

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

January 11, 2011
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2010-19)

2010-19/1 **SPEAKER'S BUSINESS**

2010-19/1b Nomination packages for the Exec and BOG elections will be available January 12th at noon in both the SU office and on the SU website.

2010-19/2 **PRESENTATIONS**

2010-19/2c For this presentation, the Executive Committee will give a review of their work in the last 8 months and an update on what can be expected in their final four months in office. Each executive member will briefly speak to highlights from their portfolios and time will be allocated at the end of the presentation for questions and feedback from Council on the work done thus far.

2010-19/3 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

2010-19/3b Executive Review Presentation Document

Please see document LA 10-19.01

2010-19/4 **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

2010-19/5 **QUESTION PERIOD**

2010-19/6 **BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2010-19/7 **GENERAL ORDERS**

2010-19/7d **DEHOD MOVES THAT** Students' Council direct the Bylaw Committee to draft a plebiscite question based on the following:

Do you support establishing an annual Fall Reading Week, subject to the following conditions?

1. Classes would begin on the Wednesday before Labour Day.
2. The Fall Reading Week would occur the same week as Remembrance Day.
3. The Fall Reading Week would apply only to certain faculties and programs in a similar manner to the current Winter Reading Week.

2010-19/7e

DEHOD MOVES THAT Students' Council appoint two members of Students' Council to the Advisory Review Committee for Vice-President (Finance & Administration).

2010-19/8

INFORMATION ITEMS

Preamble

There are a few important things about this report that must be stated upfront. First, although there are five reports here with five different executive members names attached to various initiatives, much of the work in this document reflects the combined effort of nearly 200 full and part-time staff, over 800 volunteers, a provincial and federal lobby group and its staff, members of Students' Council, and members of the University and broader community. There are very few items in this document that are worked on in isolation and without considering the impact each has for the 30 000 undergraduate students at the University of Alberta.

Secondly, much of the work in this document is a continuation on the efforts of executives, staff, and volunteers that have come before us, so it is important to recognize their contributions. Because of the one-year mandate our executives and some of our staff face, it is easy to forget that each year is part of a much larger picture. Some of the "wins" we see today are because of the efforts and hard work of student leaders in earlier years.

That said, as your elected executive team for 2010-2011, although the level of our involvement in many of these initiatives and goals varies from very-involved with the details to just strategic oversight, we are responsible for the day-to-day operations and advocacy efforts of the organization and we take full responsibility for the decisions we have made in our terms. This is not an exhaustive list of all the work the Students' Union has done in the last eight months, but instead a summary of the work that the executive team has focused on. Hopefully in reading this report you will understand what our contribution to the bigger picture is, and as general elections near, a sense of where the organization should head in the 2011-2012 year and beyond. We look forward to hearing your thoughts, comments, questions, and feedback so that we can endeavor to leave the organization in the best possible position to serve students when our terms end in four months and a new executive comes in to carry the ball forward.

All the best in the 2011 Winter Semester,

Nick Dehod
President 2010/2011

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PRESIDENT

Introduction

I would like to start this report by once again outlining what I view the roles and responsibilities of the President to be. Although all executives share these responsibilities, the President is the executive who is primarily responsible for managing and ensuring the efficient and successful day-to-day and long-term workings of the Students' Union's operations and advocacy efforts. This is reflected in having both the Director of Research and Political Affairs (DRPA) and General Manager report directly to the President. The President must continually remain aware of significant issues that impact students and also act as the primary spokesperson for the Students' Union. In terms of goals and projects, aside from the specific initiatives and responsibilities I have, from my perspective the collective goals of all four Vice Presidents comprise the goals of the President.

