

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday April 4, 2006
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

2005-26/2

SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

2005-26/2a (i)

Announcement – There will be a Budget and Finance Committee on Wednesday April 5, 2006 at 5 pm in the Lower Level Meeting Room.

2005-26/6

REPORTS

2005-26/6b

Samantha Power, Vice President (External)

Please see document LA 05-26.01

2005-26/6c

Justin Kehoe, Vice President (Student Life)

Please see document LA 05-26.02

2005-26/8

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

2005-26/8b (iii)

Council Administration Committee – April 2, 2006

Please see document LA 05-26.03

2005-26/8b (iv)

LETTNER/POWER MOVED THAT Students' Council direct the Executive Committee to investigate alternate organization and delivery of the audio record and report back to Students' Council.

2005-26/8e

Audit Committee – March 31, 2006

Please see document LA 05-26.04

2005-26/9

GENERAL ORDERS

2005-26/9k

APEROCCHO MOVED THAT Bill #40 be read a first time.

Bill #40 – Removal of the Student Affairs Committee (a.k.a. The best Bill EVER!) (sponsor; APEROCCHO)

Principle (first reading)

1. Combine the mandates of Student Affairs Committee and University Policy Committee into one committee.

2005-26/10

INFORMATION ITEMS

2005-26/10b

Council Remuneration

Please see document LA 05-26.05

2005-26/10c

APIRG Letters

Please see document LA 05-26.06

UPass – We’re currently working with the Grant MacEwan executive to lobby for increased service subsidization and operating costs to be covered. I no longer believe we can achieve a \$60 UPass, I do believe we can get between \$60 and \$80, and we’ll have to go back to referendum. Right now we are focusing on bringing down the cost by increasing the operating subsidy from the cities. Grant MacEwan has forced our hand and we’ll have to up our lobbying schedule more so than we would like. We met with St Albert on Monday and we have meetings with Kim Krushell this Thursday, Strathcona Council on April 13th, Transportation and Public Works with the City on April 18th.

That being said, the referendum mandate expires on April 30th. EPC will be looking to create a new policy for lobbying for affordable transit.

Affordability Review – Well, the provincial situation has drastically changed. But even before that we were being told the tuition policy would not be released until May. (Yes, that is ridiculous).

Roll it Back, Ralph! – Jessica, our Campus Campaigns Coordinator had her last day on March 31st. We will be hiring for CCC again shortly. The term was only set up for June to March, as that’s all we had money for.

She organized a great volunteer appreciation party at Dewey’s. Fun was had by all, or so I’m told.

We held a debrief on the campaign itself to write out what we learnt, where we failed, where we can improve. A brief document will be written up and taken into account for any plans next year.

Coming UP:

Please Apply! For the Revolutionary Speakers Series Selection Committee and the Campaign Planning and Action Committee.

CAUS Lobby Conference (April 3-6): With spring session in it’s a good time to remind MLA’s post-secondary should be their top priority in the next policy planning process. CAUS will be meeting with the majority of the MLAs in this time period. If you’d like to see the **CAUS lobby document** it’s available on the website: www.caus.net

PIA Retreat (April 7-9): PIA is holding a retreat to plan upcoming campaigns for 2006. It’s a great opportunity to meet other lobby organizations and plan for upcoming events. Don Iveson, Dave Cournoyer and myself will be attending.

Justin Kehoe, Vice President (Student Life)
Report to Students' Council
April 4, 2006

Submitted: April 3, 2006

Good Evening Council,

Over the past couple of weeks, I continued transitioning the VPSL-elect, and we will have selected an Associate VP Student Life by the end of the week.

Services: The proposal for a University Health Services advisory group will soon be before Council. Almost all of the Service Directors have been hired, and hiring will soon be underway for Associate Directors and Coordinators.

Events: I am continuing to work on the organization and structure of our entertainment and programming activities. Our final installment of the Revolutionary Speakers Series, with Angela Davis, completely sold out. Name That Tune (Tuesdays) and Karaoke (Wednesdays) are both going strong at RATT.

Residence: The VPSL-elect and I met with the Lister Hall Students' Association President-elect for an introductory meeting. The two of us later joined forces yet again to attend the final RHA Residence Council meeting, after which we had a lengthy discussion with the Director of Residence Services on student disciplinary issues and Residences in general. Along with Vice Presidents Power and Johnson, I attended the Residence Community Awards to recognize the amazing contributions of those students.

Meetings: Earlier today, I will have attended a Security Advisory Committee meeting, and the winds of reform were on the agenda with Campus Security. This past Friday, we had one of our longest Exec meetings of the year, and on Sunday, I attended the five-hour CAC meeting.

