STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday November 24, 2009 Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2009-17)

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2009-17/8b	Zach Fentiman, VP Operations and Finance- Report
	Please see document LA 09-17.01
2009-17/8c	Leah Trueblood, VP Academic- Report
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2009-17/8d	Nick Dehod, VP Student Life- Report
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2009-17/8e	Kory Mathewson, President- Report
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2009/2010 Report to Council

November 24, 2009 Vice President (Operations and Finance)

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

To: Students' Council 2009/2010

The PAW

Presentation next week—be ready.

Students' Union Space Audit

Will be arriving next week, tentatively tomorrow. It's quite late, but it will be exciting material for SUBvisioning.

Student Group Granting Committee

Nick and I attended another SGS Granting Session—we're halfway through the applicant pool and are already delivering some much-needed cash infusions to groups. The new draft of the form is easier to complete—we'll tweak the process further as we identify potential areas of difficulty.

Students' Union Social Responsibility Committee

There are three (3) seats on the committee for students-at-large. To apply, please submit a short letter of intent and a resume/CV to 2-900 SUB by 5:00 PM, Wednesday, November 25. Please let your friends know!

The committee shall review areas of the Students' Union and propose recommendations on how to improve the social responsibility of its operations; provide advice as requested to the Students' Union Executive on matters relating to social responsibility; and encourage ongoing, proactive discussion within the Students' Union on how to be more socially responsible, and inform the Students' Union upon request on how to best communicate its efforts and to the student body.

Please email me if you have any questions.

New Alumni Assoc. Executive Director Lunch

The executive went for lunch with Dean Robinson and Sean Price who is the Associate Vice-President (Alumni Affairs) and Executive Director of the Alumni Association to discuss upcoming events that alumni/alumni affairs could be interested in.

Upcoming Events

CoFA²

Wednesday, November 25, 2009 @ 6:00PM

SGS Granting Follow-up Meeting

Tentatively Wednesday, November 25 @ 1:00PM







Report to Council: November 24th, 2009

1. Developing the Portfolio:

- a) Externally:
 - o Meet again with Kathleen Jacques re: Re-branding the Portfolio Visual Identity. Took this idea to the executive.
- b) Internally
 - Meet with former ombuds-service and now manager of Student Group Services, Brock Richardson, to talk specifically about expanding the suite of issues that I work on from a VPA perspective. Two issues were identified as being systematic unfairness and Mr. Richardson and I will work to address those through two different mechanisms. I am very grateful to Mr. Richardson for his expertise, and am very hopeful that this is a huge opportunity.

2. Increasing the Profile and Power of the Council of Faculty Associations:

- a) A lot of work has been done throughout the tuition exercise to support Faculty Associations, a lot of it has not been from me. For instance, the ECAA completed the press release for the education student rally. Our advocacy department works with me to make information packages, briefings and presentations to faculty associations. Recall, I was away for law school interviews during the November COFA meeting, and I apologize sincerely to the Faculty Associations.
- 3. Build Sustainable Student Government in the Faculty of Science a) The visual identity of the interim group has been established. I attended one of the meetings Thursday, the Associate Vice President Academic had been running them in my absence for a number of weeks, and they informed me classroom speaking will begin Thursday, and the website for student feedback will be up today. The Governor is maintaining 10 office hours a week, getting about three students per hour, keeping some in Cameron library. Not great numbers, but certainly helpful.

4. Lobby for the creation of a strong, student centered academic plan

a) Lobbying Meetings have begun again to maintain the strong foothold that we have in the vision thus far. This suite of lobby meetings involves a new set of committees the Teaching and Learning and Technology Council and the Committee on the Learning Environment. I had a very successful presentation of the submission to Alumni council, who are interested in supporting us with the Student Academic Centre, and the University Research and Policy Committee, who are interested in helping with a database of researchers for understand students.

5. Develop Student Government

a) Met with the General Manager, Director of Research and Political Affairs, Executive and the Manager of Student Group Services to discuss possible support, personelle, and mentorship models. Again, council, if you sit on University committees, department councils and have thoughts about what you need. This



conversation is very close to the discussions of a COFA/Council wiki, so I would welcome your feedback.

6. Support and Institutionalize the Role of the Academic Materials Consultant

• I have given Kristen six departments that I think are worth targeting politically. Further, she and I met with the former General Manager Bill to talk about taking our academic materials lobbying, through Kristen and through targeted department work to the next level. This was something that was important to Bill, and we are very grateful to him and Marc for their continued collaberaion.

7. Create a Strategy for Transfer, International Students and Campus Associations to change SU Organizational Culture

- Next Augustana meeting has been scheduled for December 8th. Very excited to be headed out to their beautiful campus again. Further to a question received from the last meeting, I contacted the AUFSJ to set up further conversations. I would like to see, further to the Faculty Association presentations in the summer, to see these two campus associations present because I think this body, more than any other, needs to start thinking about representing five campuses.
- Question to Councilors. I presented the "Who is a student" data this fall to articulate the changing nature of our student body, and why I think that the demographics we see here in council, while I love all of you, are not representative. This is very important to me.

8. Work with the Committee on the Learning Environment Subcommittee on Teaching Evaluation to approve through governance a new teaching evaluation tool

Had an excellent meeting of the Committee on November 19th and have another one on Thursday. This is a subcommittee of one of the GFC committees I sit on that is looking a the tool, and talking to consultants about options. When I get options I will bring them to council, but all of the tools being considered involved multi-faceted evaluation (which many of you brought up in the submission) and all involve formative feedback checkins. This is very exciting and important and I really look forward to sharing the results with you.

Thank you so much for your patience with me while I was away, and for all of your hard work for students.

Yours sincerely,

Leah



□2009/2010 Midterm Report

November 24, 2009 Vice President (Student Life)

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

To: Students' Council, Executive Committee

Preamble

My goal with this document is to give insight into everything that had been occurring within the portfolio, regardless of my level of involvement. Some of these items I am heavily involved with, while others I play more of a check-in role with.

