

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday June 9, 2009
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2009-04)

- 2009-04/1 SPEAKER'S BUSINESS
- 2009-04/2 PRESENTATIONS
- 2009-04/3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
- 2009-04/4 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 2009-04/5 QUESTION PERIOD
- 2009-04/5b Zach Fentiman, VP Operations and Finance- Response to item 2009-04/5a
Please see document LA 09-04.01
- 2009-04/6 BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS
- 2009-04/7 GENERAL ORDERS
- 2009-04/7b **DEHOD/FENTIMAN MOVES THAT** Students' Council appoint two (2)
members to the Health Centre Advisory Group.
- 2009-04/8 INFORMATION ITEMS
- 2009-04/8d Leah Trueblood, VP Academic- Report
Please see document LA 09-04.02
- 2009-04/8e Leah Trueblood, VP Academic- Goals
Please see document LA 09-04.03
- 2009-04/8f Zach Fentiman, VP Operations and Finance- Report
Please see document LA 09-04.04
- 2009-04/8g Zach Fentiman, VP Operations and Finance- Goals
Please see document LA 09-04.05
- 2009-04/8h Policy Committee- Report

Please see document LA 09-04.06

2009-04/8i Nick Dehod, VP Student Life- Report

Please see document LA 09-04.07

2009-04/8j Nick Dehod, VP Student Life – Goals

Please see document LA 09-04.08

2009-04/8k Beverly Eastham, VP External- Report

Please see document LA 09-04.09

2009-04/8l Beverly Eastham, VP External- Goals

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2009-04/8m Kory Mathewson, President- Report

Please see document LA 09-04.11

June 8, 2009

Vice President (Operations & Finance)

Prepared by: Zach Fentiman, Vice President (Operations & Finance)

To: Students' Council 2009/2010

Question

DOLLANSKY (to the Vice President Operations & Finance):

The Vice President (Operations & Finance) explained to Students' Council during the May 26 meeting that the budget for capital improvements had been re-allocated. Could the Vice President Operations and Finance attach a detailed breakdown of the RATT capital changes, including how this has changed from documentation presented to BFC in March?

Response

Dear Council,

In response to Governor Dollansky's written inquiry, I have prepared the following response.

First, I'll provide the breakdown of the capital budget presented to the Budget and Finance Committee in March:

As of March 2009	
Televisions/Sound System/Screen	\$9,750.00
Tables & Chairs (recover/replace)	\$26,510.00
Refinish Bar Top	\$6,300.00
Refinish Bathrooms	\$6,200.00
Complete Repaint of Room	\$2,700.00
Total	<u>\$51,460.00</u>

In addition, the 2008/2009 executive approved an expense not to exceed \$2,000.00 from the Special Projects Reserve for the bar on April 27, 2009. Students' Council approved (on recommendation of the executive committee) an expense not to exceed \$11,000.00 for Room At The Top furniture on May 12th, 2009. This brings the capital budget total for Room At The Top to \$64,460.00. Televisions were purchased on December 26, 2008 (total \$7,694.91) bringing the remainder to \$56,765.09.

Both Jerry Daley (Senior Manager, Food and Beverage) and Khanh Nguyen (Senior Manager, Marketing) are busy costing out the improvements for Room At The Top, and no final numbers have been returned to me at the present time. In conclusion, to answer your question, I mistakenly stated that the capital budget had been reallocated—rather it is currently being reconsidered and any recommendations will be forwarded to the Budget and Finance Committee.

Please feel free to ask any further questions. Thank you to Governor Dollansky for taking the time to write me a question.

Sincerely,

Zach Fentiman

1. Great Teaching

This week the Acadream Team (Peter Ochs, James Eastham, Daniel Vincent and myself) read eight academic plans from across Canada to gather ideas about best teaching practices. We are very eager for the Academic Plan and to host the Provost to speak to us about our University's new vision in the Fall. Peter Ochs and I will also be attending the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) conference in Fredericton from June 16th-20th to gather ideas and connect with students across Canada.

2. COFA: Council of Faculty Associations

I am in the midst of both formal and informal meetings with Faculty Associations to hear about their goals for the year and how I can be of assistance. Further, since it will be the council of Faculty Association making a submission to the academic plan, I am spending a lot of time talking with them.

3. Undergraduate Research

I am meeting with the Dean of Students, who holds this as a priority as well.

4. Textbook Price Freezes

Books identified by Faculty Associations as of particular importance to Faculty Associations were Psychology 104/105 (difficult) and Physics Walker and University Physics. We are also in the process of setting dates for CRAM.

5. Make the Academic Experience an Access Issue

TBA.

6. Open the Portfolio

Floating the idea of a "Express your concerns with your VPA over a pint" in gathering grassroots thoughts on the Academic plan.

7. Academic Advising

Meetings with the associate Deans in all of the large faculties to talk about solutions and collaborating with Faculty Associations.

8. Non-Traditional Student Communities

TBA.

New!

NSSE: National Survey on Student Engagement

Priorities:

1. Promote Great Teaching

- Help to establish Peer-to-Peer, department-based opportunities for instructors to engage in pedagogical improvement. For instance, sitting in on each other's classes. (For further information, please see the Students' Union submission to the Academic Plan.)

2. Raise the Profile of Faculty Associations:

- Connect the Advocacy Department of the Students' Union with the work being done at Faculty Level
- Directly Seek Advice from Faculty Associations so that actions, decisions, ideas and initiatives are shaped by the faculty associations

3. Advocate for experiential learning and undergraduate research opportunities

If a student experiences all the disadvantages of a research intensive university, they should get all of the advantages (Frank!)

- Such as Community Service-Learning, Co-op programs, and internships
- Provide Mentorship Opportunities for students to help clarify the conventions of research. For instance, asking a professor to supervise a thesis.

