

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

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Tuesday November 16, 2004 – 6:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

- 2004-16/6            REPORTS
- 2004-16/6b        Jordan Blatz, President  
Please see document LA 04-16.01
- 2004-16/6c        Lisa McLaughlin, Vice President (Academic) CART II Report  
Please see document LA 04-16.02
- 2004-16/6d        Alex Abboud, Vice President (External)  
Please see document LA 04-16.03
- 2004-16/6e        Alvin Law, Vice President (Operations and Finance)  
Please see document LA 04-16.04
- 2004-16/6f        Duncan Taylor, Vice President (Student Life)  
Please see document LA 04-16.05
- 2004-16/9           BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 2004-16/9a        Budget Committee Report  
Please see document LA 04-16.06
- 2004-16/12        NEW BUSINESS
- 2004-16/12b       **MOTION BY TAYLOR (VPSL), RESOLVED THAT** Students' Council elect one councillor to sit on the Recreation Action Committee for the remainder of the 2004-2005 year.
- 2004-16/12c       **MOTION BY NICOL, ORDERED THAT** Students' Council to review the minutes of all in camera meetings of the Executive Committee since September 1, 2004 at the November 23, 2004 meeting of Students' Council.
- 2004-16/14        INFORMATION ITEMS

2004-16/14c

2005 Election Dates

Please see document LA 04-16.07

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Report for Students' Council  
Jordan Blatz  
President  
November 16, 2004

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Good evening Council,

The following is a list of things that I have been working on since last meeting:

1. **Presidential Search Committee** – On November 5<sup>th</sup> the Board approved the Presidential Search Committees recommendation making Dr. Indira Samarasekera the University of Alberta's 12<sup>th</sup> President. I am extremely proud to have been a member of the Search Committee and I look forward to the potential that Indira brings to U-Hall.
2. **Provincial Election** – We are in the final stretch of the provincial election. We are still distributing lawn signs, door knocking, and handing out brochures. However, we still need a lot of volunteers to help us make a good final push until November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please email Hailey Pinto or Erin Chrusch if you can help out at all over the next few days. On Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> we held our Iron Chef challenge with the candidates from Edmonton-Riverview. This event was very successful. The candidates had an opportunity to interact with students and hear a little bit about their platforms. The event was also covered well by the media with most major television stations and news media present. The Students' Union supported Debt Sentence in putting on a Bake Sale on Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. This event was well organized, but unfortunately only the Gateway was present to cover it. The SU had also planned on supporting a policy delivery last Friday by Debt Sentence. Unfortunately, the methods used to put on the event were changed without consulting the SU. Therefore, we did not feel comfortable supporting the event and we did not attend. **Upcoming:** The SU is participating in a provincial wide day of action on Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 3pm until 5pm. We will be leaving campus at 2:30pm to head down to the intersection of 109 street and Jasper Avenue. Where we will be meeting students from NAIT, Grant Mac, and King's University College. We will then have students cross the intersection every time the lights change while holding 'I Love Alberta Education' banners and lawn signs. This event is intended to leave the motorists feeling positive about post-secondary education. Please make sure to tell as many people as possible about this event before Thursday. And if you can make it out, bring a few friends with you. The more students we have, the better!
3. **Budget Advisory Committee** – Alex and I attended the fourth meeting of the Budget Advisory Committee. We are looking at a 5.75% increase in tuition and a potential 23.5% increase in international undergraduate tuition. On Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> I will be having a town hall meeting with international students to discuss this issue. If any councilors would like to attend it will be at 7:00pm at the International Centre.

Upcoming: I will be scheduling meetings with the public members of the BoG to discuss tuition with them in advance of the board meeting in January.

4. **Augustana** – The ASA Executive came up to the SU today to get a tour of our operations and to meet to discuss the SU's transition to Augustana. More to be added verbally.
5. **Other meetings/events:**
  - Meeting with Bill Shores
  - CFB Board meeting – proxy for Duncan
  - BoG dinner and meeting
  - Meeting with Rahim Jaffer
  - Bookstore Task Force
  - SU services pot luck dinner
  - Meeting to discuss Pub Crawls
6. **Upcoming:**
  - Meeting with Ski Club executive
  - Book store task force
  - Alumni Council

That is all for now.

**Report to Students' Council, November 16, 2004**  
Lisa McLaughlin, Vice-President (Academic)  
**CANADIAN ACADEMIC ROUNDTABLE (CART) II**  
October 29-31, Ottawa, Ontario

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A TRIP TO THE CAPITAL ... WHAT BETTER WAY TO TRULY EXPRESS THAT EXPERIENCE THAN WRITING ALL IN CAPITALS?! I'M A DORK, I KNOW.