Upcoming:

All week: Transition
 Hiring/Selection Committees

April 5: Dean of Students
 Tenant Information Session (Information Services)
 SLAC & PC

The Students' Union, The University of Alberta
Council Administration Committee

2 April 2006 @ 14:00 - SUB 420

Report to Students' Council (CAC 2005-18)

Council Administration Committee met for the eighteenth time on 2 April 2006 at 14:00. All permanent members of the committee were present, except Councillor Schneider, along with President Lettner, Vice President Power, Vice President Tobias, Vice President Student Life, Councillor Chapman, and Councillor Shamanna.

The committee unanimously decided to rescind the standing order requiring a transcript be taken of the audio record due to issues surrounding the job description of the administrative assistant and unfeasible costs of outsourcing the task. A motion was passed for Students' Council to direct the Executive Committee to investigate and report back with respect to improvements that can be made to the way in which the audio record is currently published.

The committee then spent the next four and a half hours debating the way in which councillor remuneration would occur. In-depth and lengthy debate ensued surrounding an incredibly wide range of issues. The committee ultimately decided on a number of principles after carefully weighing the advantages and disadvantages of each. The respective change that will be made to Standing Orders is before you as a special attachment.

The next meeting of Council Administration Committee has yet to be scheduled.

The Students' Union, The University of Alberta
Council Administration Committee

2 April 2006 @ 14:00 - SUB 420

Votes and Proceedings (CAC 2005-18)

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 14:10.

2. Approval of the Orders of the Day

Orders of the Day stand approved.

3. Standing Orders of Students' Council

a. Transcription of Audio Record

LETTNER/POWER MOVED THAT Standing Orders of Students' Council be amended by rescinding §12.

CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)

12. ~~Transcription of Audio Record~~

~~An unofficial transcript of the audio record shall be published electronically within 9 working days of being recorded.~~

LETTNER/POWER MOVED THAT Students' Council direct the Executive Committee to investigate alternate organization and delivery of the audio record and report back to Students' Council.

CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)

d. Councillor Remuneration

The meeting adjourned at 19:00.

MINUTES

2005-**

Audit Committee

Friday, March 31, 2006 @ 4:20 pm

ATTENDANCE: Chapman, Eruvs, Kustra

CALL TO ORDER: 4:20 pm

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

- At the 2:00 pm emergency Audit Committee meeting, the committee voted against the APIRG disbursal, believing this would not affect the loan APIRG was to receive from the Executive Committee. It did and Councilor Chapman organized another subsequent meeting.
- Motion by Chapman/Eruvs to recommend to the executive committee that they grant APIRG a loan of \$10 000 loan on the grounds that APIRG has sufficient assets to cover the loan.
(3-0-0)
- Over the weekend the chair banned any further emergency meetings due to concerns from a committee member, as per Bylaw 4000.

NEXT MEETING: TBA

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

Audit Committee Report:

The Audit Committee met with quorum twice on Friday, March 31, 2006 for an emergency meeting regarding AP!RG's DFU. AP!RG had just realized that their contingency fund that they had been operating out of for the past year had run dry and were requesting that we approve the disbursement of their DFU. Lewis and Eruvs expressed concerns because they felt that Audit Committee still had not received a satisfactory response regarding AP!RG's large contingency fund. There were also reservations about voting on this issue in rushed circumstances that were AP!RG's own doing as well as a reluctance to approve the disbursal without the whole committee present.

Christopher Alderson, a board member of AP!RG, and Rose Yewchuck, temporary finance coordinator of AP!RG, joined us around 1430 hours. Alderson answered a few questions as well as expressing AP!RG's opinion that Audit Committee is overstepping its mandate. He said that within the Students' Union Bylaws that Audit Committee can only go so far as to check that AP!RG is fulfilling its mandate as expressed in Bylaw 6000. Later a committee member pointed out that we also have the purview to approve/disapprove their budget and that they do not approve of the budgeting of such a large Contingency fund.

It is also important to note that when I called Alderson to see if he would join us, I asked him if he would bring their Audit for last year and this year's budget (we need to have both of these to approve disbursal as stipulated in Bylaw 6000). Alderson brought the right budget but the Audit that he provided was for 2004 (one year too early).

Another important note is that in the meeting at 1400 hours, Audit Committee was operating under the assumption that the Committee's decision would have no bearing on the decision of the Executive Committee to grant a loan to AP!RG. In fact, the Executive Committee found that granting the loan would be in contravention of Audit Committee's decision and thus their decision was not in fact independent.

