

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

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Tuesday June 22, 2010  
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

## LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2010-05)

2010-05/1 SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

2010-05/2 PRESENTATIONS

2010-05/3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

2010-05/4 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

2010-05/5 QUESTION PERIOD

2010-05/6 BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2010-05/6f

**TIGHE/LEPAGE FORTIN MOVES THAT** upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students' Council approve Bill #9 that Students' Council adopt the Political Policy, Public Transit, in the first reading based on the following principles

1. That the Students' Union advocate that the regional municipalities and transit services carefully monitor service demand arising from U-pass implementation, consider input from stakeholders and commit all resources necessary to maintain reliable, safe and timely service;
2. That the Students' Union advocate for a more affordable option than a regular adult pass for spring and summer students;
3. That the Students' Union negotiate a new, long-term U-Pass contract to be implemented upon the expiry of the current contract;
4. That the Students' Union advocate that the regional municipalities and transit services expand their current service systems, prioritizing LRT, BRT and implementation of Smartcard technology, to better meet the needs of the University of Alberta students.
5. That this policy expire on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Please see document LA 10-05.01

2010-05/7 GENERAL ORDERS

2010-05/7d **PARSONAGE/COX MOVES THAT** Students' Council adopt Bill #6 in second

reading based on the following principles:

1. That a Students' Union political policy prohibits any person from representing any opinion divergent from Students' Union political policy as being the opinion of the Students Union; and
2. That a Students' Union political policy does not prohibit any person from representing any opinion not expressed by Students' Union political policy as being the opinion of the Students' Union.

Please see document LA 10-05.02

- 2010-05/7e**      **FENTIMAN MOVES THAT** Students' Council appoint one member of Students' Council to the WUSC Student Refugee Program Board.
- 2010-05/8**      **INFORMATION ITEMS**
- 2010-05/8d**      James Eastham, VP Academic- Report  
Please see document LA 10-05.03
- 2010-05/8e**      Policy Committee- Report  
Please see document LA 10-05.04
- 2010-05/8f**      CAC- Report  
Please see document LA 10-05.05
- 2010-05/8g**      Zach Fentiman, VP Operations and Finance- Goals  
Please see document LA 10-05.06
- 2010-05/8h**      Nick Dehod, President- Report  
Please see document LA 10-05.07

**THE STUDENTS' UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**  
**POLITICAL POLICY STATEMENT**

<i>Policy Number:</i> <b>4</b>	<i>Effective Date:</i> <b>September 11, 2007</b>	<i>Page</i> <b>1</b> <i>of</i> <b>1</b>
	<i>Expiration Date:</i> <b>April 30, 2010</b>	
<i>Responsibility for Policy:</i>	<b>External Policy Committee</b>	
<i>Subject Matter</i>	<b>POLITICAL POLICY (GENERAL)</b>	
- <i>Category:</i>	<b>Public Transit</b>	
- <i>Specific:</i>		
- <i>Topic</i>		

Whereas public transit is a common mode of transportation used by University of Alberta students that benefits the quality of life of all members in the community;

Whereas the U-Pass was supported by 84.8% of undergraduates in March 2007 by campus-wide referendum;

Whereas the U-Pass is to be implemented in the 2007/2008, 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 academic years;

Whereas spring and summer students are not eligible for a U-Pass during those terms;

Whereas the post-secondary bus pass provides a more affordable public transit option for students than a regular adult pass;

Whereas public transit expansion would allow improved access for University of Alberta students to commute within the service area;

Whereas light rail transit (LRT) and bus rapid transit (BRT) are efficient and reliable forms of public transit;

Whereas Smartcard technology would reduce the possibility for U-pass fraud and reduce the need for a U-Pass replacement fee.