- WHAT:** CANADIAN ACADAEMIC ROUNDTABLE - PART DEUX (AS THE FRENCH SAY, WHICH SEEMS TO BE AN INTEGRAL ASPECT OF OTTAWAIAN CULTURE!)
- WHO:** VPs ACADEMIC/EDUCATION/UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS FROM CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES, AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTES WERE INVITED TO ATTEND. I'M PROUD TO SAY THAT ALBERTA HAD THE GREATEST REPRESENTATION (MAYBE ASIDE FROM ONTARIO) WITH DELEGATES FROM THE U OF A, U OF C, GRANT MACEWAN COLLEGE, SAIT, AND MT. ROYAL COLLEGE. THERE WERE ALSO DELEGATES FROM U VIC, OKANAGON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE (NOW PART OF UBC), U WINNIPEG, U TORONTO, YORK U, ONTARIO COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN, CENTENNIAL COLLEGE, SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY, UNB, CARLETON (OBVIOUSLY), GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE, AND ... I THINK THAT'S IT. THERE WERE AROUND 20 DELEGATES PARTICIPATING, WHICH WASN'T MANY, BUT WAS GOOD FOR THE FORMAT THE CONFERENCE WAS PRESENTED IN.
- WHERE:** OTTAWA, ONTARIO - HOSTED BY THE CARLETON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (CUSA) AT CARLETON UNIVERSITY.
- WHEN:** OCTOBER 29-31, 2004
- HOW:** SPEAKING OF FORMAT, THE CONFERENCE WAS ORGANIZED INTO LARGE GROUP SESSIONS, OFTEN WITH A PRESENTATION TO OPEN FOLLOWED BY GROUP DISCUSSION. ALL DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE AS A LARGE GROUP, SO HAVING ONLY 20 OR SO PARTICIPANTS WAS CONDUCIVE TO HAVING EFFECTIVE CONVERSATIONS ABOUT ISSUES. BEYOND THAT, WE WOULD HAVE HAD TO BREAK INTO SMALLER GROUPS TO ENSURE EVERYONE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DISCUSSION.

**WHAT THE HECK DID I LEARN?**

**1. IDENTIFYING THE ISSUES**

THIS SESSION ALLOWED EACH OF US TO IDENTIFY SOME OF THE MAIN ISSUES WE ARE DEALING WITH AT OUR HOME INSTITUTIONS, WHICH WAS VALUABLE FOR GIVING US RESOURCES AND GO-TO PEOPLE TO SHARE IDEAS AND INFORMATION. SOME INTERESTING THINGS I LEARNED:

- IDEA FOR GFCSC: INVITE STUDENT REPS ON GFC STANDING COMMITTEES TO ATTEND GFCSC MEETINGS TO DISCUSS THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEES AND ANY CONCERNS THEY HAVE
- U VIC IS FACING SIMILAR PROBLEMS AS THE U OF A: INCREASING ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS, INSUFFICIENT COURSE OPTIONS, ISSUES WITH SEATING IN CLASSES, PEOPLESOFT

- OKANAGON UNI COLLEGE SHED SOME LIGHT ON HOW NOT TO UNDERGO A MERGER BETWEEN A UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AND A UNIVERSITY - THIS HAS IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH AUGUSTANA
- ONTARIO IS CURRENTLY ANTICIPATING THE "RAE REVIEW," A REVIEW OF THE DESIGN AND FUNDING OF ONTARIO'S PSE SYSTEM, DUE FOR RELEASE IN JANUARY 2005. ALBERTA NEEDS TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND REACTIONS OF THIS REVIEW, AS ONTARIO TENDS TO BE A FORM OF FORESHADOWING OF WHAT IS TO HAPPEN IN ALBERTA WITHIN A FEW YEARS.

## 2. ACADEMIC DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES

THIS SESSION WAS, MORE THAN ANYTHING, A SHOW-AND-TELL ABOUT CARLETON'S GROUP CALLED THE "NEW UNIVERSITY GOVERNMENT (NUG)." ESSENTIALLY, STUDENTS ARE ELECTED TO NUG AND ARE THEN ELIGIBLE TO SIT ON DEPARTMENT AND FACULTY COUNCILS AND ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES. ESSENTIALLY, APPOINTED STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES ARE DRAWN FROM THIS GROUP. I ALSO LEARNED THAT GETTING STUDENTS INVOLVED IN UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE IS A PROBLEM ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDRESSING THIS:

- HOLD TOWN HALLS OR DISTRIBUTE PAMPHLETS TO GET STUDENTS MORE INFORMED ABOUT ISSUES
- LAY A GUILT TRIP WHERE POSSIBLE ABOUT LACK OF INTEREST HURTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE FUTURE

## 3. STUDENT CODES OF CONDUCT

THIS SESSION WAS INTERESTING AND DISCUSSED THE ROLE OF INSTITUTIONS IN OVERSEEING STUDENTS' NON-ACADEMIC ACTIONS OFF-CAMPUS, AS WELL AS THE ROLE OF STUDENTS' UNIONS IN STUDENT DISCIPLINE. A FEW THINGS I LEARNED AND QUESTIONS THAT CAME TO MIND:

- WHAT ROLE (IF ANY) SHOULD STUDENTS' UNIONS PLAY IN ENFORCING NON-ACADEMIC CONDUCT VIOLATIONS?
  - QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY ALMA MATER SOCIETY HAS A JUDICIAL COMMITTEE THAT HAS BEEN DELEGATED AUTHORITY FROM THEIR SENATE (EQUIVALENT TO OUR GFC) TO ENFORCE CONDUCT CODES AND ADMINISTER DISCIPLINE, ALTHOUGH I'M NOT SURE IF STUDENTS CAN APPLY ACADEMIC SANCTIONS.
- ARE ACADEMIC SANCTIONS APPROPRIATE FOR NON-ACADEMIC BEHAVIOURAL VIOLATIONS?

