

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday November 7, 2006
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

2006-14/1

SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

2006-14/1a (iii)

Parkland Institute's 10th Annual Fall Conference

Please see document LA 06-14.01

2006-14/1a (iv)

"Alberta's new affordability framework a flop" – News Release

Please see document LA 06-14.02

2006-14/1a (v)

"Government writes a cheque it cannot cash: - CAUS Release

Please see document LA 06-14.03

2006-14/5

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

2006-14/5a (iv)

University Policy Committee – Report (October 24, 2006)

Please see document LA 06-14.04

2006-14/5c (iii)

Bylaw Committee – Wednesday November 1, 2006

Please see document LA 06-14.05

2006-14/5c (iv)

MATHEWSON MOVED THAT Students' Council approve the following referendum question, based on the recommendation of the Bylaw Committee:

Do you support the establishment of a Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) subject to the following conditions?

1. The U-Pass would provide unlimited usage of Edmonton Transit System, St. Albert Transit, and Strathcona County Transit during the Fall and Winter Terms.
2. The cost of the U-Pass to each student would
 - a) be \$75.00 per Fall or Winter term for the 2007/2008 academic year; and
 - b) increase annually at a rate less than or equal to the Consumer Price

Index for the province of Alberta.

3. The U-Pass would be mandatory for all undergraduate students except
 - a) students not enrolled in courses located on a University of Alberta campus in Edmonton for the majority of a term;
 - b) students unable to make use of ordinary transit services by reason of disability;
 - c) students who are senior citizens; and
 - d) students employed by Edmonton Transit System, St. Albert Transit, or Strathcona County Transit.
4. The U-Pass would be optional for students exempt under (3).
5. The U-Pass would expire upon
 - a) a subsequent referendum thereof; or
 - b) it being no longer feasible for the Students' Union to adhere to any of (1) through (4).

2006-14/5c (v) **NEARINGBURG MOVED THAT** Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Bylaw Committee, reconsider Bill #5.

Bill # 5 – Faculty Elimination

Principle (First Reading)

1. A faculty shall be allocated seats for upcoming Students' Council elections dependent upon that faculty continuing to include undergraduate students in their student body at the time of the election.

2006-14/5e Audit Committee – October 3 and 13, 2006

Please see document LA 06-14.06

2006-14/5e (i) **CHAPMAN/ERUVBETINE MOVED THAT** Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Audit Committee read Bill #10 A a first time.

Bill 10 a – Audit Committee Mandate

Principles (first reading)

Audit Committee's mandate shall be edited such that:

1. Audit Committee shall:
 - a. Shall monitor the use by AUFJSJ of the funds allocated to it by the Students' Union;
 - b. Shall investigate breaches of Contract made by the Students' Union;
 - c. Shall review for compliance funding agreements and contracts between the Students Union and any Dedicated Fee Unit or Faculty Association;
 - d. Have the authority to require before it, in a reasonable period of time, any members of the Executive.
 - e. Not oversee the Students' Union External Audit but shall:
 - i. Review the Auditor's final report and cause to have it tabled on the Council agenda;
 - ii. Be able to contact the SU External Auditor with any questions and/or concerns and shall report important communications to Council;
2. The number of organizational units that the committee is required to review monthly shall be removed;

3. Bylaw 100(16)(2) shall be edited and condensed for sake of clarity and conciseness while not changing any principals other than the ones listed above.

2006-14/5e (ii) **CHAPMAN/ERUVBETINE MOVED THAT** Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Audit Committee, read Bill 10 B a first time.

Bill 10 b – *Audit Committee Mandate*

Principles (first reading)

1. In addition to provisions in Bylaw 6000(2)(b), an External Dedicated Fee Unit must provide Audit Committee with evidence that they are fulfilling their mandate as described in Bylaw 6000;

2. Audit Committee may refuse current disbursement if any new inconsistencies or breaches are found in documents required by Bylaw 6000 (2)(b) from previous years;

3. Bill 10 b will come into effect May 1, 2007

2006-14/6

GENERAL ORDERS

2006-14/6d

JANZ/HENRY MOVED THAT Students' Council adopt a Political Policy based on the following:

The university has access to numerous sources of revenue (provincial, federal, corporate, alumni,) and should not depend on students to finance capital projects.