Be it resolved that the University of Alberta Students' Union advocate that the regional municipalities and transit services carefully monitor service demand arising from U-pass implementation, consider input from stakeholders and commit all resources necessary to maintain reliable, safe and timely service;

**Policy History:**  
**Reference/Vote**  
Created 2007-07  
2007-11/5a(ii)

**Board/Committee**  
EPC

**Date of Council Approval**  
July 24, 2007  
Sept. 18, 2007 2<sup>nd</sup> reading

- (2) A short term proxy will, for the duration of his/her appointment, have all the rights and responsibilities of the Councillor who appointed him/her, excepting the right to serve on standing committees.
- (3) A long term proxy will, for the duration of his/her appointment, have all the rights and responsibilities of the Councillor who appointed him/her.
- (4) A proxy's appointment is not effective in the attendance of the Councillor who appointed him/her.
- (5) A Councillor who has designated a proxy retains access to all resources that he/she would otherwise be entitled.

## 9. Conduct of Meetings

- (1) Quorum of Students' Council is a majority of its current voting membership.
- (2) Where legislation does not contradict it, *Robert's Rules of Order* shall be observed at all meetings of Students' Council.

## 10. Legislation

- (1) Students' Union bylaws
  - (a) are directives perpetually requiring and/or prohibiting action on the part of the Students' Union;
  - (b) are adopted, amended, or rescinded by two simple majority votes of Students' Council occurring not less than seven days apart; and
  - (c) do not expire.
- (2) A Students' Union political policy
  - (a) is a directive to the Executive Committee dictating on what issues Students' Union advocacy efforts should be directed;
  - (b) shall be explicitly tied to a standing committee;
  - (c) requires the Executive Committee to submit an implementation plan to the standing committee to which it is tied;
  - (d) prohibits any person from representing any opinion ~~not expressed~~ divergent by from Students' Union political policy as being the opinion of the Students' Union;
  - (e) is not binding on the Students' Union except as noted;
  - (f) is adopted, amended, or rescinded on two simple majority votes of Students' Council held not less than seven days apart; and
  - (g) shall expire, but may be renewed by a simple majority vote of Students' Council.
- (3) Standing orders of Students' Council
  - (a) are ongoing instructions to members of Students' Council and Students' Union staff respecting the manner of execution of Students' Council logistics;

**Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education 2010 conference in Toronto, June 22-27<sup>th</sup>**

I will be away from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> while I attend the STLHE conference in Toronto. I will be accompanying John Braga, Karen Rovagnolo, Dr Heather Kanuka and Dr Connie Varnhagen to give a panel discussion on last years' Pedagogical Provocations. I will also be attending sessions related to teaching and learning practices in post secondary education.

**Textbooks**

While at AMICUSS, our GM Marc Dumouchel approached his counterparts at other Students' Unions about creating a joint textbook publishing consortium. The goal of the project would be to provide low cost textbooks to students, as well as pressure the digital market towards more user friendly DRM.

This week Marc Dumouchel, Kristen Badley and I had a Skype meeting with the Brock University Students' Union regarding a partnership on digital publishing. We are having Kristen research various aspects related to a digital publishing project and will likely meet in Calgary with UCSU, and BUSU to discuss if we want to move forward with the idea.

**Centre for Teaching and Learning Associate Director interviews**

The CTL is hiring a new Associate Director, as part of the interview process each candidate is required to give a public lecture and presentation. So far Dr. Kim West, Dr Liam Rourke and Dr Maria Cutumisu have presented. Dr Genevieve Gauthier will be presenting on the 30<sup>th</sup>. I will inform you of the successful candidate when they are announced.

**New Vice Provost (Academic)**

Dr Olive Younge, the current Vice Provost Academic Programs is stepping down on July 1 after five years in the position. I would like to thank her for all of her dedication to the students of the University of Alberta.

Dr Colleen Skidmore, will be replacing her, I look forward to working with her in the coming months.

# *Report to Council – Policy Committee*

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Yo Council,

Previously on P.C.:

1. We looked at Academic Materials, Public Transit, and PSLA
2. We are not renewing the PSLA policy. It does not make very much sense. We do not believe that convincing the government to allow the Students' Union to exist if the University of Alberta does not is a good use of political capital.