Audit Committee met again at 1630 to discuss the Executive Committee's decision to not grant a loan. The Committee decided to not reconsider the motion to disburse the DFU but decided to recommend that the Executive Committee grant a loan of \$10,000 to AP!RG to cover their immediate expenses.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to ask in question period.

Thank you,

Theresa Chapman

Minutes:

1400hours

Attendance: Chapman, Eruvs, Lewis
Lewis/Eruvs motion to elect an interim chair
(3/0/0)

Lewis nominates Chapman
(3/0/0)

their operating budget isn't greater than thier contingency fund

Eruvs/Lewis motion to grant AP!RG their DFU
(1/2/0)
for: Chapman
against: Eruvs, Lewis

Lewis/ Eruvs motion to request a plan for AP!RG's contingency fund
(3/0/0)

Lewis/Chapman motion to adjourn
(3/0/0)

1620 hours

Attendance: Chapman, Eruvs, Kustra

motion to reccomend that the executive committee give AP!RG a loan of
\$10,000

Chapman/Eruvs
(3/0/0)

58. Councillor Remuneration

- (1) All voting members of Students' Council, including the Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative but excluding any member of the Executive Committee, shall be considered payees with respect to councillor remuneration.
- (2) The annual base rate shall be equal to \$500.00.
- (3) Remuneration shall be calculated and dispensed at the end of each installment period: May – August; September – December; January – April.
- (4) Payees shall be eligible to receive up to the annual base rate for serving on Students' Council.
 - (a) A proportional amount of the annual base rate shall be dispensed to payees at the end of each installment period provided that they attend every meeting of Students' Council.
 - (b) Payees who are not in attendance for one (1) meeting of Students' Council during an installment period shall only be eligible for one half (1/2) of the proportional amount of the annual base rate for that installment period.
 - (c) Payees who are not in attendance for two (2) or more meetings of Students' Council during any installment period shall not be eligible for any of the proportional amount of the annual base rate for that installment period.
 - (d) Payees shall be considered present for the purposes of councillor remuneration at the first two (2) meetings of Students' Council they fail to attend.
- (5) Payees shall be eligible to receive up to the annual base rate for serving on at least one Standing Committee of Students' Council with the exception of the Awards Committee.
 - (a) Payees who are removed from any Standing Committee of Students' Council shall not be eligible for any of the proportional amount of the annual base rate for that installment period regardless of any other Standing Committees of Students' Council on which they serve.
 - (b) Payees who resign from a Standing Committee of Students' Council shall still be eligible to receive the proportional amount of the annual base rate for that installment period provided they are still serving on at least one Standing Committee of Students' Council.
- (6) A payee shall receive remuneration in the amount equal to two thirds (2/3) of the annual base rate for serving as the Chair of at least one Standing Committee of Students' Council with the exception of the Awards Committee.
- (7) Proxies are not eligible to receive remuneration but satisfy the attendance requirement for the payee at meetings of Students' Council and Standing Committees of Students' Council.
- (8) A payee shall not receive an amount greater than eight thirds (8/3) of the annual base rate in an academic year.

DATE: March 14, 2006

TO: Alberta Public Interest Research Group
9111 HUB MALL
CAMPUS MAIL

RE: APIRG Dedicated Fee Unit

In order for the Audit Committee to release the dedicated fee unit of APIRG the following documents are required:

1. A written commitment from the APIRG Board of Directors to reduce the size of the contingency fund. The Audit Committee recognizes that the size of the fund in many ways stems from APIRG's initial set up and various issues associated with it. Nevertheless, the Audit Committee feels that this money was collected from students to be spent on causes and projects, not to sit in an account with no designated use. We feel a reduction is crucial, as we have seen absolutely no evidence that a contingency fund of this size is necessary. The committee believes a reasonable time frame for this reduction to occur would be by May 1, 2008. Essentially what we are looking for is recognition from the board that at some point this money does need to be used for causes and projects, that fall under APIRG's mandate, and that it would be worthwhile for them to start thinking about how to do that.
2. A written "plan of action" from the board of directors to invest the remainder of the contingency fund. The Audit Committee recognizes that, for the most part, APIRG has attempted to appropriately invest their contingency funds. Nevertheless, we were told during our December 2 meeting with APIRG representatives that none of this fund is currently invested. During our February 8 meeting with Eugene Lee of APIRG, he informed us that this stems from APIRG changing banks. Given the size of the fund, however, it seems important that the funds be invested in a timely manner.

The written commitments from the board are necessary for posterity. One of the problems when dealing with this DFU, which has a complex history, is that the history is not sufficiently documented. Next year when Audit Committee reviews the APIRG DFU they will be able to review these documents and ensure that these changes in fact been implemented or, as in the case of point one, have begun to be implemented.