4. Identify the academic needs of non-traditional student communities

- For instance, international and mature students.

5. Freeze the Costs of Academic Materials where possible

- Pursue Price Freeze, particularly on textbooks for widely offered classes (as seen with Stewart Calculus in 08/09)

6. Make the Academic Experience an Access Issue

- Emphasize that a quality undergraduate experience is contingent on affordable education
- Further, emphasize that a powerful undergraduate experience results in student retention, generous alumni and a vibrant campus community.

7. Change the Portfolio

- Clarify the role of the academic portfolio in Students' Union Materials

- Communicate the issues of the portfolio as ones that students can be involved with

8. Pursue Great Academic Advising

- Create a symposium on academic advising so students and facilities can work towards achieving the highest possible standards for their students.

Prepared by: Zach Fentiman, Vice President (Operations & Finance)

To: Students' Council 2009/2010

Important Initiatives

Goals Document

Please see late additions for my outlining of goals for this year. Please give me feedback on what I plan to work on this year and any other suggestions.

SGS Granting

Working with Kristen Flath [SGS Manager], Jim Bohun [Student Affairs Officer, Office of the Dean of Students] and VP Dehod on combining the application process for student group granting as per a directive from the Grant Allocation Committee. Will be investigating the implications of a full combining of granting funds and committees as per this directive as well, and reporting back to GAC.

Physical Activity and Health Complex (PAHC)

Preparing a formal report and presentation with past VPs Dollansky and Flath and VP Dehod on June 11th to prepare for a debrief meeting with university officials on June 23rd, 2009. Would be happy to provide this to council as well after its completion.

The Powerplant/Dewey's

Meeting scheduled on June 11th between myself, Marc Dumouchel [General Manager], Frank Robinson [Dean of Students], and Bart Becker [Associate Vice-President (Facilities and Operations)] to determine the short-term status of the building.

Other Information

Coke Contract

I wanted the contract provided as an information item for this meeting, but I'll delay until the next council meeting. To be ratified by Students' Council the meeting after that.

CUPE Union Negotiations

Negotiations have started up again (Negotiations on June 4th and 5th) and have paused again. Will be continuing on June 19th.

Prepared by: Zach Fentiman, Vice President (Operations & Finance)
To: Students' Council 2009/2010

Summary of May 2009 VPOF Goals

BUILDING

- *Create a building visioning document to guide future expansion/renovation of SUB*

SUB has become the centerpiece to our campus as a center for student services, relaxation/study space, and successful business environment, which has led to the burden of overcrowding and the need for more space. It is my goal to ensure the University recognizes the important role of our building and commits to financially assisting a SUB expansion.

- *Enhance space utilization on the Lower Level*

The Lower Level is a critical component of our organization as it is home to nearly all of the Students' Union's student services. Taking a look at the floor plan however, one will find the services crammed together like sardines—and space constraints significantly limits the ability of services to effectively operate and meet student needs. Also, there may be an optimal way to utilize the open spaces on the Lower Level for study and relaxation space.

Tasks:

- Review past documentation related to the progress of expansion/renovation of SUB to prepare a framework for the vision.
- Use the space audit to guide direction.
- Prepare a building visioning document.

Who to involve:

Students' Union Executive, Students' Council, Senior Management, Staff and Volunteers, the Office of the Dean of Students, the Office of the Provost, the office of the Vice President Facilities and Operations, the Office of the University Architect.

Incorporate student survey responses into the vision by November 15th, 2009

Milestones:

- Get space audit results in July 2009.
- Student survey completed in October 2009.

Deliverables:

Complete document by December 31st, 2009

- *Develop Physical Activity and Health Complex Plan that meets students' needs*

A world-class recreation and wellness center on campus is something that should be examined again. A Physical Activity and Health Complex has the potential to build community on campus and provide students with an overall “wellness” space—something that is generally lacking on campus. Past referenda to create such a center have failed due to a lack of communication between the university and students. This issue should be revisited with more student input, and a referendum (with reasonable terms) should be held to determine student acceptance of the proposal.

Tasks:

- Develop a PAHC vision and plan.
- Dialogue with students (utilize student survey results, etc.)
- Prepare a referendum question, initiate referendum through Students' Council

Who to involve:

Students' Council, Vice President (Student Life), the Office of the Dean of Students, the Office of the University Architect, and the Office of the Vice President of Facilities and Operations.

Milestones:

- Get space audit results in July 2009.
- Student survey completed in October 2009.
- Referendum question drafted by November 30th, 2009
- Referendum held March 3rd and 4th, 2009.

Deliverables:

If referendum successful: Begin working with the university on the full design of the building. March – April 2009.

BUSINESS

- *Conduct a Review of the Competitiveness of SU Businesses*

The Students' Union needs to be more rigorous in the areas of customer service and business competitiveness. We should be able to capture a larger market share on campus and increase revenues.

Tasks:

- Identify problem areas in SU businesses (product selection, product placement, product pricing)
- Review and update customer service standards
- Identify and capitalize on changing trends (i.e.: sustainability/environmental, organic foods, digital publishing technology)
- Explore expanding business operations elsewhere on campus(es)

Who to involve: Customer Service and Price Analyst (CSPA), Senior Management, Operations Management

Milestones:

- CSPA Term complete June 30th, 2009
- Formal Competitive Pricing Review Process Implemented – Summer 2009
- Formal Product Selection/Placement Program Implemented – Summer 2009
- Customer Service Guidelines Updated and Adopted – Summer 2009

Deliverables:

- Continual focus on competitive review processes within our Retail and Food & Beverage Operations.
 - Improved quality of service in Retail and Food & Beverage Operations.
 - Business operations that are more responsive to the market and student needs
- *Open the “Green Zone” in SUBtitles*

SUBtitles can benefit from diversifying its current business model and take advantage of the “eco-friendly” trend.