Next time on the P.C.:

1. We will be looking at the Deferred Maintenance, Affordable Housing, and International Student Differential policies

Notes:

When the policy committee looks at a policy and actively decides that the policy should not be renewed, Students' Council will be informed in these reports to Council.

Cheers,  
Natalie C. Cox

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Hello Council,

CAC had a discussion surrounding CRO hiring. As per bylaw 2000, the interview panel will be consisting of two DIE Board tribunes (to be announced). Because the CRO's term is complete and she is out of the country, we are looking for another former elections officer to sit in on the interview as a non-voting member to provide advice and insight to the two tribunes. I expect to have interviews complete and a recommendation before Council before the end of the month.

CAC also sought comments and feedback from the Council Retreat. Overall people seemed to feel it was worthwhile. We compiled a feedback survey which will be sent out to all attendees very soon.

Additionally, the CRO contract was reviewed and necessary revisions were made to bring it in line with policy and practice (it had not been updated in years and had a number of glaring violations of bylaw – eg. the contract said that the CRO reports to the President even though bylaw 2000 states the CRO reports directly to Council). We will also be updating contracts for DROs and the Speaker to hopefully bring them both up to speed.

CAC had a discussion surrounding a report out of Mount Royal University Students' Association regarding executive remuneration for student associations across Alberta. The University of Alberta Students' Union was substantially lower than the pack in some areas of the report. CAC decided that they would pursue a more detailed review and analysis over the coming months. It is also worth noting that no executives were in the room for this discussion – executives in attendance for the earlier part of the meeting excused themselves from this discussion to avoid a conflict of interest.

*No formal motions were made at the meeting.*

See you at the next meeting!

Cheers,  
Craig

June 21, 2010

To: Students' Council

Cc: Executive Committee

Re: VPOF Goals 2010-2011

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## **Strategic Plan Review & Building Visioning**

*Summary:* President Dehod is planning on initiating a review of the Students' Union's strategic plan. While I will be involved at the executive level in a general sense, I am particularly interested in developing within the strategic plan a building and spaces strategy. SUB has become the centerpiece to our campus as a center for student services, relaxation/study space, and successful business environment, which has lead 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.

*Tasks:*

- Review past building strategy documentation.
- Work with the President to integrate building planning into the strategic plan—this may include consultation with stakeholders, working groups, surveys, etc.

*Milestones:* Draft and final strategic plan: TBD

*Deliverables:* A strategic plan with a comprehensive component dedicated to the Students' Union Building and student spaces in general that will assist with any future planning.

## **The PAW Centre**

*Summary:* With the successful referendum to construct the Physical Activity and Wellness Centre, the next stages of the process need to be launched.

*Tasks:*

- Work with stakeholders to develop a building business plan.
- Concurrently work with stakeholders on a building agreement that shall be subject to Students' Council's approval.
- Establish a working group that shall be dedicated to working with developers to inform the design and construction process.

*Milestones:* Business plan complete: TBD



Building agreement to Students' Council: TBD

*Deliverables:* Student input and demands will be reflected in the construction of the building by ensuring we are diligent stakeholders throughout the design and construction process. Also this will ensure the governance component is developed as per referendum requirements.

### **Business Competitiveness & Value Review**

*Summary:* 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, branding).
- Review and update customer service standards.
- Identify and capitalize on changing trends (i.e.: sustainability, organic foods, digital publishing technology).
- Explore expanding business operations elsewhere on campus(es).
- Explore best practices from other student organizations or from industry.

*Milestones:* Business analyst term complete: End of summer term.  
Implementation of recommendations: Ongoing

*Deliverables:* Continual focus on competitive review processes within our retail and food & beverage operations, improved quality of service in retail and food & beverage operations, and business operations that are more responsive to the market and student needs.