## 4. INCOME-CONTINGENT LOANS (THIS WAS A LAST-MINUTE REPLACEMENT TO A SESSION ABOUT PLAGIARISM DETECTION POLICIES, DUE TO THE PRESENTER HAVING TO CANCEL ON LAST MINUTE NOTICE)

WE WERE PRESENTED WITH INFORMATION ABOUT INCOME-CONTINGENT LOANS, WHICH ARE BEING CONSIDERED IN ONTARIO UNDER THE RAE REVIEW, AND THE ASSOCIATED CONCERNS, INCLUDING:

- DIFFERENTIAL EFFECT ACCORDING TO GENDER
  - WOMEN WILL FREQUENTLY END UP RE-PAYING LOANS OVER A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME (AND THEREFORE PAY MORE FOR THEIR EDUCATION IN THE LONG TERM) BECAUSE OF CONTINUING SALARY AND WAGE DIFFERENTIALS
- DIFFERENTIAL EFFECT DUE TO PROGRAMS OF STUDY (SOME PROFESSIONS HAVE HIGHER STARTING SALARIES THAN OTHERS)

- JUSTIFYING SHIFTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR FUNDING PSE FROM GOVERNMENT TO STUDENTS

## 5. ACADEMIC APPEALS

CARLETON'S STUDENT OMBUDSERVICE DIRECTOR TALKED TO US ABOUT THIS SERVICE (MANY SCHOOLS DON'T HAVE THIS) AND ITS ROLE WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY. WE ALSO DISCUSSED ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, REASONS FOR ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, AND HOW WE CAN HELP STUDENTS. SOME IDEAS:

- FORM A COMMITTEE B/W SU VPA, ACADEMIC GUIDANCE CENTRE DIRECTOR, STUDENT OMBUDSERVICE, ACADEMIC INTEGRITY (?), AND THE ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTRE (AND OTHERS?) TO DISCUSS ACADEMIC ISSUES AND INITIATIVES THAT CAN HELP STUDENTS
- STUDENTS NEED TO LEARN ABOUT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY FROM THEIR PEERS
- STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THEM RATHER THAN CHEATING/PLAGIARIZING, SUCH AS GOING TO COUNSELLING FOR STRESS AND GETTING AN EXCUSED ABSENCE (ALTHOUGH THIS HAS POTENTIAL FOR ABUSE)
- DOES THE U OF A HAVE A POLICY GUIDING THE SELECTION OF PENALTIES FOR ACADEMIC DISHONESTY? EDUCATING OFFENDERS ABOUT A.I. IS IMPORTANT, RATHER THAN SOLELY PUNISHING.

## 6. ASSESSING ACADEMIC QUALITY

THE U OF CALGARY'S VP (ACADEMIC) PRESENTED ON THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION SURVEY THAT WAS PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY 2004. I HAVE ALREADY SPOKEN WITH LAURA ABOUT THIS SEVERAL TIMES AND KNOW A LOT ABOUT IT, SO I DIDN'T LEARN MUCH. ONE GOOD POINT THAT WAS RAISED, HOWEVER, WAS THAT WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THAT STUDENTS ARE SELFISH WHEN THEY RESPOND TO SURVEYS WHILE WE, ELECTED STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES, ARE IN A POSITION TO RECOGNIZE WHAT WOULD BENEFIT THE STUDENT BODY AS A WHOLE, WHICH MAY DIFFER FROM INDIVIDUAL RESPONSES. WHEN DOING SURVEYS, WE NEED TO BE AWARE OF THIS AND NOT BE AFRAID TO SPEAK OUT ON STUDENTS' BEHALF FOR THE COLLECTIVE GOOD.

## 7. ANTI-CALENDARS AND COURSE EVALUATION

I LEARNED ABOUT A REPUTABLE COURSE EVALUATION TOOL CALLED THE STUDENT EVALUATION OF EDUCATIONAL QUALITY (SEEQ) FROM AUSTRALIA. I ALSO GOT A COUPLE OF IDEAS FOR QUESTIONS THAT COULD BE ASKED ON MID-TERM AND/OR END-OF-TERM EVALUATIONS.

## 8. CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

THIS IS A HARD ONE TO SUMMARIZE, BUT A VERY INTERESTING DISCUSSION OVERALL THAT TALKED ABOUT THE DECLINING PUBLIC FUNDING OF PSE AND THE CORRESPONDING COMMERCIALIZATION OF RESEARCH.