Tasks:

- Reconfigure the front-side of SUBtitles to be the “Green Zone” (name pending) and stock environmentally friendly products.
- Launch with a major marketing campaign in September.

Who to involve: Senior Manager (Facilities and Operations), Senior Manager (Marketing and Communications), Operations Manager (SUBtitles).

Milestones:

- Development of the space complete in Summer 2009.
- Marketing campaign launched September 1st, 2009.

Deliverables:

A completed “green-focused” section of SUBtitles.

- *Revitalize Room At The Top*

Room At The Top has major potential in being an incredibly popular student social space on campus. In recent years, Room At The Top has been neglected in terms of capital improvements—its time to revitalize the space and generate more business from students.

Tasks:

- Rebrand and improve the environment
- Improve customer service
- Improve menu/product offering

Who to involve: Senior Manager (Food and Beverage), Senior Manager (Facilities and Operations), Senior Manager (Marketing and Communications), Room At The Top Staff

Milestones:

Have space improvements complete by September 1st, 2009.

Major marketing campaign necessary to launch September 1st, 2009.

Deliverables:

An improved, comfortable campus bar with satisfied customers.

- *Maintain a profitable business model for Dewey's in the Powerplant*

Dewey's is a major social venue for students on campus, as well as a source of revenue to support student services and advocacy.

Tasks:

- Consult with university officials regarding the status of our lease and continued use of the Powerplant space.
- Negotiate an arrangement that maintains the viability of Dewey's

Who to involve: General Manager, Senior Manager (Finance and Administration), Office of the Dean of Students, the Office of the University Architect, and the Office of the Vice President of Facilities and Operations

Milestones:

Have final confirmation on the Powerplant situation by June 15th, 2009.

Deliverables:

Dewey's with the billiards room intact, utilized by students as social space, and generating a surplus.

If "billiards space" is lost, begin discussions on reducing rent paid for the reduced Dewey's space in order to maintain viability. Complete by July 15th, 2009.

If reduced rent is not attained, consider closing Dewey's indefinitely. Decision by July 31st, 2009.

- *Find a permanent tenant for SUBspace*

SUBspace on the Main Floor of the Students' Union Building has the potential to generate increased revenue with a consistent tenant. Also, the perception it gives to students when the space is vacant is not ideal.

Tasks:

- Consult with Senior Management and the Sponsorship Coordinator to identify potential tenants as request a proposal for their tenancy in the space
- Lease the space on an annual basis

Who to involve: General Manager, Senior Manager (Marketing and Communications), Senior Manager (Facilities and Operations), Sponsorship Coordinator.

Milestones:

Lease agreement signed Summer 2009.

Deliverables:

A consistent tenant that provides a product/service that students want.

- *Maintain and improve the sustainability of SU operations*

Sustainability must continue to be a priority for the Students' Union and University. With the Office of Sustainability being opened by the University it is important that students provide their input on what changes they believe need to happen to the operations and culture on campus. It is also essential that ECOS continue to have support to fulfill its mandate while looking for opportunities for collaboration with the Office of Sustainability. Another goal would be to improve the visibility of composting and recycling in SUB as well as increasing the scope of ECOS' Reusable Dish Program, and maintaining ethical purchasing standards. (Yes, I stole almost all of this from Nick Dehod's Goals Document)

Tasks:

- Have ongoing meetings with ECOS, the Office of Sustainability, Social Responsibility Committee for recommendations on organizational practices.
- Improve composting awareness and signage
- Review operating policies

Who to involve: Office of Sustainability, ECOS, Senior Management, Social Responsibility Committee

Milestones:

Composting signage improved – Summer 2009

Deliverables:

Improved communication of SU sustainability initiatives.

The "Green Zone" in SUBtitles to raise awareness of environmental issues and serve as an additional source of revenue.

Operations maintaining ethical purchasing standards and striving for environmentally sustainable practices

SERVICES

- *Streamline and expand the student group granting process*

Work with the Dean of Students to expand the University's contribution to the granting process while working to reduce barriers to accessing these funds. I will also work with Council to ensure that staff is being utilized in the granting procedure when possible in order to reduce the more specific involvement of the grant allocation committee and encourage a more broad oversight role.

Tasks: Consult with the Office of the Dean of Students about merging granting processes between the Student Extracurricular Activity grants for groups and the Students' Union Student Group grants.

Develop and implement a framework with the Office of the Dean of Students and the Grant Allocation Committee for a combined student group granting committee.

Who to involve: Student Group Services Manager, Senior Manager (Student Services), Office of the Dean of Students, Vice President (Student Life), Grant Allocation Committee

Milestones:

Have processes combined for the July granting session.

Deliverables:

A streamlined granting procedure that is more accessible and makes it simpler to apply for funding.

- *Redefine the Student Groups Services space on the Lower Level*

With the changes to the structure of Student Group Services staff, it is necessary to take another look at how we utilize the SGS space. Also, with the Student Engagement Proposal being successful, it is a great opportunity to update the overall Student Groups Services environment.

Tasks:

- Move Manager/Coordinator offices into the current Mac Lab
- Create free-use, brand-new computer terminals in the updated student group lounge space.
- Create a private, bookable meeting room space in the old SGS Director office.

Who to involve: Student Group Services Manager, Senior Manager (Student Services), Senior Manager (Facilities and Operations), Student Groups, Vice President (Student Life), Students' Council

Milestones:

Complete repurposing in Summer 2009.

Deliverables:

A space better suited to the changes implanted to the Student Group Services staffing structure.
An updated, open, and friendly space that provides more resources for student groups

- *Explore alternative service delivery models for Infolink*

Infolink has the potential to expand into the foray of digital delivery and unstaffed booths (in specific locations only). These options should be investigated to determine if there is potential for increased usage or value to students of Infolink.