### **Room At The Top & Dewey's: Service, Product, Events, & Character**

*Summary:* Room At The Top and Dewey's both have major potential in being incredibly popular and unique student social spaces on campus. Last year we revitalized the Room At The Top space and worked to generate more business from students. Also, we were able to renew the Dewey's space agreement with the University of another three years. Even with these successes, I think there is tremendous opportunity to continue improving on what I shall call the four dimensions of a campus bar: service, product, events, and character.

*Tasks:* Improve customer service standards and training.  
Improve and continually re-assess menu/product offering.  
Improve the character of both locations (décor/design elements, etc.).  
Improve/expand programming (events) within both areas.

*Milestones:* Have décor improvements complete by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.  
Business analyst term complete: End of summer.

*Deliverables:* Better, more comfortable, unique & special campus bars with satisfied customers.

## **The Academic Materials Landscape & SUBtitles/SUBprint**

*Summary:* The cost of academic materials represents an ever-increasing barrier to post secondary education access to students. This year there is a possibility for the U of A Students' Union to take a leadership role in efforts to reduce the cost of textbooks. As well as reviving the Canadian Roundtable of Academic Materials, the UASU has the opportunity to work in partnership with other Students' Union's to form a digital textbook publishing consortium in order to shape this newly emerging market. This will further influence the business model employed by both SUBtitles and SUBprint.

*Tasks:*

- Work with other Students' Union's to:
  - Research textbook writing, review and publishing process
  - Identify target subjects for initial efforts
  - Develop business model for the consortium
  - Commission textbook

*Milestones:* Meeting in Calgary to decide on feasibility of plan: mid-July  
Set strategic direction and decide on business model: TBD  
Commissioning of trial textbook: TBD

CRAM Conference: October

*Deliverables:* Opportunities to shape the textbook market through the use of both market pressure and lobbying publishers. This could result in significant savings for students in the long term.

## **Sustainability in the Students' Union & the Sustainability Audit**

*Summary:* 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. This year, we've hired a Sustainability Audit Coordinator who is tasked with evaluating our performance and making recommendations.

*Tasks:*

- Research and Develop Auditing Tools
  - Investigate auditing tools available (ie. Campus Sustainability Assessment Framework, and Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System)
  - Develop a suitable and relevant list of indicators
  - Work with the Vice President (Operations & Finance) and Students' Union Executive Committee to create clear objectives and expectations for the project
  - Create a work plan to ensure the completion of the audit
- Involve and work with key stakeholders in planning and implementing the audit
  - Train and orient volunteers to the project to gain commitment from campus community members
  - Work with staff and volunteers to collect data and information
- Report and communicate the findings of the audit
  - Keep updated documentation throughout the summer including information that is received
  - Provide transition documents for future recommendations on carrying out an audit
  - Contribute to the short and long-term plan for the audit project (follow-up) as well as recommendations for sustainability within the SU as a whole
  - Produce a written report at the end of the summer including an overarching vision for the organization, statistics collected for each indicator, and short-term and long-term goals and recommendations
  - Report and present findings to members of the Students' Union

*Milestones:*

Hire Sustainability Audit Coordinator: May 2010  
Have completed audit: late-August  
Other initiatives: Ongoing

*Deliverables:*

Improved implementation and communication of SU sustainability initiatives.

All Students' Union operations maintaining ethical purchasing standards and striving for environmentally sustainable practices.

## **Student Group Services**

*Summary:*

Work with the Dean of Students to continue to make improvements to the granting process while working to reduce barriers to accessing these funds. I will also work with Students' 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:*
- Continue updating the framework with the Office of the Dean of Students and the Grant Allocation Committee for a combined student group granting committee.
  - Establish relatively objective guidelines for evaluating applications.
- Milestones:*
- Updated granting forms: mid-June
  - Other initiatives: ongoing
- Deliverables:* A streamlined granting procedure that is more accessible and makes it simpler to apply for funding.