## 9. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

THIS SESSION WAS LED BY SOMEONE FROM THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS (CAUT) AND FOCUSED ON ISSUES OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND COPYRIGHT. SOME OF WHAT WE DISCUSSED HAS IMPLICATIONS FOR ALTERNATIVE COURSE MATERIAL DELIVERY AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COPYRIGHT AND

PLAGIARISM THROUGH SUCH PROGRAMS AS TURNITIN.COM. AN INTERESTING POINT: UNIVERSITIES WANT TO MAKE MONEY OFF OF ACADEMIC MATERIAL (I.E., RESEARCH) BUT THERE IS A LIMITATION ON WHAT MATERIAL IS ACTUALLY MARKETABLE → THERE IS A SHIFT FROM RESEARCH FOR PUBLIC INTEREST AND EDUCATION TOWARDS RESEARCH THAT IS "SELLABLE"/BUSINESS-ORIENTED. SO, WHAT PURPOSE DOES RESEARCH SERVE? WHO DRIVES THE RESEARCH AGENDAS?

### **SOME OVERARCHING OBSERVATIONS OF INTEREST:**

THE U OF A SU HAS A LOT TO BE PROUD OF!

- WE HAVE AN INCREDIBLE SU BUILDING RELATIVE TO THE THREE I'VE SEEN SO FAR
- WE HAVE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION IN THAT WE ARE INCLUDED IN MANY IMPORTANT DECISIONS (ALTHOUGH OUR ACTUAL INFLUENCE MAY BE ARGUABLE) AND WE TRY TO WORK TOGETHER AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. IT'S AMAZING HOW OPPOSITIONAL THE RELATIONSHIPS IN ONTARIO ARE AND HOW MUCH DISTRUST AND MANIPULATION OF STUDENTS SEEMS TO EXIST, ACCORDING TO STUDENTS.
- OUR STUDENTS' UNION IS REALLY AN INCREDIBLE BUSINESS OWNER AND SERVICE PROVIDER - WE OFFER SO MUCH
- WE ARE LEADING THE PACK IN TERMS OF WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED AS STUDENT ADVOCATES TO DATE - OTHERS ARE STILL FIGHTING FOR THINGS WE HAVE HAD FOR YEARS

### **THE NOT-SO-HOT ASPECTS OF CART II:**

I ALREADY E-MAILED THE CART CHAIR WITH THE FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS:

#### *SESSIONS/CONTENT*

- SESSIONS SHOULD HAVE BEEN LONGER TO ALLOW FOR MORE DISCUSSION AND THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN FEWER ON EACH DAY, AND AN EXTRA DAY SHOULD HAVE BEEN ADDED ON TO THE CONFERENCE TO ACCOMMODATE THIS CHANGE
- A WRAP-UP SESSION OR EVENT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL (THIS WAS RIDICULOUSLY ANTI-CLIMATIC!)

#### *COMMUNICATION*

- PLANNING AND DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION TO POTENTIAL DELEGATES SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED AT LEAST TWO MONTHS IN ADVANCE (NOT 3 WEEKS!)
- INFORMATION PACKAGES WERE NOT DETAILED ENOUGH TO ALLOW DELEGATES TO PLAN EFFECTIVELY
- PRESENTERS DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH NOTICE (SOME FOUND OUT THE FIRST DAY OF THE CONFERENCE THAT THEY WERE PRESENTING)
- OVERALL, BETTER COMMUNICATION WAS NEEDED DURING AND PRE-CART II

#### *ORGANIZATION*

- DISORGANIZED TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
- DISORGANIZED CONFERENCE PLANNING IN GENERAL

#### *HOSTING*

- NO JUICE OR SNACKS WERE PROVIDED DURING THE DAY
- BETTER QUALITY MEALS WERE EXPECTED FOR REGISTRATION COST

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## **SO, OVERALL, WAS IT WORTH THE TIME AND EXPENSE?**

YES! ALTHOUGH THE GROUP WAS SMALL AND THE CONFERENCE SOMEWHAT DISORGANIZED, THE SESSION TOPICS WERE RELEVANT AND GOOD DISCUSSIONS AROSE OUT OF THEM. PART OF THE SUCCESS OF THIS TYPE OF EVENT DEPENDS ON WHO ATTENDS. WE HAD BROAD REPRESENTATION ACROSS TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS AND PROVINCES, WHICH RESULTED IN A BROAD ARRAY OF PERSPECTIVES. WHAT I FOUND WORKED WELL WAS INTRODUCING A TOPIC WITH A PRESENTATION ABOUT THE ISSUE/PROGRAM/SERVICE FOLLOWED BY A GROUP DISCUSSION. IT HELPS TO HAVE QUESTIONS OR SOME OBJECTIVE A DISCUSSION SHOULD BE RESPONDING TO.

ALSO, THE VP INTERNAL DIDN'T APPEAR TO HAVE A LOT OF ASSISTANCE FROM THE CUSA EXECUTIVE IN PLANNING AND ORGANIZING THIS CONFERENCE SO, ALTHOUGH IT WAS ANNOYINGLY DISORGANIZED AND DIFFICULT TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT, IT DIDN'T NEGATIVELY IMPACT THE QUALITY OF THE EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS (NOR THE SOCIAL ASPECTS!) OF CART II. THE ONLY CONCERN WAS THE LACK OF NOTICE TO SOME PRESENTERS, MEANING THAT SOME PRESENTATIONS WERE NOT AS WELL-PREPARED AS THEY COULD HAVE BEEN. LUCKILY, WE HAD KNOWLEDGEABLE DELEGATES, SO THIS DIDN'T HAVE A VERY NEGATIVE IMPACT, BUT IS SOMETHING TO WATCH OUT FOR IN THE FUTURE.