In any event, I want to make the point that there is hardly any initiatives or goals on this document that I work in isolation on. There are numerous staff, service directors, volunteers, students-at-large, deans, & university staff etc. that all work hard to make many of these things happen who often get forgotten or go about their day unseen. Although I could provide a list of names, at fear of missing somebody, I would just like to say that I appreciate the assistance, support, and contribution of anybody that I have worked with so far this year. If you as a councillor know any of these people, I would encourage you to stop and thank them for their dedication too.

I think it is also important to recognize that much of what I am doing now is moving the ball forward on things that many of my predecessors worked tirelessly on before me. Because the Executive and councillors changeover on an annual basis and because students can come and go just as much, it can be hard to keep in mind the contributions of past councillors and executives. Although it can be difficult to see change on an annual basis for items that are not necessarily big and shiny (re: U-Pass, The PAW), I do want to recognize the contributions of Justin Kehoe, Omer Yusuf, Chris Le, Kristin Flath and all of those before them to the Students' Union and the Vice President Student Life position. To make my point, student groups are currently experiencing an unprecedented amount of support thanks to the Student Engagement Proposal. Although much of the implementation of this proposal is occurring now, if you are a member of a student group and you have noticed the improvements to the service provided, you should thank Kristin Flath or Janelle Morin the next time you see them for the work they did in the previous few years to secure that funding. While it is great to see the increased support we have been able to provide student groups this year, just keep in mind that this is one of many things that would not have been possible this year without the hard work of previous executives.

Many of the issues and items below could be full on reports in and of themselves. If you want more information or to discuss anything in the report further, please do not hesitate to follow-up with me at a later time.

Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs)

U-Pass

On November 3rd, Chris Henderson and I presented to Council the details of the new contract that will go to referendum next March. To review, the prices for the three-year contract are as follows:

- 2010-2011 \$91.67
- 2011-2012 \$104.16
- 2012-2013 \$116.67

Following the approval of a new contract via student referendum, the opportunity would exist to develop a Late Night Transit Pilot Project during exams as well as the option of potentially bringing a Spring/Summer U-Pass to referendum the following year.

Although we were very interested in finding a way to exempt students that live outside of the service area from the program, there are still several barriers to this happening. One problem is that the program is a universal pass that works based on the participation of all students. The other and perhaps more challenging issue to resolve is the administrative difficulty of determining which students actually live outside the service area. However, a few things can be done to make the program more inclusive of students that currently cannot use the program. This includes lobbying outlying municipalities to participate in the U-Pass program as well as working with the University and current transit providers (ETS, Strathcona County, & St. Albert) to come up with creative solutions to the problem. This is something that work could begin on this year or perhaps by the VPSL next year.

The PAW (Physical Activities & Wellness Centre)

This is potentially one of the most important projects of the year. Vice President Fentiman and I have been working closely with the Dean of Students, Dean of Physical Education & Recreation, and University Architects Office since coming into office. It has been our goal to ensure that a facility is created that reflects the principles that we came up with after visiting California, as well as reflects the input by students that was given at the design charette in September. The project has been highly collaborative and so far the University has been very responsive to our ideas, feedback, and concerns.

Some of the key components of the facility include an emphasis on student space, a broad scope of wellness included in the design, a focus on sustainability, and the principle that if students pay, they will have a strong role in the governance of the facility.

Although we had every intention of presenting at council on November 17th, we have since decided to delay the presentation to December 1st. This will put us on a tighter deadline to complete the referendum question but we do believe that the extra time will allow us to iron out some of the finer details before bringing the project to Council. I could provide more information now however I will leave it to be delivered in the presentation.

Athletics & Recreation Fee Advisory Committee (ARFAC)

This has been in the pipeline since Omer Yusuf's year (06/07). This committee was modeled after the Health Centre Advisory Group and serves a similar function in that it monitors and reviews the use of a mandatory non-instructional fee. The committee also exists to serve several other functions that includes:

- Facilitates discussion between stakeholders on athletics and recreation opportunities on campus
- Increases communication between all parties
- Offers an opportunity for students to provide input to athletics, recreation providers regarding programs and new initiatives
- Provides an opportunity for the Faculty to keep in touch with the student body in order to maximize the quality and capacity of athletics and recreation services to students provided by the Faculty

So far this year, the focus has been exclusively on any fees that students currently pay towards athletics to better understand the implications of possibly creating a PAW Centre Fee. In addition to the Athletics & Recreation Fee, this includes the Golden Bears & Panda's Legacy Fund, and the Campus Recreation Enhancement Fund. As the year progresses, we anticipate more discussions will occur around not only the fees, but also the services and programs that are currently provided as well.

Health Centre Advisory Group (HCAG)

We have only had a few meetings this year for HCAG and at this point there has not been too much to report. One of the ongoing concerns with the Health Centre are related to staff usage of the facility when they do not pay a similar fee that students already contribute. The Dean of Students' Office is working on a Unit Review of the University Health Centre and the Administration is having discussions about what a staff contribution to the facility could look like.

One of the more recent developments has been a proposal to start charging students for Students Counseling Services. It has been cited for a few years now that there is a dire need for more counselors on campus as the University of Alberta's counselor to student ratio is one of the lowest in Canada. Now that the SU offers an Undergraduate Health Plan, the opportunity exists to charge the Plan for usage of counseling services. It is estimated that doing so could bring in at least two more counselors. Vice President Fentiman and I are currently exploring the implications of making such an adjustment and we expect that we will be able to provide an update on this soon.

Fees/The Registrar's Office/Beartracks

Vice President Fentiman and I are working on scheduling some meetings to discuss improvements to the Registrar's website and beartracks that would help better communicate what students are paying for when they currently pay their fees. On an annual basis, both of our offices receive numerous questions related to what each fee goes towards and believe that there are some changes that could be made to make this information more accessible to students.

Health & Dental Plan

The final estimates based on the most recent report indicate that 35% of students optedout of the plan while 38% of all students changed their coverage in some capacity. This falls within the range we have seen at other institutions with universal opt-outs and it will be interesting to see if this number falls over time as it has at other universities.

