

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday March 17, 2009
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2008-24)

- 2008-24/1 SPEAKER'S BUSINESS
- 2008-24/2 PRESENTATIONS
- 2008-24/2a Budget Presentation – Presented by Steven Dollansky, VP Operations and Finance. Sponsored by Steven Dollansky, VP Operations and Finance.
- 2008-24/3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
- 2008-24/5 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 2008-24/6 GENERAL ORDERS
- 2008-24/7 INFORMATION ITEMS
- 2008-24/7b Steven Dollansky, VP Operations and Finance- Report
Please see document LA 08-24.01
- 2008-24/7c Janelle Morin, President- Report
Please see document LA 08-24.02

Report to Students' Council

March 16, 2009

Prepared by: Steven Dollansky, Vice-President (Operations and Finance)



To: 2008/2009 Students' Council

Important Initiatives

- Budget 2009/2010 – Students' Council has approved the budget principles and we have begun to prepare the budget. We remain in a strong surplus position from an operating perspective, but we are struggling to bring the combined budget to a balanced position. We are currently sitting at a negative position of \$17000, which is a substantial improvement from the \$60000 we faced just a week ago.
- PAHC – you may have seen the article in the Gateway outlining some of the progress that has been made since Council amended our capital purchasing policy. We are currently looking at ways that we can ensure the discussions are effectively transitioned and that we continue to examine best practices at comparable schools. As a result, we have been discussing a possible trip to several schools in the U.S. that have recently built Physical Activity Complexes with both administration and our incoming VPs.
- Coke Contract – we are still waiting to hear back from Coke's lawyers on one of the last rounds of negotiation. I still hope to see this passed through Council this year.
- Green Store – SUBtitles, Marketing, and ECOS staff met last week to discuss plans for the ECOstore in SUBtitles. We invited a number of volunteers from ECOS and other sustainability groups to give us ideas and were very pleased with the result. Our staff have done a tremendous job in the early stages of setting up this new component to SUBtitles.
- Powerplant – the University have begun construction on a wall to separate the East and West sides of the Powerplant bar. We are still hopeful that we can maintain our billiards space, but have budgeted for the chance that it may be lost. If we are unable to obtain a favorable contract for rent and utilities, Council may be faced with the decision of whether or not to close the bar.
- ONEcard – We have sent a proposal to ONEcard about the prospect of joining our tenant portfolio in SUB. We have several entities interested in SUBspace, so we will be encouraging them to reply very soon.
- Universiade 2015 – have offered to extend their tenancy. I have agreed to extending it by one month (to expire in July 2009). By doing this, we will enjoy an additional month of revenue while we reexamine the long-term strategy for that space.

Other issues

- SUB signage – Thea and Khanh have been working hard to make this initiative a success. The executive went on a tour with them last week to see what had been envisioned and were quite impressed. We hope to have the first phase of the signage project completed by April.
- Collective Agreement Negotiations – we will begin negotiations in late April.

Report to Council Edition 22.0

Janelle Morin, President 2008-2009

March 17, 2009

Dear Council:

CAUS Lobby Conference

Bev and I, with CAUS, just finished meeting with 51 MLAs about post-secondary issues. We focused our conversations on tuition, deferred maintenance and residences, with additional discussion in many meetings about financial aid. Going into the recession, there is some legitimate concern that caps for CPI on tuition will be lifted, as these caps are not solidified in legislation, and reports have indicated that universities across the country may attempt to raise tuition by as much as 25% to compensate for endowment and investment losses. We are incredibly concerned about this, especially considering the already-too-high base tuition rate being charged; significant increases could limit people's ability to attend and complete PSE further than the already-problematic rates. However, with significant pressure, we feel the government will not lift these caps.

Budget Finance and Property Committee

The university issued updates on its quarterly status report, capital plan and budget. The budget passed through BFPC, and will now be brought to the Board. The Student Engagement Proposal is still holding steady, and we will have confirmation of funding if the Board budget passes, pending the government's April 7th budget and the anticipated 6% operating increases. The budget also maintains its commitment to scholarships and bursaries, despite the downturn. However, on the down side, the budget includes the increased tuition revenue students saw passed at the end of January.

Working Group on Social Responsibility

This group has now had presentations from all relevant SU units and will be formalizing its mandate, membership and mission for review by the executive. More on this soon.

Greek Formal

The UofA Greeks invited me to speak at their formal event, and it was a fantastic evening recognizing the many achievements and contributions of the Greek community on campus. It was a privilege to speak with such an engaged group of students, and I hope the SU will strengthen its ties with this community in the future.

Communications

Our departments have been working on a re-vamped communications strategy for next year's SU. I'm excited to see the end result of these efforts, as I believe it will facilitate a much stronger SU presence on campus and in the consciousness of the student body.

Awards Night

Yesterday's awards ceremony was truly an inspiring evening of excellence, achievement and honouring the contributions of some amazing students and professors on campus. Two highlights were a professor whose entire class came to the SU Awards ceremony to present his award for recognition, and the induction of Bill Kent into the Gold Key Society, a 101-year-old man who received a standing ovation.

Cheers,
Janelle