Tasks:

Consult with relevant stakeholders and develop a service delivery strategy.

Who to involve: Infolink Manager and Coordinators, VP Student Life, Senior Manager (Student Services)

Milestones:

Meeting with Infolink – June 29th, 2009 to outline ideas.

Deliverables:

A report detailing potential options and expected outcomes of different service delivery models, along with advantages and disadvantages.

- *Explore alternative funding sources for Safewalk*

As per a directive from the Budget and Finance Committee to my predecessor, I plan to continue exploring alternative funding arrangements (i.e.: joint-funding with the University or the City of Edmonton).

Tasks:

Continue working with Senior Manager (Student Services) on approaching funding partners/sponsors for Safewalk

Who to involve: Senior Manager (Student Services), Vice President (Student Life), Budget and Finance Committee, Safewalk Director

Milestones: None noted at this time.

Deliverables:

A Safewalk service with the same high level of quality and service, for a reduced cost to students.

OTHER

- *Improve the Students' Union's online presence*

The Students' Union can improve how information is provided about the organization on its website and take advantage of social media trends.

Tasks:

- Conduct a website review and update in coordination with the President's goals
- Maintain an Executive blog
- Increase usership of the website by at least 50%
- Increase accessibility of the website (a.k.a. UI, navigation)
- Utilize Facebook/Twitter in greater capacity

Who to involve: Web Committee, Executive, Students' Council, Marketing and Advocacy Department.

Milestones:

Review of website conducted by Web Committee complete in Summer 2009.

Initiate Executive blog in June 2009.

Initiate Advocacy blog in July 2009.

Website overhaul complete in Fall 2009

Deliverables:

A completely updated and improved website that is easier to navigate and provides more relevant information to students.

- *Conduct a comprehensive operating policy review*

Review Operating Policies to ensure they are up-to-date and reflect the current needs of the student body. Ensure that operating policies for the building create a safe and inclusive space and businesses maintain ethical purchasing standards.

Tasks:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of operating policies in executive committee

Who to involve: Executive, Executive Assistant, Students' Council, Social Responsibility Committee

Milestones: None noted at this time.

Deliverables:

All operating policies reviewed and up-to-date.

University of Alberta Students' Union
Report to Students' Council

Report #1

Policy Committee

Hello Council:

We had our first policy meeting last week, but just fell short of quorum. However, we reviewed all the necessary changes to our standing orders for this new committee. We also realized that we are behind the schedule set out in standing orders that require any member of the Executive Committee who is named a member of the Policy Committee to provide a basic introduction of his/her goals advocacy goals for the year by June 1, and a comprehensive presentation of all goals relevant to the mandate of the Committee by June 30. All other executive members must submit to the Committee an implementation plan for any political policy that pertains to their position as of June 30.

We are unsure as to the execution of this standing order in the past, but the committee will be holding this expectation to the executive committee this year.

One cause for concern is that the vast majority of our political policies have expired, and the few that remain expire this upcoming year. I will be looking into how we resurrect these 'dead' policies.

Ian Clarke

Prepared by: Nick Dehod, Vice President (Student Life)

To: Students' Council 2009/2010

Check Yourself

The University is currently working on an alcohol awareness campaign called "Check Yourself". I have been working with the President of the LHSA, Rory Tighe, to provide the University with feedback on the campaign and so far I am really excited about what has been discussed for the year.

Physical Activities & Health Center (PAHC)

The Vice President (Operations and Finance) and myself are meeting this week with Kristen Flath and Steven Dollansky to further debrief on our trip to California as well as work on a presentation and report of our impressions to present to the University on June 17th.

Programming

At our last meeting, the theme for Week of Welcome (WOW) was selected by the Student Life Events Committee (SLEC) [that's a tease folks]. Marketing will now be working on a visual identity for WOW while the SLEC works on finalizing the events. This weekend SLEC will be going on a one evening retreat to Ol' Macdonald's Resort (Buffalo Lake). Also, Alena Manera, the AVPSL, and myself are working on a document outlining the role and function of the Street Team. It should be completed by the end of the month.

Student Distress Center (SDC)

Our Student Services Senior Manager, Norma Rodenburg, along with the Director of the SDC, Keltie Winters, have begun the initial process of planning and visioning the future of the Student Distress Center. I will continue to provide updates on this process as they come.

Student Group Granting

One of my goals for the years was to synchronize the Dean of Students' granting dates with our own student group granting dates and improving the process overall. Vice President Fentimen and I have been directed by the Grand Allocation Committee to work on this as well as explore the option of creating one granting committee comprised of members of the Dean of Students (DOS) office as well as members of the SU and likely some student group executives. We have had meetings with the DOS and SGS Manager and we should have more details by the end of the month.

Sustainability

ECOS has received approval for funding from the Office of Sustainability for several projects. This includes increased funding for ECOS Green Sessions, the Reusable Dish Program, & the purchase of reusable containers to be distributed by ECOS during Orientation. Vice President Fentiman, the Director of ECOS Louise Veillard, and myself, are currently assessing composting and recycling in SUB and exploring options for improving the visibility of existing containers. New signs have also been put up outlining the Eco-discounts we currently have in

the building.

U-Pass

This Thursday the negotiation process will be put on hold, as we will be getting a presentation from David Hargreaves on the results of the U-Pass Survey from April. With several people taking holidays in June it is likely that negotiations will run into July.