## **WHAT DID I GET OUT OF CART II?**

I HAVE NEW AND STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS WITH EXECUTIVES AT OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND KNOW WHO TO TALK TO ABOUT ISSUES I AM DEALING WITH. A LOT OF QUESTIONS WERE RAISED IN MY MIND THAT I WILL ATTEND TO THROUGHOUT THE YEAR OR SUGGEST TO NEXT YEAR'S VP (ACADEMIC). I ALSO DEVELOPED AN UNDERSTANDING OF ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF DOING THINGS AND ALSO OF HOW WELL WE ARE DOING IN COMPARISON. I ALSO HAVE IDEAS ABOUT THINGS I MAY WANT TO DO OR TRY, AND I RE-IGNITED MY MOTIVATION FOR PURSUING SOME OF MY INITIATIVES AND FOR BEING IN THIS POSITION. IT WAS REFRESHING AND VERY NECESSARY TO SPEND A FEW DAYS TALKING WITH PEOPLE WHO KNOW WHAT YOUR JOB ENTAILS AND CAN RELATE TO YOUR EXPERIENCES. AS MUCH AS I LOVE JORDAN, ALEX, ALVIN, AND DUNCAN, SOMETIMES THEY JUST DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT I DO!

## **OTHER NOTEWORTHY ENDEAVOURS ON MY TRIP:**

- ♥ ATTENDING THE HOUSE OF COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD
  - I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER HEARD SO MUCH HECKLING AND SIDE COMMENTARY!
- ♥ MEETING AND TOURING WITH RAHIM JAFFER AND RUBBING ELBOWS WITH THE HONOURABLE PETER MILLIKEN, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
- ♥ TOURING THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA
- ♥ MEETING THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS

PHEW! YOU'RE DONE READING THIS REPORT! I THINK I MUST HAVE HAD VERBAL DIARRHEA TODAY... IF YOU ACTUALLY CARE ENOUGH ABOUT WHAT I DO TO MAKE IT THIS FAR IN MY REPORT, COME SEE ME IN 2-900 BEFORE NOVEMBER 19, 2004 FOR A TREAT.

WITH LOVE,

YOUR 2004-05 VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

**Alex Abboud, Vice President External**  
**Report to Students' Council**  
**October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

Submitted November 16<sup>th</sup>

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### **Provincial Election**

The Cook-Off with Edmonton-Riverview candidates on November 3<sup>rd</sup> went extremely well, as it generates ample media coverage, and everyone also seemed to enjoy themselves. A panel of Education students (including former ESA President and SU VP Academic Janet Lo, as well as current Education Councilor Trevor Panas) deemed NDP Candidate Donna Martyn the winner. PSE has been in the news more than usual during election time; we're hoping that our rally on the 18<sup>th</sup> will reinforce that as we head into the final days of the election.

We've delivered a number of lawn signs to supporters who have requested them, and have also plastered several major boulevards with them. We've also had volunteers out door knocking, and have received largely positive feedback. If you have any spare evenings this week, please sign up and door knock/deliver signs.

Election Day is November 22<sup>nd</sup>, please remember to vote.

### **CAUS**

The CAUS/Day of Action is happening Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. It will feature a rally downtown at the corner of 109<sup>th</sup> Street and Jasper Avenue. The U of A and three of the colleges in Edmonton (Grant MacEwan, NAIT, and King's University College) will be participating. We'll be meeting at Alumni Walk in Quad around 2:15, then heading downtown with the intent of starting around 3.

*I'm Alex Abboud, and I approved this message.*

The coalition radio and television ads began running November 8<sup>th</sup>, and continue right up until Election Day.

CAUS also graded the post-secondary portion of the major three parties' platforms. The Liberals received an 'A', the NDP a 'C', and the Progressive Conservatives a 'D'. We based our grades on what the parties had included in their platforms, for those of you interested it can be found here:

<http://www.wiseup.ca/platform.html>

The CAUS news release, and more information on the grading can be found here:

<http://www.caus.net/>

## **Federal Lobbying**

I will be heading out to Ottawa following the Provincial Election for about two and a half days. I'll be attending part of the CASA conference, to get a better feel for the organization, but also to participate in lobby meetings with Members of Parliament. This is an opportune time to engage in federal lobbying as within a minority government situation, there is much more brokerage that occurs within the House; another reason is that the Finance Minister Ralph Goodale recently announced that they anticipate a surplus over greater than \$20 billion in the next three years, making this an opportune time to push for post-secondary funding with ample spare money available.

## **Municipal Politics**

We'll be presenting to City Council on November 22<sup>nd</sup> during their Budget Consultations, recommending funding for a Universal Bus Pass, as well as the repealing of Residential Property Taxes against University Residences. I've been meeting with City Councilors to talk about the issues outside of the presentation, and will continue to do so up until the middle of December, when the final vote on the budget happens. Jordan will be attending meetings with Councilors if I'm unable to make it. We've received both positive and negative feedback from Councilors; however I've been largely encouraged by the response.