I will be providing a pdf report from studentcare.net/works as soon as I have it. The report outlines how the plan was communicated as well as specific change-of-coverage statistics. While I do believe that we there is an extensive list of ways that we communicated the change-of-coverage period to students, there are already several things that I would like to see changed or improved on for next year. To a certain extent though, this is the first year and some problems and challenges are unavoidable.

As mentioned in a previous Council report, I have been working on the creation of a Health & Dental Plan Committee (HDPC) that should hopefully be formalized by the end of the semester. The committee will serve several important functions including creating policy and setting direction for the structure and delivery of the plan. It will also act as a venue for students to provide feedback on communications, coverage, service delivery, and all other components of the Plan.

The Montreal October 29/30 Stakeholders Meeting provided an excellent opportunity to meet our peers and learn how their health plans operate at their schools. From what I observed, our Plan is one of the most comprehensive and affordable student plans in the country and former VPSL Kristin Flath deserves a lot of credit for the work she did last year. I believe that being one of the last major Universities to have a plan really helped us negotiate something that really provides benefit to our students.

Food Provider Request For Proposals & Selection Process

Although we were initially told by the University that no students would be involved with the formal process beyond several consultation sessions, in the last month we have been able to get two student positions formally involved in the development of the Request for Proposals and the selection committee. Rory Tighe, the President of the Lister Hall Students' Association, & Jaiman Chin, President of the Residence Halls Association, will be the two student representatives in this process. They have been involved with the student consultation process that has occurred in the last few months and will be a valuable student voice in the process moving forward.

The RFP will be sent out by the end of November with proposal expected back by the end of the current calendar year. The bid assessment process will occur in January and February with a final decision arriving in March. The successful provider would being operations on campus in August.

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Sustainability

Sustainability Strategic Plan (SSP)

Attending the conference in Indianapolis has really changed my perspective on how our organization should be approaching sustainability. If you have read my conference report, one of the main recommendations that comes out of it is the development of a Students' Union Sustainability Strategic Plan. Although I did not run on this, this is something within the overall goal that I have decided to start prioritizing. I do not believe that the comprehensive document that I envision could be completed by the end of the year but I do think that some of the foundational work could be done in time for a future VPSL to pick-up and run with.

This document would provide a vision for the entire organization as well as a plan for how the SU would become a leader for sustainability on campus. In moving forward with this, I have had discussion with the Executive and ECOS and the current action items include having the Students' Union Committee on Social Justice develop basic principles for the document. I will also be looking into the costs of conducting a sustainability audit of the entire organization. I believe that it is important that our organization becomes a leader in sustainability and I think an audit and a strategic document is a necessary step in the right direction.

Sustainability Awareness Week (SAW)

This was a really positive week in that we partnered not only with the Office of Sustainability but also various other student groups on campus that are focused on the same initiatives. The partnership led to a larger event with more opportunities for students to become educated on the subject, engage with the issues, and become informed of what various groups on campus are already doing. I do believe the Students' Union should try to take a bigger role in this event where it can. Although we saw an increased turn out at some of these events, I still think there is room to make the event even more accessible and visible to students.

Environmental Coordination Office of Students (ECOS) & the Office Of Sustainability (OoS)

Although there were some practical things I learned at the *Greening of the Campus* conference, one of the big picture things that I learned is that our Students' Union is unique in that it provides an environmental service to students. So far this has been an exciting year for ECOS, with increased funding for the Reusable Dish Program, Green Sessions, as well as the purchasing of reusable containers that were available at Orientation. We are currently having meetings to ensure funding from the Office of Sustainability for these projects continues in future years as well as to discuss what the long term visions for ECOS should be as the OoS becomes more established.

The Bike Library has also seen numbers skyrocket this year, as the demand is far outpacing the supply. We are currently working on securing a new space for the bike library to meet the demand on campus for sustainable transportation.

There have been discussions around having the Office of Sustainability located in SUB

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Vice President (Student Life) Mid-term Report

however I do not believe any agreement has been formalized yet. For more info on this, I would follow-up with the VP Operations & Finance.

Other Initiatives

In terms of other sustainability initiatives, I am disappointed that the recycling/composting signage still is not up. Although we have composting in our building, I think the signage will go a long way for making this service more visible as well as encouraging students to make use of it. There are several reasons why this has not happened yet however when it finally does, I will crack the champagne in a licensed venue of whoever is interested's choice. Stay tuned true believers.

The other goal is to make the Eco-Discounts that the businesses in SUB provide more visible. While there is signage currently and although ECOS promotes these discounts when they set up at lunch with the reusable plates program, more can still be done to make students aware of the discounts. There are some limitations to how we can do this but the current idea is to have the vendors place stickers with their respective discounts on or nearby the cash register of their respective store.

With promotion of our programming we have been trying to cut down on wasteful promotional materials. The best example of this would be Week of Welcome where we decided to reduce the number of shirts that we have ordered in the past, we printed less posters and decreased the size of the order by printing them in half sizes, and we used smaller handbills that directed people to the website as well as frisbees that students' could use.

Students' Union Services

So far this has been an exciting year for many of the services as we have had an opportunity to discuss and revise what our short term and long term vision is for them.

Access Fund

This is a service that many students may never interact with however in becoming more familiar with it, I think this is probably one of the most valuable services we provide. So far this year our application numbers are roughly the same however this year many of the appointments with staff for this semester were filled by late October/early November. This has meant that many students have been asked to reapply and rebook their appointments for January. Actual statistics on awards will not be ready for some time as there are many students who did not go through the Access Fund selection committee because their loans are still in the appeals process.

Campus Food Bank (CFB)

This is not a Students' Union service however I do serve on the Campus Food Bank's Board of Directors. So far, the CFB has not seen a large increase in client usage though there have been indications of an increased reliance on food bank usage (there have been a higher number of repeat clients this month than last). A large increase in usage is expected in January due to accrued holiday costs, travel costs, winter term tuition etc.

About ³/₄'s of the clients are undergraduate students. The Trick or Treat event was very successful with the campus community collecting an estimated 10 000 lbs of food and more events are in the works for next semester.