If you have any other questions ask during council, stop by the office, or send me an email at vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca. **Have a good week!**

Prepared by: Nick Dehod, Vice President (Student Life)

To: Students' Council 2009/2010

Summary of May 2009 VPSL Goals

- *Assess the quality and price of food on campus in order to select a food provider that meets students' needs*

The quality and price of food, especially in Lister, has been consistently cited as a problem. Whereas there was no student input on the selection process last time Aramark's exclusive contract with the University was signed, in 2010 students' will be involved with the selection process. Given this tremendous opportunity to enrich the student experience by improving the quality and cost of food on campus, it is essential that extensive preparation occur leading into the winter semester.

The LHSA and Advocacy Department will play integral roles in accomplishing this goal, providing insight into the current state of food provided on campus as well as a resource to coming up with proposals for alternative food delivery models going into the selection process.

This will involve initial meetings and research throughout the summer months, feedback from students in the fall possibly via the Undergraduate Survey, and then final preparation going into the selection process during an as yet undetermined time in the winter semester. The milestone here will ultimately be the outcome of the selection process in winter semester 2010.

- *Develop a Physical Activities and Health Center (PAHC) that meets students' needs*

Another consistently cited problem on campus is the current quality of our fitness facilities as well as the lack of space for athletic programming and drop-in use. While the construction of a new fitness center has previously failed when going to referendum in the past, the University's openness to working with students' on this project has increased the potential of this facility to meet students' needs.

This project will involve a great deal of collaboration with University officials and the VP Operations & Finance throughout the year. Together, we will develop a PAHC plan that can be put to referendum in the winter semester of 2010.

The proposed PAHC will be developed May 2009 through November 2009. By November 24, 2009, a proposed referendum question should be prepared to go

through council with the referendum occurring March 3rd & 4th, 2010. Assuming the referendum passes, March 2010 to April 2010 would be devoted towards further refining the design and details of the facility, likely including my successor in the process.

- *Ensure the proper implementation and management of the students' Health & Dental Plan*

The Health & Dental Plan will be a new asset to students next year. It is essential that students are aware of the benefits and coverage that the plan provides and are made aware of deadlines and methods for opting-out of the plan.

This will involve working throughout the year with Studentcare.net/works to make sure that both the benefits and opt-out are well advertised and gathering feedback from students to troubleshoot and improve any issues or situations that arise.

The current Infolink space in the lower level of SUB will be renovated into an office for Studentcare.net/works, to be opened in late August/early September. Promotion of the plan and opt-out will occur primarily in September and January through various media.

- *Negotiate a new U-Pass contract that continues to meet students' needs*

Since its implementation in 2007, the U-Pass has been well received by a large percentage of students. Given that the University of Alberta is a commuter campus, the U-Pass provides affordable transportation to and from the University for several thousand undergraduates. The U-Pass also provides an incentive for students to use transit versus their vehicles, creating benefits that range from cutting down on the emission produced by students to reducing the demand for parking on campus. The U-Pass provides an increased value to the undergraduate experience and it is important that through the negotiations the U-Pass continues to be affordable and meet students' needs in terms of the service delivered.

The U-Pass negotiation will involve members from each respective transit service in Edmonton, St. Albert, and Strathcona County. It will also involve working with the Graduate Students' Association and Grant MacEwan, as well as members of the University of Alberta Administration & support from our Advocacy Department.

Negotiations will take place throughout the months of June, possibly extending into July. A referendum question will have be drafted and run through council by November 24, 2009. The referendum itself will occur on March 3rd & 4th, 2010. Administration of the U-Pass will be an ongoing item throughout the year.

- *Continue to provide quality programming while improving on past successes*

In the past programming has become less of a priority to the operations of the Students' Union. However for many students the programming and volunteer opportunities that we provide are entry points for people into our organization. It is essential that we continue to provide quality programming while assessing where we can improve or expand what we offer so that we continue to foster campus community and connect students at large with the SU.

This goal will be worked on throughout the year in coordination with our Programming & Venues Senior Manager, Christine Rogerson, and Associate Vice-President Student Life, Alena Manera, as well as the Student Life Events Committee and Street Team. We will also look to partner with other groups on campus to cross promote events and provide support when it is feasible.

Many of the dates for events and programming have yet to be finalized though there are some general rough timelines. Week of Welcome will involve planning throughout the summer leading-up to the actual event during the first week of school. Anti-Freeze will be organized and planned through the fall semester, occurring the first week back from classes in January. The SU Kids Christmas Party will occur in early December. Alternative programming for the year has yet to have been finalized but should be completed in early June.

- *Provide assistance and support to all Student Services*

The importance and value of our services to students cannot be emphasized enough. It is paramount that we continue to provide them with the support and assistance they need to function and serve students now, as well as anticipate future needs and potential for expansion or refinement of current operations and practices. There should not be the need for the VPSL to micromanage what is happening in the services. Many of our directors and managers already have the experience to provide vision and direction to their services. It is important that the VPSL provide support whenever possible or as needed to ensure that the directors find success in running their service.

This goal will include working throughout the year with our Student Services Senior Manager, Norma Rodenburg, as well as the directors and managers of the various services.

- *Improve and enhance support and resources for student groups*

Student groups continue to be one of the most critical components of student life on our campus. The successful implementation of the Student Engagement Proposal and creation of a new full time manager position in Student Group Services has the potential to provide unprecedented support and resources to student groups and student leaders. The management of the proposal will involve providing support to the SGS Manager throughout the year. An important point

in the year of note will be the SGS Manager hiring & transition in August when the current SGS Manager, Kristen Flath, departs.

One specific goal involves improving the student group granting process, which has been problematic in the past due to differing deadlines and the overall granting selection process in general. The summer months will provide an opportunity to explore methods for improving the granting process with hopeful implementation for the first round of granting in July.

- *Promote and coordinate sustainability practices within the SU and University*

Sustainability must continue to be a priority for the Students' Union and University of Alberta. With the Office of Sustainability being opened by the University it is important that students provide their input on what changes they believe need to happen to the operations of the University as well as how a culture of sustainability can be promoted on campus. It will be an important year for defining how ECOS as a service, and the SU as an advocate for students' needs and concerns, work and collaborate with the Office of Sustainability.