This portion of the review covers the items that I identified as priorities in my campaign and promised to focus on as President, as well as some of the specific initiatives that I have become responsible for or taken on. The priorities that I identified and have focused on this year are:

- Accessibility & Quality of Post-Secondary Education
- The creation of an SU Strategic Plan
- Sustainability
- Student Mental Health & Wellness
- Communication/Visibility Infrastructure
- Work Environment/Staff Appreciation
- Supporting the Vice Presidents

In regards to the last item, my involvement with goals and initiatives in each portfolio has ranged from heavily involved, to playing an advisory, strategic, or supportive role, to no involvement at all. Even in circumstances where I have had no involvement directly, I still play an indirect role in ensuring our operations and advocacy support are functioning properly. I manage the GM and DRPA so that all that our Vice Presidents have to do is focus on accomplishing their goals. In my report, you will naturally find overlap with projects and items outlined in other Vice Presidents' reports, some of which I have little direct involvement with. In no way do I take credit for the work that they have done. My intent with this report is to provide an update on the areas that I have identified as priorities.

At this point in the year I would hope that you have a reasonable sense of what specifically I am working on. If you would like me to elaborate more on what my direct involvement on the initiatives highlighted below is comprised of, or what projects I'm involved with but am not included in the Vice Presidents' reports, I would encourage you to first read my previous Council reports or follow-up with me directly.

As a final note, one item that is not included in this report but at times does take up a portion of my schedule as President, is my responsibility to represent the SU at numerous functions and events. If you would like a compilation or list of these activities please follow-up and I will compile this information for you.

Accessibility & Quality of Post-Secondary Education

This year's tuition proposal included a CPI increase of 0.35% and a rent proposal increase of 0.8%, both of which were argued and voted against at December's Board of Governor's meeting. With a loss of \$56 million worth of non-repayable student aid, a high level of student unemployment, and increased usage of the Campus Food Bank, accessibility to post-secondary education remains a concern. Although the increase is relatively small to proposals of recent years, taking into account the addition of the CoSSS Fee last year, this increase still amounts to a 6% increase over two years. Although we still would like to see the CoSSS fee rescinded, without increased provincial funding, this seems unlikely in the near future.

The Board also approved a proposal to increase each level of the mandatory meal plans. Our primary concern around the increase is the fading out of the lowest-level meal plan, which also acts as the minimum-level higher meal plans are refundable to. We have a commitment from Ancillary Services to further discuss the possibility of creating a refundable level that is lower than the new minimum mandatory level. This way, we can provide students with an opportunity to get back some of their money if they budget appropriately, but also create an environment that provides incentive for the provider to maintain a certain level of quality and selection.

Given the multitude of projects and issues we were already working on in the fall semester, it was decided that a campaign around the CPI increases would not be the best use of our resources at this time. However, funding for the institution from the province remains a large concern for the UASU, and with many indications that we can expect a provincial election in the next 16 months, preliminary discussion and preparation is beginning with our provincial lobby group, the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), for a PSE-focused campaign sometime in the next year.

CAUS continues to work on a provincial regulation for mandatory non-instructional fees. Based on our discussion and the reception we have seen with the Minister of Advanced Education, I believe it is very likely that we will see some change to the regulation by the end of April. There is also a chance that you will see the discussion go beyond just mandatory non-instructional fees to also include a process for market modifier approvals.

CAUS has also outlined non-repayable student aid as a priority to the Government. Given the current financial situation and our conversations with the province, it does not seem likely that we will see the return of the \$56 million non-repayable student aid that was eliminated last year. However, other initiatives are underway to improve access to student financial aid. This includes the Student Resources Task Force that acts to improve access and identify gaps in the current financial aid that is provided on campus. Vice President Eastham and Vice President Murphy have both attended task force meetings over the last 8 months. The group has been co-chaired by the Dean of Students and past SU President Janelle Morin, though I will likely be taking over for Janelle for the remainder of my term.

The approval draft of the Academic Plan was distributed just before Christmas and contains many of the initiatives that were highlighted in the SU's Submission to the Academic Plan last year. These initiatives still need to survive the final governance approval process, and I remain optimistic that we will be able to secure the majority of them for the final document. The initiatives in the Academic Plan focus on how resources will be allocated for the next five years and as such, the Plan will continue to be an important priority until its final approval.

SU Strategic Plan

As a quick review, it has been several years since the SU reviewed our Strategic Plan, revising the mission, vision, and values for the Students' Union. The Strategic Planning Committee has been meeting since early September and we are now very close to gathering feedback on the draft mission, vision, values, and strategic goals that the committee has identified.