The CFB Board has also been working this year on review CFB policies, strategic direction, and finances in preparation of renegotiating a contract with the SU & GSA in the winter semester. You can expect more updates on this process next semester.

Centre For Student Development (Orientation, Campus Ambassadors, Vitamin A, Backpack to Briefcase)

The staff in the CSD continue to work hard to ensure that students make the most of the opportunities and experiences that the University provides. We have had an Orientation brief and discussions are now occurring about how to improve it for next year. The staff has many great ideas in terms of how to change the organization and set-up of the events, as well as how to deliver different sessions. I would personally like to see how we could incorporate sustainability more into Orientation as well as improve the visibility of student groups during the week.

Infolink

What started as an initial idea to refurbish the booths has turned into a much larger project. We have had a few meetings now to discuss potential changes and additions to the services that Infolink provides. The potential with these booths is huge, hence why we are being careful with moving forward. Given the current timeline, I do not anticipate these booths being ready for next semester and the implementation of any proposal might have to wait until the summer.

Safewalk

Safewalk continues to work hard to ensure the overall safety of campus through patrols and walks. So far this year they have provided safe passage on 486 walks (September 1st until November 23rd). I have not been as involved with this service but Vice President Fentiman has been working with Safewalk to look at other possible sources of funding. For more information on this I would encourage you to follow-up with him.

Student Distress Centre (SDC)

Although we have had to cut back the hours of the SDC due to end of our agreement with The Support Network (TSN), there has been no decrease in the quality of service provided. This is another service where I have been having meetings with the staff to discuss what this service will look like in the future. Again, this service has a lot of potential and we are also being careful as we move forward. A better picture of where the SDC is going should be provided in the winter semester. A lot of work went into making the service run sufficiently this year and we look forward to shaping it in the future to better suit the needs of students.

Student Financial Aid & Information Centre (SFAIC)

This year we saw a significant jump in usage in September (up 30%) but we saw a large drop in usage in October (down 70%). For the rest of the year so far, we have seen minor changes in usage. SFAIC usage tends to relate closely with how many students are using other related programs (Access Fund, Emergency Student Loans etc) and also how many students are applying for funding online and accessing government programs. Our service usage also depends heavily on the student loan cycle itself.

SU Casino

As a final note, the services staff organized a successful Casino event on November 1st & 2nd. Thanks to the work of volunteers, the SU should be receiving a cheque for nearly \$80,000.00 in the future.

Residences

There have been several important initiatives this year occurring in residence. One of which was the creation of a White Paper that was sent to the Alberta Government this summer and made the case for a future commitment to investing in residences in the future. From what I understand, there has yet to be a response from the Government.

I have also had a few discussions with the Residence Halls Association President, Jaiman Chin, about how we can improve the RHA's role in residence governance. We will be requesting that Residence Services does a presentation on the current reporting structure to the Council of Student Affairs (COSA) hopefully for the January meeting and will follow-up from there.

There is also currently a review occurring of the Residence Community Standards. For the remainder of the year, there should be an extensive consultation process with various residence stakeholders before a new document is put forward for the consideration of the Campus Law Review Committee.

Finally, the University has given much praise to the LHSA this year. Rezfest was run soundly and overall, numbers indicate that incidents in Lister are down. Also, impacting Lister this year will be the outcome of the food selection process, of which the current LHSA President, Rory Tighe, is a part of and has already been discussed above in this report.

Student Groups

The Student Engagement Proposal has led to an increasing in staffing in Student Group Services that has in turn led to greater support and more initiatives designed to improve the student group experience. Here are a few of the things that have been happening with student groups this year.

Student Groups Granting

This summer we worked with the Dean of Students' Office to improve the granting system. In our efforts to do so, we have created a single application form with a single pick-up and drop-off location, as well as created a combined granting committee between the SU and DOS to ensure that the funding available between both is properly allocated. With each session we are continuing to improve the form and granting process and although it is still not perfect, we have already seen a dramatic improvement in the quality of applications and overall process between this granting session and the previous one.

Student Groups Space

Thanks to a mix of casino and student engagement proposal money, we have been able to refurnish the student groups lounge, move over and create a larger and more comfortable Student Groups Services office, and also free up space for a student groups conference room.

Student Groups Leadership Summit

The Student Group Leadership Summit provided student groups executives with an excellent opportunity to meet peers and garner knowledge from a variety of sessions put on by numerous experienced presenters. There has been some discussion about exploring the possibility of having a Student Groups Transition or year-end summit during March. Although I am not certain that such an event would occur this year, it is an interesting idea that is being developed.

Student Groups Database

This is something that has been worked on for several months now. When implemented, the database will assist student groups in managing their projects & activities as well as aid in keeping them organized.

Student Groups Bylaws & Operating Policies

With the changes to bylaw having gone through Council, SGS has begun working on providing suggestions for operating policies related to student groups. This should hopefully assist in providing some consistency to groups and a point of reference for how SGS operates.

Co-curricular Record

The co-curricular record (CCR) pilot program should be launched next semester. This program will provide students with recognition of their extra curricular involvement in the University community. Students can use these for applications to jobs, grad school, & scholarships. The CCR will help demonstrate the value of learning that occurs through involvement outside of the classroom.

Programming

During the summer we hired Jen Wanke as the new Senior Manager of Programming & Venues. Given that this is Jen's first year in the position, we have had a unique opportunity to re-evaluate how programming is promoted, organized, and run within our organization. Additionally, Alena Manera has been invaluable in her return as the Associate Vice President Student Life. With her coming back, we have had the chance to rethink and try new things with some of our events.

Week of Welcome: Where No WOW Has Gone Before September 2nd to 5th, 2009

Week of Welcome went well (go alliteration). Alena, the Student Life Events Committee (SLEC), and all of our programming staff worked hard during the summer and especially during the week to make sure that students' first week back was enjoyable and welcoming. This was the first time in numerous years that we had branded Week of Welcome with its full name rather than abbreviating it. Although it is a simple change, I think it helped clarify for many students, new and old, exactly what WOW was.