Some other goals for sustainability this year include improving the visibility of composting and recycling in SUB as well as increasing the scope of ECOS' Reusable Dish Program and exploring the option of providing reusable containers to students at Orientation. The possibility of creating a Sustainability Advisory Committee comprised of student groups on campus will also be explored as venue for the discussion and promotion of sustainability on campus.

The main contacts and collaborators for this goal will be from the Office of Sustainability, ECOS, and the various environmental student groups on campus. Sustainability Week in late October will be a key time in terms of promotion and awareness related to the issue. Generally though, most of the work on this goal will be ongoing throughout the year.

- *Increase the visibility and accessibility of the Students' Union in SUB and across campus*

As an organization, the Students' Union struggles at times to make apparent its worth and relevance to students. Arguably, this is not because the SU is irrelevant but rather because many students are unaware of what services and businesses the SU already provides to them as well as the number of people that are directly involved with the organization. The SU is already very present outside of SUB in the form of Infolink booths, handbooks, and the numerous amounts of volunteers and employees who are scattered across campus at any given time. To strengthen the visual presence of the SU on campus, effort must be focused into creating a consistent brand and identity for the SU. By improving our visual identity on campus we will increase our accessibility in places and situations where we already engage with students, directly (Infolink booths) and indirectly (volunteers wearing SU swag engaging with students at large).

This goal will involve a large amount of collaboration between the Marketing Department & Executive Committee, discussions with services & student groups, the Associate Vice President Student Life, as well as the input and contribution of all the senior managers.

The timelines for this goal are unclear, as currently more consideration must go into what will be incorporated into a “Communication Plan”. A rough plan should be ready by mid-June with a formal plan to follow outlining implementation strategies for the rest of the year.

This will involve, but is not limited to, the development of an SU Street Team, creation of SU merchandise, a reworking of the SU website, and so on.

- *Promote community, collaboration and support for various stakeholders on campus*

With a plethora of diverse stakeholders on campus, it is of paramount importance that we actively foster collaboration among them, and provide support for initiatives and problems they face throughout the year. Examples of stakeholders include residences, the Greek Community, Faculty Association, student groups etc., but it also includes graduate students, non-academic and academic staff, and alumni. The wellbeing of all of these groups ultimately contributes to the overall positive undergraduate experience. While it is important that we continue to represent our constituents its important that we provide support to these other groups when we can. This can take the form of collaboration on projects or events, as well as SU support for initiatives taken on by others.

One tangible example will be the possible development of a campus wide dodgeball tournament tentatively titled “Campus Cup”. This event will hopefully involve members of all the campus community and will occur hopefully sometime during the winter semester.

This goal will involve working with countless different groups on campus and will be ongoing throughout the year.

Report to Students' Council

June 9, 2009

Beverly Eastham, Vice-President (External)



Hello Council,

Unfortunately I will not be at the June 9 council meeting as I will be in Calgary for the CASA Policy and Strategy Conference. When I return I shall be able to let you know what the CASA membership has set as goals and priorities for the 09/10 year.

*****NOTE:** I will be bringing my camera to the June 23 council meeting to take pictures of all you gorgeous councillors so they can be put up on the SU website. Don't worry about wearing anything too fancy as it will just be a head and shoulders shot, but you might want to consider brushing your hair!

Meetings

May 26: Lunch meeting with the Provosts Office
May 27: Leadership bootcamp
May 27: Exec Committee
May 27: Meeting with Rory Tighe, LHSA President
May 29: Meeting with Duncan and Jenn (CAUS) to plan for partnership conference
June 1: Exec Committee
June 1: SU transition: event planning
June 2: Exec/Senior Manager Goal Retreat
June 2: Attempted CAC meeting (failed due to lack of quorum)
June 3: Former GM, Bill Smith, presentation to Exec Committee
June 3: Exec Committee
June 3: Convocation and Honorary Degree for Louise Arbour
June 4: SU transition: marketing
June 4: Convocation and Honorary Degree for Dr. Michael Hayden
June 5: Travel to Calgary
June 6: Public Interest Alberta (PIA) AGM
June 7: CAUS Meeting in Calgary
June 8-13: CASA Policy and Strategy

Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS)

www.caus.net | **twitter: #caus09**

CAUS reviewed a number of existing and expiring policies at our June 7 meeting and also discussed the creation of a time-line for accomplishing the goals set during CAUS transition

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

www.casa.ca | **twitter: CASAdaily, #casacon**

Follow the Policy and Strategy Conference as it happens, live on Twitter, by searching #casacon. Will be back soon to update the council on CASA goals and initiatives.

As always,

Beverly Eastham, VP External

Phone: 780-492-4236

Email: vp.eternal@su.ualberta.ca

Blog: <http://www.ualbertasu.blogspot.com>

Twitter (Executive): [uasuvpexternal](#), [#uasu](#)

Prepared by: Beverly Eastham, Vice President (External)

To: Students' Council 2009/2010

Engagement

- *Hold events that are relevant to students on issues that students are passionate about in ways which are accessible to students*

The biggest events that was held last year by the external portfolio were Camp Out in Quad and the High School Leadership Conference (HSLC). As HSLC has been cut from the budget this year the possibility of holding several smaller events or one larger event later in the year now exists.

Camp Out in Quad needs to be reevaluated for its effectiveness. Housing appears to be an accessible issue to students, but the event itself is getting to be a bit older and may be in need of revitalization.

Whenever external issues are being integrated into some kind of 'awareness' week or campaign the SU should be ensuring that the issue is broken down for students so that they are able to understand the key problems and solutions, how the issue is relevant to them as a person/student, and how they can get involved in working towards change.