Once we have received all of these documents the dedicated fee unit shall be released.

Sincerely,

Bryce Kustra,
Chair of the Audit Committee

/js

Bryce Kustra, Chair
Students' Union Audit Committee

Christopher Alderson
APIRG Board Member

March 30, 2006

Dear Councillor Kustra:

APIRG would like communicate to the Audit Committee our full position regarding our dedicated fee. First, we would like to stress our immediate financial need. Rose Yewchuk, APIRG's temporary Finance Coordinator after Eugene Lee's resignation, has made it clear that APIRG's funds are extremely low. APIRG finds itself unable to fulfill its financial obligations this month.

Second, we feel that the Audit Committee has overstepped its mandate in its dealings with APIRG this year. Audit Committee has demanded from us an assurance that we will reduce the amount of our "contingency fund" before it will disburse the APIRG DFU. In doing so, it claims the authority of Bylaw 6000, Section 2 (1), which states

2. (1) In order for an external dedicated fee recipient to receive funds from the Students' Union reserve dedicated to its support, it must
[...]
- (b) provide to the Students' Union Audit Committee
[...]
- iii. such other information as may be required by the Audit Committee to determine whether it is fulfilling its mandate under this bylaw.

The Audit Committee's present demand is well outside of the scope of this section. First of all, we are not being asked to "provide...information", but rather to give an assurance that we will do something. Second, our mandate under Bylaw 6000 in no way requires us to reduce the balance of our "contingency fund". This requirement is particularly onerous given that our "contingency fund" is the result not of a series of excessive surpluses, but rather of one year's worth of fees not being forwarded to us until the year after they were collected, owing to Students' Council's failure to adopt a bylaw governing the fee in advance of collecting it. Requiring us to spend from this fund as part of our general operations would require us, effectively, to run deficits of the sort that could not be sustained over the long-term. The Audit Committee's suggestion that the reserve should be invested is well taken, and will be acted upon as soon as our staff has returned to full compliment. In the meantime, we believe it is clear that Audit Committee is making requests outside the scope of their mandate, and we see no reason for our dedicated fee unit to continue to be withheld.

Therefore, we request the immediate disbursement of the APIRG dedicated fee collected for 2005-2006 in its entirety.

Respectfully,

Christopher Alderson
686-5867 or Alderson@ualberta.ca
Board Member
Alberta Public Interest Group Board of Directors

April 3, 2006

Alberta Public Interest Research Group
9111 HUB Mall
CAMPUS MAIL

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: APIRG Dedicated Fee Unit Issues

As the Chair of the Students' Union Audit Committee, I have been asked by APIRG Board Member Chris Alderson to relay the remaining concerns of some Audit Committee members. As evidenced by the March 31 vote on the disbursement of the APIRG DFU, these views are the majority opinion. While APIRG has made an argument that Audit Committee has overstepped its mandate, as per bylaw 6000, the committee feels its mandate flows from Bylaw 4000, which legislates the existence of Audit Committee. Bylaw 4000, Section 9 clearly states that the Audit Committee has until July 31 to make the decision of releasing the funds. The committee feels it is important to emphasize the word 'decision.' Though certain conditions must be met before funds are released, Bylaw 4000 implies that such a disbursement will not necessarily be automatic.

There was a letter sent to APIRG clearly stating that Audit Committee felt that in order to disburse the funds it was important for APIRG to have plan of action to reduce their large contingency fund. The requirements Audit Committee outlined were deliberately vague and long-term so that Audit Committee would not excessively impress itself upon APIRG. The committee feels contingency fund is still an issue. Though APIRG's current cash reserves may be low, the committee is concerned that the contingency fund will be reestablished by an April and subsequent possible fall disbursement of APIRG funds, resulting in the release of approximately \$280 000 within a 6 month period. Bylaw 4000, Section 9j clearly states that Audit Committee is to review the "proposed uses" for DFU's. The committee feels that the issue of how APIRG intends to manage and use its contingency fund has not been sufficiently addressed.

Finally, there is a concern that Audit Committee members are being pressured into releasing the fund. While APIRG faces severe financial difficulties, which would affect its staff and day-to-day business, the committee feels it is not under its mandate manage APIRG's cash flows on a day-to-day basis. Audit Committee feels it has compromised by moving and voting to recommend that the Executive Committee approve the dispersal of a loan of \$10,000 to APIRG to cover emergency expenses. Nevertheless, our concerns about the size of the proposed contingency fund remain.

Sincerely,

Bryce Kustra, Audit Committee Chair