The university is not allowed to spend tuition revenue on capital projects.

Students are bearing and increasing number of costs associated with their education already.

Capital projects benefit the university for generations to come and serve more communities than just the student body.

The Students' Union will lobby to ensure that student funds do not directly fund capital projects and that the SU will not support the creation of fees for the above purpose.

2006-14/7

INFORMATION ITEMS

2006-14/7f

Chris Cunningham, Vice President (Operations and Finance) – Report

Please see document LA 06-14.07

2006-14/7g

Samantha Power, President – Report

Please see document La 06-14.08

2006-14/7h

Special Report – Vice President External, David Cournoyer

Please see document LA 06-14.09

2006-14/7i

Wireless Report – Amanda Henry, Vice President (Academic)

Please see document LA 06-14.10

Parkland Institute's 10th Annual Fall Conference
**Power for the People:
Determining Our Energy Future**
Nov. 17 – 19, 2006, U of A Campus

SUBSIDY FORM – U of A UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

name

e-mail

address

city

prov.

postal code

phone(h)

(w)

fax

Full Subsidy Registration:

Includes all programmed events.

Register quickly! Only 50 subsidies available.

I would like to register for the conference. I am an undergrad U of A Student who has not opted out of the APIRG. My ID # is: _____

I will order the Lunch Plan for Saturday and Sunday. Vegetarian options available. **Cost: \$20**

If you are not a U of A undergraduate student:

Registration Forms and Session Tickets for Partial Conference Attendance are available at the Parkland Institute.

For more information about the conference, visit our website at: www.ualberta.ca/parkland

Become a member of the Parkland Institute by donating!

Payment Options for lunch and donations:

Payable to the Parkland Institute

Total: \$ _____

Visa Master Card

Cheque or money order

_____ Expiry: ____/____/____ Signature _____
Account holder/ Monthly Payment Authorization

Please mail or drop off registration form to the Parkland Institute Office:

11045 Saskatchewan Drive
Edmonton, AB T6G 2E1

Phone (780) 492-8558
Fax (780) 492-8738

E-mail: parkland@ualberta.ca
For more information visit www.ualberta.ca/parkland

Or the APIRG Office:

HUB Mall 9111 112 St.
Edmonton, AB T6G 2C5

Phone (780) 492-0614
Fax (780) 492-0615

E-mail: apirg@ualberta.ca
For more information visit www.apirg.org

Conference Information

1. Your **conference registration package** will be waiting for you at the registration desk.
2. Lunch will have vegetarian options. Please contact the office if you have more specific dietary needs.
3. For up-to-date information about the conference and Saturday night social event, please visit our website
4. **Conference volunteers can ask to have their registration fees waived.** If you are interested in a volunteer position, please call the Parkland office at 492-8558.



Council of Alberta University Students

#2, 9912 – 109 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1H5
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www.caus.net

For immediate release

November 3, 2006

Government writes a cheque it cannot cash

Edmonton, AB – Minister of Advanced Education Denis Herard made a big promise – one he cannot guarantee the new premier won't simply reverse in December. Trying to fulfill Premier Klein's 2005 promise of the most affordable tuition in Canada Herard released the government's new affordability policy which increases some aid, but does not lower tuition.

"The minister argued that today's announcements will make education more affordable, but that's a real stretch," said David Cournoyer, chair of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS). "Student debt will remain a struggle for many students, and the high price of tuition will continue to turn many Albertans off of advanced education."

Alberta's university students are further concerned that the inadequate promises are not even worth the paper they are printed on. "How do we know the new premier will not reverse these decisions a month from now?" wondered Cournoyer. "The minister failed to deliver on Klein's promise, and he has made all these commitments over three years that could just vanish when someone new is at the helm."