## **Senate**

The Senate Task Force on the Student Experience is holding its first meeting this Thursday, the 18<sup>th</sup>. Despite the fact that I am Co-Chairing the Committee, I will be unable to attend, as it conflicts with our rally. Last week, we spent time short listing candidates for the position of Task Force Coordinator. We will be interviewing candidates this Friday, and hiring someone shortly.

In terms of other Senate activity, I will be attending Convocation on the 17<sup>th</sup>, as a member of the Senate, and we also have an Internal Affairs Committee meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **Meetings**

- Breakfast with ETS People (November 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- ACTISEC Reps, to plan Day of Action (November 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Edmonton-Riverview Cook-off (November 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Wendy Campbell, from the Edmonton Joint Coalition for Affordable Housing (November 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Karen Wichuk, U of A Director of Government Relations (November 5<sup>th</sup>)
- Meet the President, campus meeting to introduce Dr. Indira Samaresekara, our next President (November 5<sup>th</sup>)
- City Councilor Terry Cavanagh (November 8<sup>th</sup>)
- City Councilor Kim Krushell (November 8<sup>th</sup>)
- Short EAB Meeting to sign up volunteers for the campaign (November 8<sup>th</sup>)
- City Councilor Jane Batty (November 12<sup>th</sup>)

## **Upcoming**

- Meeting with Augustana Students' Association (November 16<sup>th</sup>)
- Convocation (November 17<sup>th</sup>)
- CAUS Day of Action/Rally (November 18<sup>th</sup>)
- Municipal Government Budget Consultations (November 22<sup>nd</sup>)
- Provincial Election Day! (November 22<sup>nd</sup>)
- In Ottawa, attending CASA Conference and meeting with Mps (November 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>)
- High School Leadership Conference (November 26<sup>th</sup>)
- Meeting with City Councilor Ed Gibbons (November 29<sup>th</sup>)
- General Faculties Council (November 29<sup>th</sup>)
- Senate Internal Affairs Committee (November 29<sup>th</sup>)
- Internal Review Board (November 30<sup>th</sup>)
- Budget Advisory Committee (December 3<sup>rd</sup>)

**Report to Students' Council**  
**November 16, 2004**  
**Alvin Law – Vice President (Operations & Finance)**

I am glad to be back in slow ol Edmonton after a week in Ontario. The health plan investigation was extremely useful in further understanding each company from all levels and narrowing down the picks based on factors that included financial, performance & reputation from current clients, likely operational performance, support, ability to handle plan for our size of school, rigidity of contract, vision & creativity, and other important factors. I can't elaborate on too much of the details at this stage but the next stage of the process will start soon. Please see below for an outline of what Duncan, Bill, and myself did while in Ontario

**Access Fund Meeting:** On Tuesday, Access Fund held the 3<sup>rd</sup> board meeting of the year to update the board on the current status of the fund. Within the board we discussed, what action, if any, Access Fund would like to take in regards to the motion passed in Council. As a result of these talks, Katherine King was elected as the representative from Access Fund who will attend DFU Committee meetings on behalf of the board. The board was also briefed about the situation where the university's Campaign 2008 considered Access Fund grants as donations. With direction from the board, I have sent an email requesting that this be stopped effective immediately. The board was also updated with numbers regarding disbursements thus far. Access Fund has been pro-rating bursaries at 10% due to the influx of eligible applicants. This hopefully will avoid a situation where we run out of granting money this year, which might for the first time be possible considering the success of the marketing campaign. Some new business items that were dealt with included concerns about criteria regarding students on the Fresh Start Program, policies on donations, and a new conflict of interest policy was approved.

**Budget Committee:** Budget Com will be meeting heavily the next few weeks to review and attempt to restructure the budget process. I urge all of you who have a thought on it, even if it's a 'one liner,' to please email comments on the current budget process to me asap.

**DFUC:** After a month long hiatus, DFUC has finally recommenced with its new committee membership. We had a brief meeting this week to reorganize and set out a direction and plan for the next few months. Steve Smith was elected as chair. The committee has separated the DFU's into 4 groups based on how they operate and criteria of each group. The breakdown is as follows:

Access Fund  
Eugene L Brody Fund  
Student Involvement Endowment Fund

Alberta Public Interest Research Group  
First Alberta Campus Radio Association  
Gateway Student Journalism Society  
Student Legal Services of Edmonton

Campus Recreation Enhancement Fund  
Golden Bears & Pandas Legacy Fund

World University Service of Canada

The committee will be meeting with each group of DFU's separately since talks should be similar for all DFU's within a category.