I have been speaking with committee members and other executives about how to make the strategic plan useful and integrated into our planning for years to come. While one aim with the Strategic Plan is to provide long-term strategic direction, it still must be flexible enough to allow new executive members to shape and change priorities on an annual basis. There will be a SU Townhall on January 20th during Involvement Week to gather some feedback from students on the strategic plan, as well as a presentation at the January 25th meeting of Students' Council. The Students' Council presentation will also include a suggested approach to putting the Strategic Plan in bylaw.

After all of the feedback has been incorporated into the new document, we will have first reading of the proposed bylaw and Strategic Plan on March 15th to ensure that the document is completed and approved before the end of the year.

I look forward to hearing your feedback on the committee's work in the coming weeks and months.

Sustainability

Sustainability continues to be a priority for the Students' Union. Over the last few months we have had executives, staff, volunteers, and students-at-large all involved with various initiatives including Sustainability Awareness Week (SAW), the planning for Deliberations on Campus Sustainability (DOCS), the ongoing work of the Environmental Coordination Office of Students, and of course the SU's Sustainability Assessment. I also had the opportunity to give input on a University's Sustainable Food Strategy in the fall semester, and look forward to seeing the outcomes of that.

The initial goal for the Sustainability Assessment was to complete it by the end of the summer, however for several reasons the assessment has taken longer to finish. At the end of summer we ended up with more data than we had anticipated because of the wide variety of services and businesses that a student association provides. Given the diversity of the information collected, it has taken some time to organize and digest the information appropriately. I had hoped we could work on an implementation strategy for the recommendations from the assessment this year, but such a plan may have to wait for a future executive and Council.

Although the sustainability assessment has taken longer than anticipated, I do not necessarily see this as a problem, as the process was lengthened due to a desire to create the best document possible. The process itself has led to many long and healthy discussions about how our organization currently operates, what changes need to be made, and what sort of mechanisms need to be in place for us to move forward.

Some of these discussions have involved ECOS as part of Vice President Tighe's Student Services Review, and what the future of this service looks like given the growth of the Office of Sustainability and the changing demands of the Students' Union and students when it comes to providing a sustainability service. You can expect more information on the outcome of these discussions in future Council meetings.

Sustainability is an ongoing priority in Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre meetings, and so far the consultants have been very responsive to our input. It will be important for future executives to continue to make sustainability a priority through the construction process.

There are more initiatives that could be reported in terms of what the SU is doing for sustainability, and I would encourage you to follow-up with me if you would like more information. The final note I will make is that if you are interested in sustainability, I would encourage you to participate in the first-ever Campus Sustainability Summit hosted by ECOS and the University's Office of Sustainability. Contact Ian Moore at ecos@su.ualberta.ca for more information.

Student Health & Wellness

Student mental health and wellness will continue to be a focus for me until the end of the semester. So far the University has responded positively to our requests for more resources directed towards mental health initiatives. Earlier this year we saw the addition of 5 student counselors to Student Counseling Services, with ongoing conversations about potentially adding more counselors. This has led to an increased capacity to handle the mental health problems we have been seeing on campus and a large improvement in service. Hopefully this month I should have some detailed information to provide for interested councilors about what improvements we have seen on this front.

Arguably the most important mental health initiative that will happen this year is the National College Health Assessment (NCHA). The University Health Centre (UHC) is moving forward on the NCHA, a standardized and comprehensive health survey that focuses on 7 content areas:

- 1) Health, health education and safety
- 2) Alcohol, tobacco, and drugs
- 3) Sex Behavior, perceptions, and contraception
- 4) Weight, nutrition, and exercise
- 5) Mental and Physical Health
- 6) Impediments to academic performance
- 7) Demographics

The information gathered from this survey will be critical for assessing the current health of our students, for identifying gaps in current services, and to allow us to compare the health of our campus with that of others.