- *Work to increase the mechanisms that students have for providing feedback to the SU*

Currently there are very few mechanisms by which the SU can obtain feedback on the external advocacy work that is being done. The first part of changing this is to open up the issues so that students are able to quickly and easily know which issues the SU is working on and how each of those issues is relevant to them as a student. The second part of this will be working on developing new methods and channels for students to provide feedback at the same time as doing a better job of communicating and marketing the channels that are currently available.

Hopefully, a good deal of this will be taken care of through changes to the advocacy portion of the SU website.

- *Re-examine the possibility and model of rural tours and rural outreach*

Both the Senate and Public Interest Alberta (PIA) are working on developing new models of rural outreach this year. This provides the SU an excellent opportunity

to collaborate with these groups and re-examine the methods that our organization has for engaging the greater Albertan community in student issues.

The standard model of SU rural tours appears to be very effective around the time that a provincial election is being held, but more could be done (especially if it is done in partnership with another group) to engage the general public in an ongoing manner.

- *Work with Elections Canada and Elections Alberta to increase the accessibility of the electoral process for students*

This point could just as easily have gone under the heading of ‘accessibility’, but seems to fit well here, as the ultimate goal is to get students on campus more engaged at election time, and politically in general.

After the last provincial election the Auditor General released a report with an entire section dedicated to a number of suggestions regarding how to increase the usability of the electoral process for students. Our provincial lobby group, the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) has adopted a political policy endorsing these recommendations. The SU should also be taking steps now to ensure these recommendations are implemented and the electoral process is more accessible to students come the time of the next provincial elections.

As with the provincial election, a number of issues with how the Elections Canada system works for students were highlighted during the last federal elections. As it looks like we will have a federal election before the next provincial elections action should be taken on this issue immediately. The best route for working towards changes in the electoral system for students at the federal level is likely to work with the Partners (other provincial lobby groups), or our federal lobby group the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations.

- *Open up the SU electoral process and make it more accessible to the average student*

The current way that our own elections are portrayed appears to be reasonably off-putting for the average students. The SU needs to ensure that we have an electoral process that is easy to get involved in both as a voter (which has been helped by the implementation of online voting last year) and as a candidate.

- *Hold an SU centenary event for current and alumni members of the SU*

We appear to have some interest from the office of the University of Alberta President, Indira Samarasekera, on this as of the end of last year. However, should President Samarasekera not wish to be involved in an SU centenary alumni event I believe that it is still an excellent event to hold this year.

Justin Benko (AVPX) is very interested in working on organizing this event and contacting alumni members of the SU executive to invite them back for a celebration. We are currently working on the initial planning and visioning of

what this event will look like and would be welcome to any ideas that you may have. We are also working on a way to include a portion of the event that would be accessible to students at large/general SU members, thus providing an entry point into the SU in the unique way of connecting to those who have come before us.

- *Start a committee for the external portfolio that is administered by the AVPX that engages current SU volunteers and provides an entry point to students at large*

At various points throughout the history of the external portfolio there have been external committees that were overseen by either or both the VPX or AVPX. The most recent iteration of this was the Campaigns Planning and Action Committee (CPAC). This committee unfortunately fizzled last year, but this year there is a great opportunity to create a new committee as part of the revitalization of the AVPX portfolio.

Communication

- *Increase accessibility of information related to external advocacy and the external portfolio*

This goal ties in with the goal under ‘engagement’ of increasing the mechanisms by which students are able to offer feedback on the external issues that the SU is working on. More steps and different mediums are needed to communicate the work that is being done in the external portfolio.

- *Ensure external blog is regularly updated and that students are aware of its existence*

Last year a blog on external issues was started and several posts were made throughout the year by various members of the executive and advocacy department. However, even I can not remember the url of this blog, nor can I find the link anywhere on the SU website. The general idea of an SU blog seems to have some interest, as our counterparts at UofL have started one up quite successfully, however, to be successful, students have to know about the blog, and posts must be made on a regular basis.

- *Increase the visual presence of the SU on UofA campuses*

Last year I had the idea of creating bulletin boards around campus that were dedicated to the SU. However, after running into some red tape on the university side, and having a hundred other things to work on, I gave up on the idea. I would like to bring the idea back and see it through to full implementation this year. Part of this project will fall to the AVPX.

- *Ensure external campaigns are opened up to all UofA campuses and that material is available in both English and French*

Although the SU does not run an overwhelming number of external campaigns in a year, we need to ensure that the campaigns we do run include both Augustana Campus and Campus St. Jean. We should also provide campaign material in both French and English. The process for doing this was created last year, and should be capitalized and followed through on this year with all of our external campaigns (and hopefully all other SU campaigns).

Student Financial Aid

- *Improve current Student Financial Aid calculations, especially those surrounding assumed parental and spousal contributions*

There are several issues with the spousal contribution calculations for student loans, as well as general problems with making the assumption that both parents and spouses contribute as much as the calculation states they will. This goal will likely be one of the goals worked on through CAUS.

- *Lobby for an increase in the Student Living Allowance*

The student living allowance portion of student loans was not increased by even CPI last year, which contributes to an increasing financial burden for students.

- *Lobby provincial and federal government to increase forms of non-repayable assistance based on need and merit calculations, especially in the years following the first year of study*

Our government and our institutions are wonderful at offering financial support in the first year of study, but after the first year, non-repayable financial support tends to fizzle out for most students. More needs to be done to sustain funding and support for students through all years of their studies.