After freezing tuition for two years, the government has set the stage for new increases. Under the new proposal, tuition in Alberta will start to increase at CPI. But tuition here is already nearly \$500 above the Canadian average, thanks to steep historical increases.

"We were hoping for more – we were looking for lower tuition, putting the rules for increasing tuition back into legislation, and more grants," added CAUS Executive Director Duncan Wojtaszek. "Ralph Klein made a promise, and while there is some positive steps in the framework, if falls short in making Alberta's universities the most affordable in Canada. Instead we were given more tuition hikes and more debt."

"We were expecting a lot more, and the troubling part is that nothing promised today is guaranteed – Albertans didn't get the most affordable tuition in the country and now it could easily get worse before it gets better," Cournoyer concluded.

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The Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) represents the interests of students at the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge.

For more information contact:

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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w: www.su.ualberta.ca

November 3, 2006

Alberta's new affordability framework a flop

(Edmonton, AB) – This afternoon Minister of Advanced Education Denis Herard announced Alberta's new affordability framework, the long-awaited answer to Premier Klein's Feb. 8, 2005 'fireside chat' promise to deliver the "most innovative, entrepreneurial and affordable tuition policy" in the country.

The Minister confirmed previous announcements that tuition increases will now be tied to the Alberta Consumer Price Index, starting from today's tuition levels, which have been held constant since 2004. At the University of Alberta, base annual tuition is \$4,537.20 for an Arts, Science or Education student. Students in other programs, such as Law, Medicine and Dentistry will continue to pay hefty 'differential fees' which were not reigned in at all today. Overall, tuition in Alberta remains nearly \$500 above the Canadian average.

student advocate

"In order for the government to meaningfully fulfill its original tuition promise, they would need to cut tuition to at least a level comparable to Newfoundland or Manitoba," said Samantha Power, President of the U of A Students' Union. But instead of reducing the onerous up-front costs, the government has tried to shift the promise from reducing costs to increasing student debt."

service provider

The Minister announced a number of changes to the Alberta student loan program that would make it easier for students to access debt, including a planned reduction of the parental contribution calculation, increased vehicle exemptions, and increased living allowances. Herard also proposed reduction of student loan interest rates and suggested that they will place more emphasis on grants, yet no details on firm financial commitments were offered.

business owner

David Cournoyer, Vice President (External) of the U of A Students' Union, was skeptical about the government's commitment to non-repayable student aid.

"After they stated that students could expect the most affordable tuition policy in the country and not delivering, how can students trust this government to help them reduce their debt loads and the barriers they face in completing a post secondary education?" Cournoyer said.

-30-

For more information, please contact:

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University of Alberta Students' Union
Report to Students' Council

UPC 2006-11

University Policy Committee

Tuesday October 24, 2006

The eleventh meeting of the University Policy Committee was called to order at 5:03 pm by Councillor Eruvbetine, who was unanimously nominated as interim chair in Councillor Kehoe's absence. Councillor Janz joined at 5:06 pm and Councillor Lewis, who was a proxy for Kehoe arrived at 5:08 pm.

Henry gave a presentation regarding the implementation plan for policy regarding Access to Co-operative and Internship Programs. She explained that most of the lobbying will be required to be done on a Faculty Association level. She has been meeting with faculties to gather information and will continue to do so.

In Executive reports, Henry mentioned she had a very heavy project based week and that there has not been any major movement regarding policies. She also explained that the Arts faculty is looking to implement a new career office, which is still in the works. In the VPSL report, Yusuf explained that at yesterday's COSA (Council on Student Affairs) meeting mandatory non-instructional fees was changed to be included in terms of reference and quorum was increased to ensure that COSA would have student representation at all meetings. He also explained the Office of student awards was attempting to change the method of paying scholarship recipients. They want to have all University scholarships and bursaries credited against tuition rather than paying students the full value of the reward and letting students decide how to spend the entire sum.