An effort has also been undertaken to ensure that different health units on campus are communicating and working together on different health initiatives that currently exist on campus. The VP Student Life has worked with the Director of the Peer Support Centre and other University services leading to greater coordination of mental health and wellness relief programming.

The Peer Support Centre has also transitioned from the Student Distress Centre and efforts are now underway to move the service onto the second floor so that it is consolidated with all of the other mental health services provided by the Dean of Students' Office, and to in turn improve the delivery of these services from a user perspective.

Another large initiative that has been undertaken this year is the establishment of a fall reading week. Over the summer research was done to determine what the logistics, benefits, and drawback of fall

breaks have been at other institutions. The last four months have involved a consultation process with faculties and administrators of what potential challenges and benefits they can anticipate from the establishment of a break. This consultation process will continue over the next few months as we continue to identify the benefits and costs of starting classes a week early and creating a week-long break in line with Remembrance Day.

At many institutions it has been a multi-year project to investigate and implement a fall break but the goal remains to have by the end of the year enough information to potentially get the approval process started. This semester a plebiscite will likely happen to determine what sort of support students would give for a fall reading week under the pretense that classes would start a week earlier. They would begin on the Wednesday before Labor Day rather than the Wednesday after Labor Day. If there is not a strong mandate for the initiative than other options for a break will have to be explored, more work will have to be done to assess and mitigate the associated costs, or the idea will have to be put on a shelf to be revisited when some of the challenges identified no longer exist or have been overcome. Although this is something I ran on and still see great benefit in doing, the Students' Union will not move forward with establishing a Fall Reading Week unless it has the strong support of students and it is agreed that the benefits largely outweigh any potential drawbacks.

Finally, one item that I did not anticipate to work on this year but have gladly taken on because of my familiarity with the project and because of the VP Student Life's already busy portfolio, is the Physical Activity & Wellness Centre (PAW Centre). We are close to completing the agreement with the University and will bring it to Council for ratification hopefully sometime before general elections. Throughout schematic design and our work on the agreement, the Vice President Operations & Finance and I continue to ensure that the project reflects the spirit and intention of the referendum question that students voted in favor of in 2010. The work that has been done so far is very exciting, however there is still much work to be done before the building opens in early 2013.

Communication/Visibility Infrastructure

I would argue that one of the main objectives of this year's executive has been to increase our capacity for different organizational objectives. Some clear examples exist when it comes to our goals of improving the SU's communication and visibility with students. When it comes to improving our ability to engage and communicate with students on an annual basis, there will always remain some variability in our ability to do so based on the annual turnover of elected officials and some staff. That is why developing and planning long-term strategies to improve and expand the base-line level of some of our communication infrastructure is so important. Three of the key initiatives we have worked on this year are designing and creating a new website, piloting SUTV, and finally developing a strategy and vision for expansion of Infolink.

Following last year's election, we budgeted funds to increase the number of hours dedicated towards our web content editor, which has allowed us to update our website more consistently, as well as develop a completely new website, which will be demoed by Council in early January and launched by the end of the month. Our current website has a front-end that is several years old and a backend that had not been updated in nearly a decade. An upgrade and redesign was long overdue, and the new site looks to be easier to navigate as well as update and maintain.

In September we also piloted SUTV and continue to improve the content of the variety of material communicated through this outlet, with an eye on potentially expanding it throughout campus as part of the Infolink refurbishing and re-branding. Later in the fall semester, efforts were made to provide sponsors and student groups promotion of their products and events on the screens.

One of the largest projects that is being worked on is the re-visioning of Infolink, which was started last year but continues to grow in scope and scale as the increased potential of the service becomes recognized. Many students do not identify Infolink as a part of the Students' Union as they walk by its various locations on campus, though arguably these booths are our greatest physical presences outside of SUB. Conversations are currently underway with ancillary services about how some other student services on campus provided by the University could also be incorporated into both staffed and unstaffed booths. This is another initiative that more information should be available for Council this semester.