**Health Plan Investigation:** This was an extremely tiring trip that has since changed my mind about the joys of traveling. I can tell you that business travel is quite different from leisure travel and only now can I begin to understand why business people would pay \$15 to sit in a pod and nap. Also, new thing I learned, questioning people is tiring for all parties involved. Our days began with me waking up at 4am and getting ready to head out. I don't seem to have any memories of the 45 minutes that it took me to haul my "body" out the door but it must have been constructive since I didn't forget anything. I met the friendly upbeat taxi driver outside my door and we went on our way to Duncan's house. As expected, the first few questions from the taxi driver was "where you flying to?," after spending a couple of minutes explaining to the driver what my job was, we started talking about his kids and their education. It was quite obvious that the driver was very proud of his second born son but not so fond of his eldest, stating that he has so much potential but he doesn't use it. This naturally led to the cause of this lost potential; urban ills. His son went to Queen E high school, which brings about it a certain type of lifestyle for some people, as he told me. When we arrived at Duncan's house, we waited around for about 10 minutes, after many a phone call; I got impatient and rang his doorbell, which I'm sure he'll tell you about in his report. Lets just say that although Duncan gets to work before me usually, he ain't no happy soul at 5am. So there we were at about 5:20am, on our way to the airport. We arrived at our beautiful yet empty local airport soon after and checked in. Did the whole security thing and went to eat at Sbarro's for breakfast. This was when Bill came about and met up with us and we waited for the plane to board.

The flight to Toronto was empty and quiet which made for an enjoyable flight, except for the part when debris decided to fall on my head. We arrived in Toronto mid-day and went to get our rental car. We spent a good latter part of the day driving back and forth trying to find our hotel; we were given the wrong directions. After checking in and settling down, we grabbed some dinner and headed to Bill's room to watch the election results and check emails. After much a humdigger few hours, I called it quits and went to bed.

The next day was action packed as we checked out of the hotel and drove around looking for the office at which we were holding our meeting. The meeting started us off on what would be a fairly standard routine with all of the interviewing sessions.

Bill, Duncan, and myself listened to a 1.5 hour introduction, through which we got a better understanding of what values and philosophies the organization upholds. The introductions were a method of gauging how a company treats its clients or shareholders, what environment it works in, and how well it markets its programs. After the introduction, we went on a tour of their facilities which gave an impression of how succinct their operations are run. Each broker showed us where and how data is processed, introduced us to staff, and outlined where each desk fits into the process of a health plan. These are then followed by the most challenging and intense session of the interviews; the questions. Bill, Duncan, and myself had spent the previous couple of weeks analyzing and interpreting all proposals, any areas that were unclear were posed in question format. Any inconsistencies between brokers such as insurer costs, provider costs, calculated premiums, estimated claims levels, were questioned until a satisfactory answer was obtained. All I can say about this entire period is, a lot of brokers received a good surprise. Our due diligence before the trip had us well prepared to pose very challenging questions that differentiated the providers on many levels. I feel very strongly that these meetings furthered the reputation of our Students' Union for being well educated and prepared before jumping in on such matters. After exceeding our scheduled time by two hours, our six hour meeting was finally brought to an end. We thanked them for their time, took with us a plethora of useful information and left them with some thoughts to ponder on. We departed the Toronto Airport region and then made our way to Waterloo.

In Waterloo, we basically repeated the same things, checked in, had dinner, slept, woke up, checked out, grabbed breakfast, and went to meet with and interview the next broker. After the meeting this time, we went back to the airport and flew to Montreal. Lucky for us, we didn't take the 5:00pm flight as their plane had yet to arrive when our 5:30pm flight taxied out. After arriving in Montreal, the same routine took effect. However, the end of this day did not require any traveling, which gave a nice reprieve from the previous couple of long days. That night was a slower one as we had no commitments and just ate dinner and chilled in the hotel room. The next day, after a couple hours of wandering around the city waiting for our flight, we flew back to Edmonton through Calgary. Duncan and myself had our first taste of luxury as we got to sit in business class for the last 10 minutes of the flight. Arriving 30 minutes late, we were very close to missing our connecting flight to Edmonton so they stuck us in the front so we could jet off the plane once we reached the terminal. So, that sums up what was a very event filled week of health plan investigating.

**Misc Meetings:** Rahim Jaffer came in to meet our exec this week. Some things that were discussed were what concerns students had with government on the federal level, things that Jaffer could do in Ottawa, and any ideas that students had in regards to federal politics.

**Student Services:** We had a very enjoyable potluck lunch on Wednesday organized by Chris Robb and several service directors. All of the employees brought an item and we munched down for an hour in the Student Groups lounge. It was a nice reprieve from the hustle and bustle of the office to just mingle with staff and get an update on how they are doing since I admittedly haven't had the time to stop by and say hi to staff like I used to

in the summer. Chris Robb, Jordan, Bill, and myself also had a meeting to discuss concerns regarding our liability due to pub crawls. We are currently putting a hold on all pub crawl waiver signings, advertising, and ticket sales until we can firm up some communications with the university.

