student Life**  
**Council Report June 15<sup>th</sup> 2004**

**Pam Wilson: Student Groups Warrior:** About general issues affecting student groups this year. Had another meeting with Ancillary Services, Campus Rec and Pam to talk about ongoing groups issues. Will be meeting again this week to talk about student groups legislation and other fun stuff (being joined by his most tyrannical speakership on this one).

**Norma Rodenburg:** About the possibility of the UofA hosting a NODA regional conference in the future. Also about WoW/Orientation sessions, having some mini “How to Survive at University” sessions run for everyone during Week of Welcome. Good times.

**Bar Revitalization Task Force:** Number of meetings on the Revitalization of the SU’s Bars. Have come up with a proposed list of expenditures, and a budget as well. We are running on a deadline on this, so the sooner this can get started, the better.

**CCRAP:** Woo! STANDING ORDER REVIEW!!! WOOOOO WOOOOO!!!!!! (see tonight’s agenda).

**Revolutionary Speakers Series:** Discussed finalized ‘wish list’, top 10, and definition of ‘Revolutionary’. Overall good times.

**Student Involvement Card:** Talked to Steve Derpack about the implementation of this project at the bars for discount food. Coming along well right now, waiting for a few emails to get back and for other businesses to get back to me.

**Tobacco Reduction Coordinator:** Finally managed to hire a replacement for Sunita Chacko. Big congratulations to Michelle Kelly! She’ll be starting up on July 4<sup>th</sup> so I’m currently working to help ‘indoctrinate’ her into the world of Tobacco Reduction.

**SLB:** Had a good meeting. Discussed what we would like to see in an Undergraduate Health Care plan valuewise, talked about implementing a ‘Stress-Busters’ program and came up with lots of new ideas with respect to this project. Also brought up the ‘Student Involvement Card’ and introduced them to the project.

**WoW Planning Committee:** We have a theme! A broad one, but a theme none the less. Coordinators were also chosen at our last meeting. Don’t ask me who’s playing the WoW Concert.

**Programming Committee:** First meeting of the year. Good times.

**Health Plan:** As mentioned above, got a list of ‘values’ from SLB. I’m now working on putting out a call for proposals. Things progressing well on this front. Woo!

**Student Survey:** Working with exec to come up with questions, have been in contact with Dean of Students Dr. Bill Connor with respect to partnership. Will be bringing in our ‘outside help’ soon on this one.

Coming up..

COCA! WOO! WOO!

Campus Security Golf Tourney: I can't golf. For the love of god help me.

Coffee w/ Wendy Andrews from Alumni

Ship Night meeting!

Exec Retreat!

GSA/SU meeting

CFB meeting!

More WoW!

Continue trying to get in contact with Athletics!

Justifying my existence to Steve Smith!



**CCSA: The Good, The Bad, The Purple Jesus.**  
**Or**  
**The Adventures of the VPSL in the magical home of Winnie the Pooh**

What can I say about CCSA 2004? Despite all my preconceived notions about Winnipeg, the conference was actually a fairly enjoyable experience. While the sessions can be hit or miss, depending on which ones you go to – especially for Student Life types, the value of the networking opportunities is amazing. Student Life folks can learn lots from their counterparts in idle conversation over beers after the sessions, and during the social events. While this can be done without going to the conference, CCSA allows you to build those links with other executive members and to have conversations that are much more productive than a string of emails. To get the most out of the session, look at the portfolio with a broad eye and pick not only the ‘programming sessions’, but any other session that can be interpreted to help you in interacting with members of the campus community and accomplishing any of your goals. However, in the end, if one has the option of going to a useless session or interacting with your counterparts personally, I would take the latter.

#### THE SESSIONS

**Working With Student Newspapers:** Overall, not too bad of a session. Went over how student newspapers are run, their structure and the like. While it was mostly geared towards those campuses whose newspapers are not autonomous (unlike the Gateway), there were some positive aspects gleaned from it with respect to dealing with the media, and how to foster a positive relationship with different campus media outlets.

**Programming Like MacGyver:** Ah, the first truly SL session. This one wasn’t too bad either. The session went into a number of things, such as the steps for putting on an event, with emphasis in the importance of an evaluating projects. We also touched on a number of low cost programming ideas, and the tools needed by good programmers.

**Student Advocacy:** Went over academic advocacy program at the UofM... Not very helpful for me professionally. Interesting, though.

**Relationship Building Strategies:** Went to this meeting with Alvin “The LAW” Law. Presenter started out with an exercise she told group not to take seriously, and guess which gender was most closely linked to which trait. Members of audience then proceeded to take it seriously. Duncan rolled his eyes.

**Fighting for Student Representation:** Attended this session with Jordan “Three Heday!” Blatz. Duncan was pleased with this session, which was part round table discussion; part talking about lobbying to get student reps on various committees. Useful session! Yay!

**Life after the Students’ Union:** The last block of the day was full of ‘self help sessions’, so the Dunkler chose this one. The presenter then spoke on how to keep one’s

moral compass while in office, not exactly related to the topic at hand, but interesting nonetheless. Some guy then got up and asked whether the session would contain “Substance or More of the same”. When the presenter responded the latter, Mr. ‘I have better things to do with my time’ proceeded to walk out of the session. Presenter then ended the session there.

**VP Internal Round Table Discussion:** Good times! Actually a very productive session wherein Internal-types from across Canada. Talked about Week of Welcome, Student Wellness, Health Plans and other fun things. And the Dunkler did rejoice. Huzzah!

**General Liability Insurance:** Were lectured on liability insurance and Campus Bars and Campus groups. Overall quite interesting and informative. Raised the roof when the UofA system was praised.

**Managing Student Groups:** Interesting to see how different universities hold clubs accountable for money they receive, how they run events and the like. Another round table discussion ensued.

**Social Leadership:** His Dunkship, in a group with members of Keyano College, Conestoga College discussed running different campaigns, listened to how other Universities/Colleges ran theirs and presented “Ongoing Tobacco Reduction Efforts” among our group. Fantastic.

**Supercon Debrief:** Wherein a round table discussion was had as to how to improve CCSA for next year, and schools voted on where to have the next CCSA conference. I mentioned I got the most out of round table meetings, and also that I would appreciate fixed time, or selected round tables between institutions of similar size – as they face similar issues and have similar capabilities.

Overall, CCSA was a good experience. While not all the sessions I attended were worthwhile, you can’t always get what you want, and the quality of the sessions varies from year to year (or so I’ve been told). There was however a number of useful sessions that I believe will help me out quite a bit this coming year. As has been said before, the real meat of the conference was in the different executives I got to talk to as well as the chance to look at a couple of the sponsors (especially for the whole Health Plan project). Anyway, thus ends Duncan’s conference report. Overall, it is a good time and a useful use of the VPSL’s time, and an investment that is definitely worthwhile in the future.