The Programming Team and I have had some initial discussions about what we would like to see changed for next year and I have also had some brief conversations with my peers at other student associations about how they currently run their Week Of Welcomes/Frosh Weeks. Much of the discussion has been around how Week of Welcome and Orientation should work together, space usage in QUAD, programming in the beer gardens, etc. Although these are very preliminary discussions, based on our conversations, I do think there could be some substantial changes to the way Week of Welcome operates next year. Looking forward, I think we need to find ways to encourage not only students to participate, but for professors and staff as well.

Sustainability Awareness Week (SAW)

October 19th to 23rd, 2009

I have already highlighted this event under the section on Sustainability.

SU Kids Christmas Party (SUKCP)

December 4th, 2009

SUCPK is an annual event where the SU busses in students from a high-needs innercity elementary school for a day of pizza, crafts, cookie decorating, carols, and, of course, a visit from Santa Clause! This year we are expecting to have 90 some kids at this event. If you are still interested in volunteering, some spots still might be open. You can contact Alena at avpsl@su.ualberta.ca for more info.

Anti-Freeze 2010

January 5th to 9th, 2010

Registration for Anti-Freeze 2010 will occur on December 2nd starting at noon on SUB Stage. This year, the competition will have six player teams. In doing so, we are hoping to make the event more accessible to students and possibly more intense. Although I have really enjoyed the format in the past, I am really excited that we are trying

something new and not shying away from mixing up with the formula. I have competed in this competition the last two years and it will be interesting to be on the other side of this event for once.

Campus Cup: Dare to Dodge

February 5th to 7th, 2010

This is the event that keeps getting bigger. Unfortunately, given everything else that has been occurring in my portfolio, I have not been able to devote much time to this. However, in the last few weeks we have started having regular meetings and we should be on track to having a Campus Wide Dodgeball Event. There are so many different groups working on this that it really is becoming a campus event.

During this weekend, we will have 4 simultaneously run tournaments, with the winner of each playing against each other for the cup in the final. If it fills up, as we are expecting it to, over 1000 people will be playing dodgeball through the course of the weekend.

Registration should begin in early January. You can expect more information to be available very soon.

Students' Union Centenary Week

February 8th to 12th, 2010

This week will being with the conclusion of Campus Cup and finish the following weekend with an SU Alumni Dinner the following weekend. Currently there are no firm details to provide on the weeks event however more information should be available at the beginning of next semester.

Campus' Got Talent

March 24th 2010

Registration will occur in March for the 3rd annual Campus' Got Talent. If you have a crazy talent or skill that you would like to share with you peers, be sure to register in early March. Or, if you currently have no crazy talent or skill, you now have 4 months to learn and prepare one for the event.

Movie Nights

Last Tuesday of Every Month

This semester, we have tried having movie nights exclusively on the last Tuesday of every month. This Tuesday night, we are going to try having a "Movie & a Pint Night" in RATT. I'm really excited to see how this event goes.

Other Programming Initiatives

Student Life Events Committee/Street Team

The Street Team this year has been essentially the Student Life Events Committee (SLEC) with a promotional component that did not exist last year. Normally SLEC receives "Week of Welcome" branded jackets but this year we gave them "SU Street

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Vice President (Student Life) Mid-term Report

Team" branded jackets that would make them more visible for the entirety of the year. Outside of their normal programming duties (Week of Welcome, Anti-Freeze) they have also helped promote other programming and initiatives like Sustainability Awareness Week, Movie Nights, & the Health & Dental Plan opt-out deadline. For next semester, outside of their regular programming duties, there has also been discussions of using them to help promote voting on election days.

Although some of the Executive had requested to use the Street Team for other initiatives this year, I insisted that this was a pilot project and that I felt it was best that the Street Team focus on opportunities and initiatives within the VPSL portfolio. In doing so, my perspective on the role of an SU Street Team within the organization has changed in the last few months.

The fact is some students are interested in the advocacy work that we do and others are not. Likewise some students are interested in the programming that we do and others are not. The VPSL Street Team focuses on the latter (the two exceptions being the Health Plan & elections) and I think this division of roles is important. The thought process would be that hopefully when students see the green jackets they associate it with the "fun" component of the organization rather than the more serious part. I do believe that advocacy outreach is important but I think that it is better left to members of the SU who are already more equipped to discuss some of those issues with students. In my opinion, advocacy outreach efforts should be left to members of Students' Council while non-advocacy outreach should be left to the Street Team.

We have taken a conservative approach with the Street Team's mandate and usage, trying to be sensitive and respectful of the fact that many students are not interested in our programming. In being cautious and deliberate in its use, I think we have developed a good sense of where, when, and with what to approach students. I will admit that given everything else that is occurring this year, I have not had as much opportunity to invest in this as I would like but still believe that the Street Team is an idea that still has a lot of potential and room for expansion. Moving forward, there should be many opportunities to further develop what improvements could be made to our outreach efforts for next year with any incoming VPSLs.

Online Events Calendar

This has been an ongoing project this year and I cannot guarantee that it will be completed before my term finishes. Essentially, we are working on a new events calendar that would significantly improve the overall visibility of events on campus and hopefully create a central hub for students to find out what is occurring on campus. The meetings that we have had thus far have made this project look very promising.

Dewey's/Room at the Top

This summer I worked with the Vice President Fentiman to ensure we had it as a space for the next three years. Although we have secured the space, I am hoping to have more discussions about how we can improve it as a student space. I have really enjoyed the student art that is currently on display and I would be interested to see what other kinds of opportunities there are to help groups in promoting many of the evening events that already occur at Dewey's on a regular basis. We have also had some discussion about

Vice President (Student Life) Mid-term Report

how we can improve programming in Room at the Top however much of this has been left on the back burner given many of the other initiatives that are going on.

Coalition Against High Risk Drinking (CAHRD)

I have been working on a committee with various members of the campus community since the summer on an educational campaign and research project to raise awareness on high risk drinking. This has manifested itself in much of the "Check Yourself" material that was designed by our Marketing Department and is now peppered across campus. The material includes a link to a website where students can fill out a survey and be see where based on their consumption habits, on a graph they rank against there peers. The campaign also uses the survey to collect general information on how students respond to different alcohol awareness tactics, the results of which should be completed sometime next summer.