In Old Business Councillor Kehoe spoke with the Speaker regarding the SU communication with members issue, it will be put before council at the next council meeting. PAC – Henry recommended that it would be very beneficial to have a policy that states students will not pay for capital projects directly or indirectly.

In New Business it was decided that both Political Policies (Quality Instruction and Study Space) would go to Council for second readings.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the University Policy Committee will take place on Tuesday, November 7, 2006 at 4:00 pm in 2-911 in the SU Office.

Minutes

*Note: all motions are CARRIED unless noted.

2006-November-1

Bylaw Committee 6th Meeting

Date: Wednesday, November 1, 2006

Time: 4:00 pm

Place: 4-20, SUB

1. Call to Order, 4:13 pm (MATHEWSON) (Present: MATHEWSON, NEARINGBURG, TIEMAN)
 - 1.1. Guests present: Catrin Berghoff, Steve Kirkham, CRO Rachel Woynorowski, Steve Smith, VP External Dave Cournoyer, President Samantha Power
2. Approval of Agenda (NEARINGBURG/TIEMAN)
3. Approval of Minutes (TIEMAN/NEARINGBURG)
 - 3.1. Edit of 4.1 of Minutes from Meeting 5 (...Back to Council...)
 - 3.2. HENRY and BUGLER arrive at ~4:20pm
4. Old Business
 - 4.1. Send Bill #5 Back to Council - NEARINGBURG (SUBMITTED)
 - 4.2. 8000's Done for COFA on Thursday –HENRY (TABLED to November 7,2006)
 - 4.3. Bill #8, Draft and Track Changes – HENRY/BUGLER (SUBMITTED, 2nd Reading)
 - 4.4. Open Spot on Bylaw Committee – Action: Add to Council agenda (Filled, TIEMAN)
5. New Business
 - 5.1. UPASS Referenda (Appendix 1) (MATHEWSON, Accepted as Drafted Unanimously)
 - 5.1.1. HENRY leaves at ~5:06 pm
 - 5.2. Elections Bylaws (TABLED)
 - 5.3. Meeting Schedule (TABLED)
6. Next Meeting (NOVEMBER 7, 2006)
7. Adjournment (BUGLER/NEARINGBURG)

UPASS Referendum Draft

2006-November-7

From Bylaw Committee:

Do you support the establishment of a Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) subject to the following conditions?

1. The U-Pass would provide unlimited usage of Edmonton Transit System, St. Albert Transit, and Strathcona County Transit during the Fall and Winter Terms.
2. The cost of the U-Pass to each student would
 - a) be \$75.00 per Fall or Winter term for the 2007/2008 academic year; and
 - b) increase annually at a rate less than or equal to the Consumer Price Index for the province of Alberta.
3. The U-Pass would be mandatory for all undergraduate students except
 - a) students not enrolled in courses located on a University of Alberta campus in Edmonton for the majority of a term;
 - b) students unable to make use of ordinary transit services by reason of disability;
 - c) students who are senior citizens; and
 - d) students employed by Edmonton Transit System, St. Albert Transit, or Strathcona County Transit.
4. The U-Pass would be optional for students exempt under (3).
5. The U-Pass would expire upon
 - a) a subsequent referendum thereof; or
 - b) it being no longer feasible for the Students' Union to adhere to any of (1) through (4).

Minutes

*Note: all motions are CARRIED unless noted.