*Coming Up:*

- *Budget Review Process*
- *Augustana Exec Will be Visiting*
- *Health Plan Next Steps*
- *Student Groups Granting*
- *FACRA Meeting*
- *GSJS Meeting*
- *DIE Board*
- *Liquor/Student Groups Liability*
- *DFU Committee*

**Approved Budget Transfers as of Nov 15, 2004**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Approved By</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>	<b>From Account</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>To Account</b>	<b>Amount</b>
11/1/04	Exec	10/26/04	555-8516-000	\$ (1,000)	555-832-000	\$ 1,000
11/8/04	Exec	11/10/04	612-8321-100	\$ (660)	612-8321-400	\$ 660

**Duncan Taylor – Vice President Student Life  
Council Report November 16th**

**The Health Plan Magical Mystery Tour:** Went to Toronto, Waterloo and Montreal to meet with various representatives from health plan providers. We (Bill, Alvin and I) were given the opportunity to meet with the different companies, ask them questions and tour their facilities. Our meeting with the fourth provider was in SUB on the Monday before we left due to conflicting schedules. These meetings were very informative and will go a long way in determining who gets the nod. SLB will be given a preliminary briefing at a meeting tomorrow.

**Planning SU Christmas Party:** Still going.

**SLB interviews:** Final interviews. Chose 3 candidates. Please approve them.

**Rahim Jaffer:** The exec got to meet with Rahim and talk a bit about potential CPC Education policy.

**Remembrance Day Ceremony:** Laid a wreath at the cenotaph on behalf of the SU during the Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Butterdome.

**Anti-Freeze:** Schedule of Anti-Freeze is locked in. Booking adds and making registration books.

**Student Involvement Card:** Got list of nominees from CSD, Orientation, and Student Groups. Will be going to SLB tomorrow.

**Bar Revitalization Meeting:** Continuing to evaluate the project, and where things can be improved.

**COSA:** Went to council of student affairs. Got briefed on a proposal to raise International Student Tuition differential to 200% from 159% in one year. COSA passed a motion "Opposing the immediate increase of the international student differential to 200%".

**Roadrunners:** Met with Dave Young briefly to go over the selling of Roadrunner ticket packages out of RATT.

**Parking:** After many an anguished night spent pondering how to approach this issue, I will be bringing the concept of an SLB "task force" to investigate and make recommendations on the subject.

**Coming Up!**

Health Plan... AGAIN!

AntiFreeze... AGAIN!

University Athletics Board Meeting

Zero Year Reunion Meeting

Recreation Action Council.

Meeting w/ Jordan and Chris Robb to address future CFB funding from the SU.

People try to put us down. Just because we get around. Things they do look awfully cold. Hope I die before I get old.

BUDGET COMMITTEE Meeting on Nov 15, 2004

*KIRKHAM/MCLAUGHILIN presented information regarding the current state of BearScat. The demand on BearScat servers is at a point where they are not providing the quality service that they should as an SU service. During the September rush, many students were unable to access the service and many waited 3-4 minutes for results. This was due to the fact that with over 10 000 users, our current servers do not have the capability to handle the load. KIRKHAM requested that money be spent on purchasing new servers so that they are ready to handle the January rush.*

**SMITH/LETTNER MOVED THAT** the Budget Committee approve an expenditure not to exceed \$2500 from the Special Projects Reserve for the purpose of purchasing two new servers.

4/0/0 CARRIED



# Students' Union Elections Office

Phone: 780.492.7102 – Email: cro@su.ualberta.ca

<b>To:</b>	Students' Council
<b>From:</b>	Dane Bullerwell Chief Returning Officer, Students' Union
<b>Subject:</b>	2005 SU Election Dates
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, November 16, 2004

In accordance with the SU Election bylaws, I am announcing the important dates for the Main (Executive & BOG) Election and the SU and GFC Councillor Election for 2005.

<b>Main Campus (Executive &amp; BOG) General Election</b>	
Thursday, February 17 @ 17:00	Nomination Deadline
Thursday, February 17 @ 18:00	Mandatory Candidates' Meeting
<i>February 21 – February 25</i>	<i>Reading Week – University Closed</i>
Monday, February 28 @ 09:00	Start of Campaigning
Monday, March 7 @ 12:00	Myer Horowitz Forum
Tuesday, March 8 @ 21:00	End of Campaigning
Wednesday, March 9 @ 09:00-17:00	Polls Open for Voting
Thursday, March 10 @ 09:00-17:00	Polls Open for Voting

<b>Students' Union Councillor &amp; GFC Councillor Election</b>	
Monday, March 14 @ 17:00	Nomination Deadline
Tuesday, March 15 @ 18:00	Mandatory Candidates' Meeting
Wednesday, March 16 @ 09:00	Start of Campaigning
Tuesday, March 22 @ 21:00	End of Campaigning
Wednesday, March 23 @ 09:00-17:00	Polls Open for Voting
Thursday, March 24 @ 09:00-17:00	Polls Open for Voting
<i>Friday, March 25</i>	<i>Good Friday – University Closed</i>

Bylaw 2200 requires that Councillor Elections be held fifteen days after the Main Elections. This would see the second day of voting fall on Good Friday, a day the University is closed. Therefore, I am moving the voting days ahead by one day, in accordance with Section 4(a) of Bylaw 2200.

Students interested in including a referendum question on the main election ballot should meet with me to discuss the deadlines and regulations set out in Bylaw 2400. If you have any questions about election deadlines, or any other questions about SU elections, please feel free to ask me.

DFB