Closing (Further Considerations)

For someone who was disenfranchised from the Students' Union three years ago, I have come a long way. Being an Executive member has given me a different and unique perspective on the Students' Union as an organization. In the last seven months I have come to really appreciate the hard work that hundreds of staff and volunteers have, unbeknownst to me, put in for my last five years at the University. These people work tirelessly on an annual basis to make sure students needs are met on almost every level imaginable. We are by no means a perfect organization without flaws and ongoing challenges, nor are we exactly resourced 100% to where we would like to be as of yet, but in meeting and speaking with my peers at other students associations, and in visiting other campuses, we are certainly leaders among our peers in terms of the variety of our services, the quality of student space we provide, and the level of advocacy work we deliver (among other things). Given the extensive amount that we provide to students, I think it is impressive what students get for \$35.43/semester.

It is unlikely that I will be adding any new large projects this year. As I hinted at above, the Students' Union does have limits in terms of what it can deliver and accomplish (as does any organization) and with everything that is happening we are stretching those limits. Much of the rest of the year will now be devoted to following through with current projects and preparation for transitioning my successor on many of the ongoing issues so that they can move the ball forward too. In many respects, you can consider this document as the beginning of that transition for anybody that is interested in running for this position.

Once again, I would like to reiterate that this report provides only a brief overview on many of the items within the VPSL portfolio. If you would like more information on anything, I would encourage you to make time and follow-up with me.

Good luck with exams. Take care of each other and we will see you on the other side.

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Appendix

Council Reports

Available online at:

http://www.su.ualberta.ca/student_government/students_council/2009-2010A

VPSL Committees

Note: This is not an exhaustive list of the committees the VPSL is on.

U-Pass Internal Committee

U-Pass Joint Advisory Committee

Athletics & Recreation Fee Advisory Committee (ARFAC)

Health Centre Advisory Committee (HCAG)

Physical Activities & Wellness Centre Committee (PAW Committee)

SU Council Administration Committee (CAC)

SU Grant Allocation Committee (GAC)

SU Policy Committee

Student Life Events Committee (SLEC)

Student Group Granting Committee

Access Fund Selection Committee

Access Fund Appeals Committee

Alcohol Policy Review Committee (APRC)

Coalition Against High Risk Drinking (CAHRD)

Health Promotion Advisory Committee (HPAC)

General Faculties Council (GFC)

Council of Student Affairs (COSA)

Campus Law Review Committee (CLRC)

Appeals Review Committee

Residence Halls Association Council (RHA Council)

Health & Dental Plan Committee (HDPC)

Mid-term Report

November 24, 2009

Kory Mathewson, President





Summary of Engagements from Nov 17 - Nov 23 2009

Dr. David Dewitt: Discussion on Israel-Palestine Relations - Nov 17 2009

Collective Body of Arts Students - Don't Mind the Gap - Nov 18 2009

Darwin's Sexy Science, with Jay Ingram - Nov 18 2009

Rent proposal discussion and action planning with Lister Hall Students Association and Residence Hall Association - Nov 19 2009

Meeting with Sean Price, Director of Alumni Association - Nov 19 2009

Survey results analysis, prizing planning - Nov 19 2009

Standing Advisory Council on International Engagement - Nov 20 2009

Revolutionary Speaker and Debate Series, discussion on the second event with the University of Alberta Atheists and Agnostics and Campus for Christ - Nov 20 2009

Lunch with Dean of Students and Director of Alumni Association, discussion on the collaboration of the three groups, and Dare to Dodge, Faculty Club - Nov 20 2009

Vaccination Planning, with Laird Burton, Manager of the Office of Emergency Management, Residence Halls Association, Graduate Students' Association, and Dima Utgoff, Director of Residence Services - Nov 20 2009

Meeting with Financial Services on Credit Card Tuition Payment - Nov 20 2009

Mid-term Report from the President

My 2009-2010 term as President is more than half over, and what an amazing adventure it has been. I would like to take a moment to reiterate my main message from my platform. My goal as Students' Union President is to ensure greater communication exists between students, student groups, faculty associations, faculty, administration and the Students' Union; the entire University community.

My experiences as a student leader on campus have impressed upon me that even the most disenfranchised student can have a memorable and beneficial university experience and that change can be achieved for all students. The extent to which you participate with be the measure of your rewards.

This report, unlike my report on the first 100 days in office, is broken into smaller, manageable sections, which should make it easier to read. The days ahead are not going to be easy, but I feel that the Students' Union is ready for these upcoming challenges. As always, I encourage feedback and discussion on any of the information that is presented here.

2009-2010 Tuition, Rent, Market Modifiers, and Student Fees

The Market Modifier Information Package was sent out on November 20 2009 to members of Students' Council, Council of Faculty Associations, General Faculties Council Student Caucus, and the Residence Hall Association. The Board of Governors would vote on any proposal on March 26 2009. The vote on the maximum tuition increase proposal, this year at 1.5% and rent increase proposal, this year at 3.8%, would take place on December 11.

Faculty Associations, like those in Medicine and Pharmacy, are using the internet and online collaboration to inform their members, and collect feedback on the Market Modifier, and Student Fee proposals. Great leadership is being display by empowered student leaders and we, as representatives of the Students' Union, and all students, must continue to do everything we can to support open dialog, transmission of information, and the various lobbying efforts.

100 Years of the Students' Union

"This is a momentous year for the Students' Union, during which we will celebrate 100 years of serving students, and this theme of celebrating achievements and looking forward is reflected in the major projects that we have in the planning stages over the summer months."

There are two very excited Centenary items that I would like to highlight. The first is a new award celebrating our achievements and the work of amazing student leaders on campus, the second is looking forward by connecting current student leaders with past leaders to share knowledge and experience to help build the future.