### **SFAIC, Awards, and the Access Fund**

*Summary:* With the position of Associate Vice President Academic dissolved, a home for awards logistics needs to be found. One opportunity would be to merge the advertising/logistics into the Student Financial Aid & Information Centre, as it would be a good fit. Ideally, this would be managed very similarly to the way the Access Fund is now. The awards night “program” could also be shifted into a programming & venues managed activity.

The other piece is the question of what to do with the Access Fund endowment now that it is no longer being collected. One solution would be to keep a portion of it as a reserve in case the Access Fund delivers an excess of bursaries in a given year, and transfer the remainder into the Student Involvement Endowment Fund (the endowment that Students’ Union awards come from).

- Tasks:*
- Consult with relevant stakeholders GAC, SFAIC, Programming & Venues, VP Academic, Senior Manager (Finance & Administration).
  - Update awards references in bylaw with GAC.

- Milestones:*
- SFAIC manages the logistics side of the awards: mid-Fall.
  - Programming & Venues manages the programming side of awards: mid-Fall.
  - A portion of the Access Fund Endowment is transferred to SIEF.

*Deliverables:* SU awards finds a more suitable home that is more accessible to students and the endowment pool is increased allowing for the creation of more scholarships.

### **Infolink: Rebranding and Infolink Express**

*Summary:* 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. Also, as new buildings come online (CCIS, Edmonton Clinic North, The PAW) ensure designated service space for Infolink. Integrate the SUTV project into the Infolink Express concept.

- Tasks:*
- Consult with relevant stakeholders and develop a service delivery strategy.
  - Install information video monitors in SUB.
  - Revitalize the branding and style of Infolink booths in SUB.
    - If successful, apply to other locations
  - Develop Infolink Express prototype.
  - Discuss with University Facilities & Operations the designation of service spaces in new buildings.

- Milestones:*
- SUB Infolink booths rebranded: late-August.
  - Video monitors installed: late-August.
  - Infolink Express prototype: late-December.

*Deliverables:* Enhanced service delivery across campus(es). Increased ability to reach out to students in localized faculties. Improved usage of Infolink all services.

## **Website Overhaul**

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

- Tasks:*
- Contract with a web developer.
  - Increase accessibility of the website (a.k.a. UI, navigation).
  - Utilize Facebook/Twitter in greater capacity.

- Milestones:*
- Initiate agreement with web developer (Whitematter).
  - Beta testing in early Fall.
  - Website overhaul complete by January 1, 2011.

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

## **Operating Policy and Bylaws 3000 & 6000 Review**

*Summary:* Review operating policies to ensure they are up-to-date and reflect the current needs of the organization. Ensure that operating policies for the building create a safe and inclusive space and businesses maintain ethical purchasing standards. Build an operating policy manual to consolidate all policies in one format that is easily navigable.

Update/reformat Students' Union financial bylaws (3000 & 6000). For bylaw concerning Dedicated Fee Units, bring clarity to DFU board structures (representation) and rules for disbursement.

- Tasks:*
- Conduct a comprehensive review of operating policies with senior management.
  - Consolidate policies into manual format.
  - Retire existing operating policies and adopt updated policies.
  - Update bylaws and forward to Students' Council for review and adoption of any content changes or Bylaw Committee for review of clerical changes.
- Milestones:*
- Operating policy manual adopted: mid-July.
  - Bylaws updated: late-August.
- Deliverables:* All operating policies and finance-related bylaws are up-to-date and straightforward for the organization to follow.

### **Operations & Finance Advisory Board**

- Summary:* The primary goal of the committee is to discuss and advise on areas relevant to the Operations & Finance portfolio, and solicit feedback from the campus community surrounding Students' Union operational and/or financial practices. A secondary goal of the committee is to facilitate and improve student interaction with the Operations & Finance portfolio.
- Tasks:*
- Solicit applications from members of the Students' Union to sit on the committee.
  - Develop a monthly meeting schedule.
- Milestones:*
- Terms of reference developed: End of June, 2010.
  - Monthly meetings.
- Deliverables:* The portfolio of Operations & Finance will be more open and accessible to membership. Monthly reviews and recommendations for business units of the Students' Union.