2006-October-3

Bylaw Committee 5th Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 3, 2006

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: 2-900, SUB

8. Call to Order – 5:27 pm (MATHEWSON)
9. Approval of Agenda – (NEARINGBURG/HENRY)
10. Approval of Minutes – (BUGLER/HENRY)
11. New Business
 - 11.1. Send Bill #5 Back to Committee - Action: NEARINGBURG
 - 11.2. 8000's Done for COFA on Thursday – Action: HENRY
 - 11.3. Bill #8, Draft and Track Changes – Action: HENRY/BUGLER
 - 11.4. Open Spot on Bylaw Committee – Action: Add to Council agenda
12. Next Meeting – TBA
13. Adjournment (MATHEWSON/HENRY)

MINUTES

2006-**

Audit Committee

October 3, 2006

Call to order at 2:15pm

Attendance:

Committee members

Chapman

Erubetine

Gamble

Guests

Chris Samuel (Council Rep to Gateway BOD)

Steve Smith (Gateway Business Manager)

Hannah Goa (APIRG Financial Coordinator)

Rose Yewchuck (Outgoing APIRG Financial Coordinator)

Christopher Alderson (APIRG BOD Member)

1. Chapman/Erubetine Motion to approve full disbursement of funds 2006-07 academic fiscal year to Alberta Public Interest Research Group
3/0/0 CARRIED
2. Chapman/Erubetine Motion to approve full disbursement of funds 2006-07 academic fiscal year to Gateway Student Journalism Fund.
3/0/0 CARRIED

Adjournment

3/0/0 CARRIED

MINUTES

2006-**

Audit Committee

October 13, 2006

Attendance:

Erubetine
Chapman
Gamble
Sumar

1. CHAPMAN/ERUVBETINE MOVED THAT Audit Committee Recommend Bill 10a to Council
4/0/0 CARRIED

2. CHAPMAN/ERUVBETINE MOVED THAT Audit Committee Recommend Bill 10b to Council
4/0/0 CARRIED

Erubetine/Chapman motions to go In-Camera
4/0/0 CARRIED

Meeting goes Ex-Camera
4/0/0 CARRIED

3. Future Meeting Schedule:

External Audit Committee:

Bi-weekly on Fridays beginning 20 October 2006 at 2pm

Internal Audit Committee:

Council Tuesdays beginning Oct 17, 2006 at 4pm

Adjourned
4/0/0 CARRIED

Chris Cunningham, Vice President – Operations & Finance
Report to Students' Council
November 7, 2006

Good evening Council,

Power Plant

The Bar is actually beating projections for a change however the Coffee House and Buffet are loosing money. The lunch buffet seems to be a hit, it's just the dinner buffet that seems to be loosing us money. The year is still young, so do we hope Listerites will begin using their meal cards for a Powerplant dinner or do we pull the plug on the dinner buffet all together? A question we have to give some serious thought.

Operation Slide Show

A marketing initiative I've taken on:

I would like to initiate a project that would involve showing various slides promoting University and Student's Union events and services within all "smart" classrooms during the ten minutes in between classes. Not unlike the slides you would see when you go to your local movie theatre. It's a passive form of information dissemination, one that I think would benefit both the University and the SU in promoting important services and events.

Imagine if you will, you're a first year student taking Bio 107 in one of the huge Tory Lecture theatres. You arrive roughly 7 minutes before the lecture is scheduled to start. You stare up at the huge projection screen to discover an ad promoting the University's Study Abroad program and then a slide promoting the SU's Student Distress Center and a new slide 30 seconds after that. Being a new student, you may not have realized all of the services that the University and the SU provide. Being exposed to a series of non-intrusive slides during a time when most likely you would be staring at the ceiling waiting for class to start anyway, would be of great benefit.

Some examples of what the SU might be interested in promoting through this new medium:

- Anti Freeze
- Student Distress Center
- Safe Walk
- Our various businesses
- Revolutionary Speaker Series

Some examples of what the University might be interested in promoting:

- Academic Support Center
- CaPS
- Office of the Dean
- Student Awards
- E learning initiatives (like the laptop lounge in Telus)

Chris Cunningham, Vice President – Operations & Finance
Report to Students' Council
November 7, 2006

I have had a series of talks with Paul Sorenson (Vice-Provost Information Technology) and he is interested in the idea. However, at the moment we are having a hell of a time trying to figure out how to physically do it.