- *Work with the university administration to evaluate the different financial resources available to students at the UofA*

The Student Financial Resources Task Force that the UofA will strike this summer has tremendous potential to

Affordability

- *Ensure tuition stays indexed to CPI for the 2010 Budget*
- *Secure more affordable housing for students*

- *Lobby the provincial government to dedicate more funding for deferred maintenance, and to change legislation surrounding the allocation of this funding so that money can go towards residence spaces if necessary*
- *Lobby the university and province to fully fund the construction of new residences, not use P3 models*

Accessibility

- *Lobby the federal government to provide temporary targeted grants to students challenged by economic situation*
- *More accessibility goals coming soon!*

Many of the other goals contained in this document could just as easily fall under accessibility as the other categories they have been put in. Generally, if other issues are fixed, accessibility of a post-secondary education increases.

Quality

- *Quality goals coming soon!*

As with accessibility, a number of the other goals, if accomplished will increase the quality of education that students receive. Specific quality goals have not yet been established, but the category itself is vital to remember when doing external advocacy work.

External Relations

- *Work more closely with the university administration where possible and practical*
- *Increase satellite lobbying efforts if practical to do so*
- *Outreach to federally unaligned schools who may be interested in CASA*
- *Strengthen communication with stakeholders*
- *Increase UASU specific individual meetings with MLAs if needed and practical to do so*
- *Evaluate the effectiveness of our lobby groups and the value they offer to UofA students*

Collaboration

- *Assist the Vice President (Student Life) where necessary with U-Pass negotiations to ensure the U-Pass remains affordable for students*
- *Work with the Vice President (Academic) to explore the effect of Campus Alberta on CoFA*
- *Work with the Vice President (Academic) to explore the possibility of Faculty Associations increasing their involvement in external lobbying and create a white paper or other visioning document to guide this process*
- *Continue to strengthen the functionality and mandate of the Edmonton Alliance of Students*
- *Continue strong leadership in EAS, CAUS, and CASA and ensure our lobby groups are doing work that is beneficial to UofA students*
- *Work with the Vice President (Academic) on issues surrounding academic materials and copyright*

Organizational Structure

- *AVPX portfolio restructuring*
- *Work to define and strengthen interactions of the external side of the advocacy department*
- *Bylaw 2000 review, and ensure other bylaws are up to date, clear and concise*
- *Conduct a review of all SU operating policies to ensure they are necessary, clear and concise*
- *Work with the policy committee to review all SU political policies to ensure they are up to date, relevant, and formatted correctly*
- *Support the policy committee and provide more resources for councillors to be involved in policy creation and review*
- *Develop a dedicated space for student councillors, work with CAC to increase visibility of councillors in their respective faculties, work with CAC to develop a Students' Council Wiki*
- *Ensure that external side of the advocacy wiki has information up and to date by end of the year*

COUNCIL OF ALBERTA UNIVERSITY (CAUS) PRIORITIES

EXTERNAL PRIORITIES

- * Improving student financial aid
- * Keeping tuition tied to CPI
- * Increasing base operating funding to Alberta's universities
- * Targeting deferred maintenance
- * (Disability resource funding issues)
- * Elections Act to be more student-friendly

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PRIORITIES

- * Spousal contributions
- * More scholarships and bursaries based on need/merit
- * More scholarships beyond first year
- * More interest relief options
- * Eliminate parental contribution
- * Lower student debt
- * Tying living allowance calculations within awards to CPI
- * Remission improvements
- * Non-repayable assistance

INTERNAL PRIORITIES

- * Matching goals to GOA goals
- * Lobbying municipalities to stop collecting taxes on residences
- * Partners conference
- * Employee development
- * Communicating to students
- * Up to date audits

POLICY PRIORITIES

- * Alternative energy creation on-campus
- * Under-represented group policy

OTHER STUFF WE WILL TALK ABOUT

- * Putting tuition in legislation
- * Commercialization of research

RCA PROJECT

- * Partners conference
- * Brief on Income Contingent Loan Relief

Report to Students' Council

June 9, 2009

Kory Mathewson, President



Chaplains Brunch – May 25 2009

Meet and greet with chaplains, discuss collaborations incl. Revolutionary Debate Series.

Survey Meeting with Chris Henderson – May 26 2009

Discuss roll out, possible division of questions, collection, and analysis of information

Provosts Office Lunch with Dean of Students – May 26 2009

Discussed plans for the year, attendance at Council, Academic Plan, Teacher Evaluations.

Meeting with Dima Utgoff (Director of Residence Services) – May 26 2009

Discussed Aramark contract, upcoming residences, autonomy, and Campus Cup.

Leadership Boot Camp – May 27 2009

What makes a great leader? Learned tips on techniques for leadership in the office.

Academic Planning Committee – May 27 2009

Teaching evaluations, discovery learning, undergraduate research, Dare to Discover metrics.

Budget Finance and Property Committee – May 28 2009

Graduate student residence approval, University fundraising report, 2014 residence reserves.

Meeting with Deb Holloway (Issues & Communications Manager to VP's) – Jun 1 2009

Issues and communications support for broad issues.

Student Portal Meeting with Frank Robinson (Dean of Students) – Jun 2 2009

Discussed possible roll out, single log-on site for campus wide integration of web-services.

Meeting with Brian Heidecker (Chair of the Board of Governors) – Jun 3 2009

Discussed Board Finance & Property and Community & Government Relations committees.

Revolutionary Speaker Series with Christine Rogerson (Prog. And Venues)– Jun 4 2009

Possible collaboration with student groups, several models: debate, pay-what-you-can.

CAUS Meeting – Jun 7 2009, Calgary Alberta

Policy review, setting the direction for the year, with Universities of Calgary and Lethbridge.

CASA Policy and Strategic Planning – Jun 7-13 2009, Calgary Alberta

National conference, setting the direction for the year, follow at search.twitter.com/search?q=#casacon

*For the Good and Welfare of the University of Alberta Students' Union,
I remain,*

Kory Wallace Mathewson, President, University of Alberta Students' Union 2009-2010