Students' Union Centenary Award for Leadership and Community Involvement

- Field of Study: Open, Value: \$1000, Number: One
- Conditions: Awarded to a student with satisfactory academic standing continuing in the second, third or fourth year of study in any undergraduate degree program.
- Selection based on demonstrated leadership, growth through leadership roles, involvement within the University of Alberta campus community; and demonstrated ability to engage and encourage peers to become involved in student life, student politics and student community.
- Donor: University of Alberta Students' Union and Alumni and Friends of the University of Alberta
- Apply: By application to the Office of the Dean of Students by January 31st –
 included with application you must submit a letter of reference written by a peer
 reinforcing your eligibility for this award.
- Funding: Annually funded with the intent to endow the award, pending sufficient funding

Alumni Dinner and Leadership Summit

- This event will be taking place on February 13 2009. The Honourable Peter Lougheed is confirmed as Keynote Speaker.
- This event may end up being a collaboration with Administration and University of Alberta Libraries.
- It will also tie in perfectly with the progress on connecting with Alumni, and the upcoming Students' Union Alumni Chapter.

Students' Union Alumni Chapter

There has been much Alumni Council support on the creation of this new chapter mainly through two supportive individuals: John Perrino, Coordinator of Alumni Chapters, and Chloe Chalmers, Coordinator of Students and Young Alumni.

What this chapter would require to start is at least twenty-five members to sign up, or at least express interest in the chapter as well as the strong initiative of several Alumni members. I see the Alumni Dinner and Leadership Summit as an annual event that the new chapter can support, plan, and facilitate.

Undergraduate Student Survey 2009

The summary of results for the survey is live

at https://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=RtRMwH1aurx1gOeeUh26Szi4ipO9M4 efuo4i 2fgkQjvE 3d. I am currently working on a report of interesting findings to be complete by December 2009. Winners will be emailed before the end of November 2009. The results are valid based on faculty composition, and volume of responses.

With a fantastic rate of completion, and an amazing 6742 students completing the survey, I am confident that students on this campus value the opportunity to share their feelings, views, opinions, and thoughts with the Students' Union.

The Revolutionary Speaker and Debate Series

The series is built on a mandate to promote revolutionary and free thought within the campus community, foster joint initiatives between the Students' Union and campus groups; and encourage student engagement with, and promotion of, the Students' Union. This year will feature three events:

- "Energy, at what cost?"
 - Took place on October 19 2009 in the Myer Horowitz Theatre.
 - Almost 200 in attendance, and streamed to Augustana Campus for remote attendance.
 - Collaboration with Energy Club, Office of Sustainability, Campus Sustainability Coalition, Environmental & Conservation Sciences Students' Association and other groups.
- "Intelligent Design vs. Natural Evolution"
 - January 28 2009, planing in collaboration with University of Alberta Atheists and Agnostics and Campus for Christ.
- "Peace in the Middle East: The Israel-Palestine Conflict"
 - March 2009, planing in collaboration with Hillel, Muslim Students' Association, Palestine Solidarity Network.

Dare to Dodge: Campus Cup Dodgeball Tournament

The Dare to Dodge: Campus Cup Dodgeball Tournament will take place February 5, 6, and 7 2009 and will be a huge, very exciting event. It will serve as an excellent opportunity for the Students' Union to connect, and engage, many of the existing groups on campus in an environment filled with camaraderie and fun. I have heard that it may even qualify as a Guinness World Record Attempt.

There will be many mini-tournaments, all over the University of Alberta campuses, all culminating on the final day with a proud champion, and a trophy ceremony. This event will require a lot of planning, both central to the Students' Union, and decentralized for each of the mini-tournaments, if you have ever planned a campus wide Dodgeball tournament before then we should chat!

Credit Card Tuition Payment

We are currently conducting a viability discussion with the University. The Students' Union has the capability to provide this service. So far, we have support and interest in creating this service from the Registrar and Financial Services.

We could develop a system to be launched for January 30 2009, the Winter Term fee Payment Deadline, which would allow students to pay their full tuition, fees with a credit card, hopefully both online and in person.

Online Presence Review

Twitter - http://twitter.com/uasupresident

110 Followers. This is a very useful system for connecting with the large network
of student leaders, province and nation wide. It also allows us an opportunity to
quickly share links, and information, and has been used as an informal public
discussion during Council sessions.

Facebook - http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=17098027825

• 1643 Fans. This a very useful system for event promotion, as has been seen with the two Tuition Talks at Students' Council.

Executive Blog - http://blog.su.ualberta.ca

• Weekly posts of interesting updates are very useful to provide information on media quotes, and keep track of information, and events during the year.

News Tracking – http://www.delicious.com/su advocacy

• This site is used to keep track of the media relating to the Advocacy efforts of the Students' Union, including all articles with an Executive member's quotes.

Website - http://www.su.ualberta.ca

Calendar redesign - http://blog.su.ualberta.ca/index.php/events/2009/11, further redesigns being discussed. Usage is quite high on the website, specifically for some services, like the Housing Registry, Exam Registry, Tutor Registry.

Annual Giving Mail out

Jeff Wright, Office of External Relations approached the Students' Union to write the Annual Giving letter, which was sent to Alumni and Friends of the University. This was a great opportunity to share our message with the extensive University donor community.

As well, this gave us an opportunity to promote the new Students' Union Centenary Award. A sample of the letter, and the Annual Giving package is attached to the Nov 23 2009 Students' Council agenda late additions.

Academic Plan Submission

"Collaboration has been a focus for our Academic team this year, as we continue to seek feedback from all interested students...Hopefully the ideas of these bright minds will help to create an undergraduate experience that is truly world class."

This year, amazing work by the Vice-President (Academic) and the entire Academic team, as well as the executive, has produced an Academic Plan submission that is continuing to shape the discussion of Academic Planning for the University of Alberta.

Leah Trueblood, Vice-President (Academic) has been asked to be a writer on the University's Academic Plan; this is an incredible opportunity for students to help shape this institution. I congratulate her efforts, and trust her abilities to excel in this opportunity.