I'll keep you posted.

Job Registry

Alberta is currently going through an unprecedented economic boom. Jobs are being created faster than people can fill them, consequently employers are becoming increasingly concerned about finding quality employees. Quite frankly you can't walk across the street without running into a help wanted sign. For the first time businesses are more concerned about advertising employment than they are with promoting their services. This is a very serious challenge for most employers including the U of A Students' Union. However I believe that this challenge presents us with an opportunity as well.

Most post secondary students need part-time employment to cover the cost of tuition and living expenses. By creating an on-line job registry focusing on part-time employment in and around Edmonton, we can serve students by facilitating the partnership between students and employers.

What will separate our job registry with others is our focus on part-time positions and our unrestricted access to students. Post secondary students tend to have a reputation as being intelligent, reliable and hardworking – the perfect prospective employee. Employers will pay a premium to solicit job opportunities to students. Most other job registries focus on full time positions and don't cater specifically to students.

Students will use the job registry because of its convenience. By reducing the time it takes to find and apply for a part time position, students will benefit by looking for a job on the registry before they take to the streets looking for those help wanted signs.

A fully automated web site like the one I am proposing would cost in and around \$10,000 to create. I have already struck a potential deal with a local programming company to cover the cost of creating the site and updating it when required if we are willing to sign some sort of revenue sharing agreement. The only costs associated from our end would be to market the service. We would not only need to contact local businesses about the new service but we would have to ensure that students know about the registry as well. If we can not provide the hits to the site, businesses will not see the value of paying to have their position posted on the site.

If the student associations of all three major post secondary institutions within the city (U of A, NAIT, and Grant MacEwan) are willing to market the new job registry given a revenue sharing agreement, we will have a target audience of roughly 70,000 ideal

Chris Cunningham, Vice President – Operations & Finance
Report to Students' Council
November 7, 2006

candidates for employment within the first day of launching the site. This equates to a huge value for local businesses in promoting their employment opportunities.

The job registry will not necessarily be limited to students because we want to generate as much traffic to the site as possible. The more traffic to the site means the more we can charge for a posting because the employer will see a greater value in the service. However, initially it will only be students who would be familiar with the site because of our limited marketing within the schools, however with time I believe word of mouth and an expanded marketing campaign will allow us to be the number one means by which Edmontonians look for part-time employment.

President's Report – November 3, 2006

Campus Campaigns –

Wall O' Debt – Our Wall of Debt was put up on October 31st. We had over 250 bricks put up. We will be bringing our wall into faculty associations and creating a massive wall of debt.

We're starting a postcard campaign mid month. They will be based on our buttons so watch for that.

We're creating an advocacy handbook for students to use and planning an activist training day in January.

Academic Plan – The Academic Plan is the guiding document for the university's strategic priorities. We are on the last draft of the plan and voting will commence at the Academic Planning Committee meeting this Wednesday. It will then move to GFC as a whole at the end of the month where all GFC members can vote on it.

BFPC – The Board Finance and Property Committee will be meeting at 7am on November 20th. They will be discussing rent increases, tuition fee increases, and other preliminary budget proposals. Students who are interested can feel free to come out to the public meeting.

UPass – The budget deliberations will be happening at city council on Nov. 16th and 17th. We will be there to present on the UPass initiative.

Revolutionary Speakers Series – Carol Off, CBC journalist and author of "Big Chocolate: The International Cocoa Industry and the Machinations of Big Chocolate." Will be presenting on November 13th. The cost is \$8 for students, \$10 for public. The talk will be at 7pm.

Enhancing External Advocacy (Executive Priority, External) Meetings Had: UASU Meetings with External Organizations

October 16 – Alberta Chamber of Commerce

Met with ACC CEO Ken Kolby and Manager of Policy & Communications Terri Kemball.

October 17 – Alberta Federation of Labour

Met with AFL President Gil McGowan and Director of Policy Analysis Jason Foster.