June 22nd, 2010

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Students' Council

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Greetings Council,

Probably one of the best feelings I have had this term was returning to the office after being in PEI and then Lethbridge and still finding that we are on top of our projects at home. Kudos to the staff for their hard work while Vice President Murphy and I were gone. Since the last council meeting my energy has been heavily focused on external initiatives but thanks to the world-wide-web and other technologies that are making the world smaller, I have been able to touch base on projects at home. Here is an overview of what I have been working on over the last two weeks.

### **Board of Governors Committee**

For the upcoming year I have requested to sit on the Finance & Property Committee and the Safety, Health, & Environment Committee. The calendar for the Board of Governors runs different than the academic calendar and thus, this Friday's meeting marks the end of this BOG year and July will be the beginning of a new term. Thursday night I will be attending a Board of Governor's Dinner in appreciation of the work of the Board over the last twelve months.

### **CASA Policy & Strategy Conference (June 6-11<sup>th</sup>)**

CASA had a strong start to the year with a conference to set our advocacy priorities for the next ten months and with the selection of a new National Director. Vice President Murphy did an admirable job of representing the UASU as our primary delegate. An overview of the conference will be presented at Council tonight.

### **CAUS Lethbridge Meeting**

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, Vice President Murphy and I attended a Council of Alberta University Students meeting in Lethbridge. Some of the business items on the agenda included the CAUS Membership Fee and Budget for 2010/2011, several operating policies, and discussion around student engagement initiatives and the provincial budget. There was also discussion around the Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee Regulation. We are currently getting feedback from the Alberta Student Executive Council on what they would like to see in the regulation before moving forward and taking it to the Minister of Advanced Education & Technology.

### **Communication Infrastructure & Initiatives**

I will not go into details on this here because there is a presentation at council tonight. I am just drawing to your attention that some of my time has been devoted to this in the last few weeks.

### **SUB 2-900 Office Revitalization**

All of the office shuffling is now done and people are starting to settle into their new spaces. We are still gathering input on what our employees would like in the new staff area. Also, furniture in several offices has been replaced or refurbished over the last few weeks. The space is really starting to come together.

### **Sustainability**

We have begun having discussions about how sustainability fits into the future of our organization. Some of the big questions include, who in the organization will be responsible for the recommendations that come out of the audit and what role should ECOS play in our organization and on campus as the Office of Sustainability becomes more established. The overarching goal is to make sustainability a visible value throughout the organization and the question now is how do we get there in the short and long-term, while respecting the realities and limits of our various departments and services. The conversation has been exciting thus far but there is lots of work to do moving forward.

### **Student Mental Health**

We have indicated to the University our interest in pursuing a Fall Reading Week and the Registrar's Office is currently working on determining some of the logistics of implementing a break that should be ready for mid-July. I am also in the process of having some meetings to gather feedback from members of the University community. I expect we will start seeing some movement on this towards the end of July.

Progress is being made on getting more counselors in for September. It has been indicated that there could be as many as 5 new counselors on campus when students get back. The possibility of getting dedicated counselors or health physicians for HUB & Lister is also being discussed. Obviously budgets are tight right now but an active effort is being made to increase support for students in the coming year.

We are also in the process of organizing a meeting with some people from the University's HR department to see where there are opportunities for the Peer Support Centre to partner on health awareness campaigns this year. It will be interesting to see what impact coordinating our collective efforts will make in the coming year.

### **Vacation Time**

For council's information, I will be out of the office for the week of June 28<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup> and July 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, returning to the office on July 12<sup>th</sup>. **Please get in contact with me as soon as possible if you have any concerns or items that require discussion.**

**If you have any further questions, suggestions, or concerns**, please do not hesitate to follow-up with me, either in person at SUB 2-900, by phone at 780-492-4236, or by email at [president@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:president@su.ualberta.ca).

*"To hell with circumstances, I create opportunities" – Bruce Lee*