Goals Review and Brief Action Summary

Increase Support for Student Groups

- Action: Restructure of Student Group Services
- Action: Renovate student group space
- Action: Revise student group granting policies and procedures
- Action: collaborate and integrate on event planning

Create Used Textbook Programs

- · Action: Hire Academic Materials Consultant
- Action: Conduct textbook revision checking and information dispersal

Increase Quality of Food on Campus

- Action: Ensure student voice in food provider selection process
- Action: Revise menus at Dewey's and Room at the Top

Ensure Accountability in the Students' Union Fees

- Action: Review Dedicated Fee Unit policies
- Action: Conduct operating costs review

Increase Quality of instruction through student feedback

- Action: Collaborate on Academic Plan submission
- Action: Create and submit Student Rating of Instructor roadmap

Provide Student Financial Aid Information

- Action: Publicize Undergraduate Awards
- Action: Create Students' Union Centenary Award

Ensure Sustainability in Operations

- Action: Collaborate on Sustainability Awareness Week
- Action: Plan and execute "Energy, at what cost?" panel discussion
- Action: Conduct Sustainability Audit

Integrate with Student Groups, Residence Students, Fraternities and Sororities, and Graduate Students' Association

- Action: Sign new Dewey's Agreement with the Graduate Students' Association
- Action: Plan and execute Campus Cup Dodgeball Tournament with the Lister Hall Students' Association and the Residence Halls Association
- Action: Solve Muslim Students' Association Prayer Space in the Students' Union Building Collaborate on the Revolutionary Speaker and Debate Series

Closing

Thank you for your support and questions, your enthusiasm and collaboration. Thank you for your commitment to the Students' Union, your Executive, your student groups, your residence halls, your fraternities or sororities, your faculty associations, your campus recreation teams, your lab partners and study groups.

Thank you for your ideas and thank you for playing devil's advocate when necessary. Thank you. It has been, and will continue to be much appreciated. Thank you for helping to shape the next 100 years of the Students' Union.

This year there will be challenges with the U-Pass re-negotiation, with the Bylaw 2000, and with continuing to ensure this institution listens to the voices of the world-class students, like you. Thank you for your help in supporting the Students' Union as it faces the upcoming challenges of the year.

I urge you to contact me with any questions or comments at president@su.ualberta.ca. I would love to chat about the next 6 months with each and every one of you.

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



Annual Giving

3rd Floor, 10230 Jasper Avenue NW Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 4P6

www.giving.ualberta.ca giving@ualberta.ca Tel: 780.492.4948 Fax: 780.492.1862



November 2, 2009

Dear M. D. College

When was the last time you received a letter from a University of Alberta student?

In preparing this letter I have gained a new appreciation for the generosity of couples like you. By supporting the U of A today, you are making a long-lasting impact on the lives of students, faculty members and researchers. Here are a few of my perspectives, as a student, which illustrate the value and impact of your generosity:

- With the ever-escalating costs of completing a university education, gifts supporting student scholarships, awards and bursaries, as well as enhanced learning and academic programming, ensure that a university education is within reach for all who desire it.
- Nothing can rival the energy at the U of A when students return to school in the fall. Alive with
 excitement, the future leaders, teachers and doctors of the world arrive at our campuses, eager to
 participate in a world-class academic environment and student experience. In particular, Quad has
 been a centre of activity this year, and it is the generosity of supporters like you that have made this
 possible.
- Through your support, the university has been able to recruit the highest calibre faculty members, construct modern learning facilities, and be innovative in the scholarship of teaching and learning. You have provided the momentum that has made the University of Alberta the distinguished institution that it is today. Thank you! All U of A students are the proud beneficiaries of your support.

Donations made in 2008 were higher than ever. We need to keep the momentum going through 2009. Last year, we received \$2.93 million in donations of gifts of less than \$1,000. Your generosity adds up in a hurry! The Students' Union Student Access Fund is another testament to this. Did you know that currently each student contributes \$17.72 annually to this fund, which provides financial assistance to students in dire financial need? Last year we awarded nearly \$800,000 from this fund; an outstanding example of students helping students.

In speaking with my fellow students from the Faculty of Science I have learned great things. They told me about the Rising Star Scholarships, which award \$1,000 scholarships to every student who enters the faculty with a high school average of 90% or better. What a tremendous impact this is having on the faculty's ability

to recruit the best and brightest science students. Another new program, Science 100, is creating a vibrant and innovative approach to science education, which will position Alberta at the forefront of discovery. Available to first year science students, the program integrates aspects of all the science disciplines by incorporating courses offered by the seven departments in the Faculty of Science. And finally - Wow! What a building that Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS) is going to be!

I also had the opportunity to speak with students from the Alberta School of Business. Our business school is ranked number one in Western Canada, and ranked 77th internationally. The School not only excels in having great teachers and researchers, but also fosters a great student culture outside the classroom. Students are getting a great education and a great experience too: they are involved in business co-op jobs and internships, they can choose to study abroad for a semester and they compete in national business competitions. Whether it is at the undergraduate, MBA or PhD level, the Alberta School of Business is truly a great educational experience.

These are wonderful reasons to be proud of your university. I am sure you will agree that many great dreams begin with a successful university education and initiatives like this.

Support from students, alumni and friends of the university ensure an added margin of excellence is offered to each and every student. This, in turn, ensures we are given the opportunity to choose and pursue a career and life opportunities upon which we can one day look back and thank and recognize the U of A for providing.

I am asking you to continue to invest in the world-class experience at the University of Alberta, and to accept the enclosed postcard as a small token of our appreciation for your ongoing support. Enjoy and share the autumn colours on our campus – it's been beautiful here!

Please review your past contributions, complete the enclosed form, and choose to invest in the dreams and aspirations of our students and researchers. You can also make your gift online via a new and secure giving page: www.giving.ualberta.ca.

Thank you for your commitment to our students,

Kory Mathewson '10

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President, University of Alberta Students' Union

P.S. This year marks the Centenary of the Students' Union. In recognition of students' contributions over the past 100 years, we have created a Students' Union Centenary Award. Please consider an additional gift that will support this award. With your help, the award will recognize students who contribute significantly to our community and beyond. Learn more about this and other SU Centenary events at www.su.ualberta.ca.

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