October 17 – Alberta Teacher's Association

Met with ATA University Coordinator Dorothy Stanley.

October 23 **In Peace River**

– The Alberta Aboriginal Women's Society

– Métis Nation of Alberta

– Dropped by MLA Frank Oberle's constituency office

– Peace River Media

October 24 **In Grande Prairie**

- St. Joseph's Catholic High School
 - Trustees from the Grande Prairie Catholic School District
 - Grande Prairie AUPE Local
 - Grande Prairie Regional College Students' Association
 - Dropped by MLA Mel Knight's constituency office
 - Grande Prairie Media
- October 25 **In Grande Prairie**
- Students and teachers at the Grande Prairie Composite High School
 - Grande Prairie Council on Lifelong Learning
 - Grande Prairie Chamber of Commerce
 - Dropped by MLA Gordon Graydon's constituency office
 - Grande Prairie Media
- October 30 - Edmonton & District Labour Council
Met with President Tom Olenuk

Meetings Coming up:

- November 7 - Presenting to the **Wetaskiwin** Rotary Club
- November 13 - Alberta Home and School's Association
With Executive Director Michelle Mulder
- November 14 - Alberta College of Social Workers
Meeting with Executive Director Rod Adacy
- November 15 - Health Sciences Association of Alberta
Meeting with Elisabeth Ballerman and David Kirkham
- November 20 - Edmonton & District Labour Council General Meeting
Expected 65 people
- November 22-25 - Meetings in **Fort McMurray** (currently being set up)

General Meetings Coming Up:

- Nov. 6th - Budget Advisory Committee Meeting
- Nov. 7th - Wetaskiwin Rotary Club
- Nov. 8th - Business Tax Hearings with City Council - Senior Manager Anita Kuper, Chris Cunningham and myself to present on behalf of the SU.
- Nov. 8th - Academic Planning Committee
- Nov. 9th - Councilor Orientation
- Nov. 16th-17th - Budget Hearings at City Council
- Nov. 18th - 19th - 10th Annual Parkland Conference
- Nov. 20th - BFPC
- Nov. 21st - Funeral for the death of the promise
- Nov. 21st - VP Research Search Committee
- Nov. 22nd- 25th - Fort McMurray Rural Tour

Special Council Report November 6, 2006
Dave Cournoyer
Vice President External

SPECIAL UPDATE

NEW TUITION POLICY: On Friday November 3, Advanced Education Minister Denis Herard released the Provincial Government's new tuition policy and an "affordability" framework. This new policy comes nowhere close to the "most affordable" that the Premier promised in 2005.

The new policy does very little to make Post-Secondary Education more affordable for students, contradicting the Premier's promise that Alberta would have the most affordable tuition in Canada. Instead, the new policy keeps tuition at status-quo high levels with annual increases tied to CPI, and allows students to take on larger levels of student debt than they could before.

Sam and I attended Minister Herard's Press Conference at the Alberta Legislature and responded with media hits from the Gateway, 630 CHED, CBC Radio, CBC Television, 770chqr, CFRN, Global News, the Edmonton Journal, the Edmonton Sun, the Calgary Herald, the Calgary Sun, and the St. Albert Gazette. If anyone is interested, I can send you a list of the print stories we received hits in.

On November 21, we will be holding a funeral service for "the most affordable tuition policy in the country." It will most certainly be a solemn occasion. More details to come.

Please find below the UASU and CAUS Press Releases responding to the new tuition policy.

Report to Students' Council

Re: Recent Concerns Regarding Wireless Internet in SUB

November 2nd, 2006

Office of the Vice President (Academic)

The Very First Step

When this issue was brought to the attention of Chris Cunningham and I, we immediately started contacting the 'experts.' The following people have been contacted regarding various aspects and side-issues related to the wireless network in the past three weeks (in alphabetical order, for simplicity's sake).

Brian Acheson - Associate Director TRS, Academic Information and Communication Technologies

Bob Beck - Team Lead Unix Support, Academic Information and Communication Technologies

Marc Dumouchel – SU Tech Support Manager, whitematter

Jason Meech – SU Tech Support, whitematter

Kevin Watts - Manager Voice and Data Serv, Academic Information and Communication Technologies

Overview of the Setup

We have a wireless network that we partner with AICT to run. The in-house hardware is ours. The 'network' and the authentication protocols are theirs. Problems with wireless networks in general should be directed to AICT. Problems that seem SUB-specific should be directed to the SU.

At the present time, there is only one access point for the SUB wireless network. It is located near the SUB Stage. This was done on purpose (see "Fading Signal in and near the Alumni Room and the 'Crash Space'") when wireless was implemented.

Potential Trouble Spots

Who to call

There is some confusion about who to get in touch with about what. We're working with AICT to figure out if there are things we can do to handle concerns they get about the SU network differently that would improve things. We will also be redeveloping a more formal escalation protocol (who AICT can call here in case of emergency and vice-versa).

Increased Traffic on the Network

The problem could be simply this:

More users + unchanged hardware capacity = less bandwidth for everyone

Microwaves

The microwaves were preliminarily flagged as a potential trouble spot and then given entirely too much attention due to comments I made in Council. A preliminary assessment has been conducted that indicates the microwaves are in no way interfering with the wireless network in SUB.

The Mac Lab

Something to do with “broadcast traffic volume and latency issue[s]” that is related to the way our Mac Lab interacts with the wireless access has been identified as a point of potential concern. As per the quotation marks, I don’t really understand what that means, but am assured that it’s repairable, provided we deal with the escalation protocol discussed above.

Authentication Interface

To maintain the efficiency of the campus networks, AICT has configured their authentication programs so that your SSH client must transmit a keep-alive signal to the network every 3 seconds. If the network does not receive a response every 3 seconds, the connection is assumed to be inactive and is terminated to preserve bandwidth.

If this is the most common problem, it could be either

- a) a problem with individual laptops: if so, change the settings in your SSH client to conform to this requirement (if you use PuTTY, you shouldn’t be having this issue) or;
- b) some kind of problem with the way the SUB network is interacting with the authentication gateway.

Fading Signal in and near the Alumni Room and the ‘Crash Space’

When wireless was originally installed in the building, access points were purposely situated in such a way as to *not provide coverage* in the Alumni Room and Crash Space. The rationale for the decision to keep the signal out of those two spaces was that they were (and are) intended to be silent or near-silent study space or, in the case of the Alumni Room, for events with limited or no multimedia requirements. In other words, the bad wireless coverage in those two spaces is intentional. The signal was also not intended to spread well into the food court, due to obvious potential showdowns between expensive electronics and food, nor to the area near the Info Desk as it was felt at the time that the wired ports in the area would be sufficient.

That being said, the increased traffic on the network may be causing trouble where the signal begins to ‘fade’ (in the areas that are supposed to be covered). Additionally, the changing needs of students on campus may dictate that the wireless-free zones in the building be re-examined.

Last Note

There are also a couple of other things having to do with channels, roving signals and general technological boogeymen that I don’t understand well enough to describe here. Suffice it to say that the experts that be are looking into as many of those possibilities as we could think of.

Things We’re Doing to Fix It

Diagnosis

AICT has agreed to swing by sometime next week/this week (depends when you’re reading this) to survey the signal strength in the building and where it varies. Some preliminary tests have been done, but I won’t be commenting on the results until a more complete picture is available.

Buying Things?

We're looking at upgrading our hardware. After AICT has run their tests, we will be working with them to cost out what it would cost to run cable for another access point.

Technical Solutions

Our new tech support staffer is looking at doing some things with channels and configurations that I don't pretend to understand (see 'boogeymen' above).

Addressing Other Potential Factors

The three steps outlined here will be followed through upon before we pursue other options. Hopefully having a clearer picture of our existing signal strength will help inform our next steps.