Work Environment/Staff Appreciation

This was something that I did not highlight when I ran last year, but in coming back is one of the biggest things I have been interested in. Often it takes new executives eight months to understand how the organization works internally, and by then it becomes difficult to make investments or changes that improve the quality and efficiency of our office space. In improving the space and environment that our staff works in, I believe we in turn improve the quality of the service and interactions that people have with the Students' Union.

Some examples of what we have done to improve the work environment and how we appreciate staff include:

- - Creating a SUB 2-900 staff room
- - Reorganizing offices and partitions to improve linkages between departments
- - Exploring professional development opportunities for our administrative staff
- - Replacing/refurbishing furniture that is worn or unsalvageable
- - Increasing the number of staff meetings
- - Having strategic management meetings with our senior and student management team
- - Increasing the number of social staff functions

This is not an exhaustive list, but I feel that each of these initiatives have made strides towards improving the culture and atmosphere of the organization. I hope that in continuing to find ways to improve our culture, we will continue to strengthen our ability to serve students.

VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

Introduction

This document is meant to be a very general overview of the progress that has been made on my goals over the past ~8 months. It should be viewed in conjunction with the goals document produced earlier in the year, as it specifically addresses the tasks outlined in the document. While it provides a concise summation of progress that has been made to date, there is a great deal of more detailed information that was out of place in an update document. If anyone has any questions about anything mentioned in this update, please feel free to ask me, or send me an e-mail. I would love to chat.

Academic Materials

Early in the year, the SU began discussions with the U of C Students' Union and the Brock Students' Union about creating a student-run textbook publishing consortium. These discussions eventually led us to the conclusion that the idea was unlikely feasible largely due to the high start-up costs, as well as the difficulty in having textbooks adopted for use by instructors.

In conjunction with the Bookstore, we planned a Canadian Roundtable on Academic Materials conference that was to be held alongside the Campus Stores Canada Conference. Unfortunately, several cancellations from participants in Ontario at the last minute led to the cancellation of the conference.

Most discussions surrounding academic materials have now come to a halt pending the resolution of two issues; Bill C-32, the new copyright act, and the negotiation of the Access Copyright agreement. The University is bringing forth a new copyright policy, and I will be monitoring the issue as it progresses and the impacts become more apparent.

Not much will be accomplished in this area until the new copyright bill passes and the Access Copyright issue has been sorted out. So far, the Students' Union and the University largely agree on what the desirable resolution to this situation is, and CASA as well as the AUCC are working on this with their lobbying efforts.

Council of Faculty Associations

This year, we have hired the Student Governance Advisor, who has been working with Faculty Associations. She has been particularly useful working with the ISSS and the NSSA. The ISSS has done very well, and is on track to come off probation by the end of April. The NSSA will be signing new conditions of probation and should be up for recognition within a few months.

I've nearly finished the bylaw 8000 review; I am just editing a few of the changes. These will come to the January meeting of COFA, and will come to Council for approval shortly thereafter.

The Augustana Students' Association has been working with me to create an operating policy that would define how our two organizations interact. Work on this continues and will hopefully get wrapped up soon.

We need to map out a formal process to get ISSS off of probation, and then see them through it. The NSSA needs to finalize the new conditions of probation, and needs to sign them. And, the bylaw 8000 changes need to be passed through council.

Undergraduate Research

Since the start of the year, the SU has been pushing for an increased focus on undergraduate research. We have gotten several initiatives in the Academic Plan that will increase the opportunities available for students who wish to participate in research.

I traveled to Calgary to meet with the VP Academic of the UCSU, who was very informative and provided me with many great ideas for our own undergraduate research conference. While we had initially planned to hold the conference in the spring, after discussions with other stakeholders it was concluded that our target date would not work. Instead we will be planning for a symposium event in the early fall semester next year.

Over the Christmas holidays, I began writing a formal vision document for what undergraduate research could look like both in the short-term and long-term. This should be finished within the next couple weeks and will help aid our advocacy efforts on this subject.

The next step is to finish writing the vision for undergraduate research, which will help to inform what our symposium will look like. It will also be important to transition the incoming VPA, so that they have all the tools and information they need to progress on this issue should they choose to.

Student Governance Advisor

As mentioned previously, in May we hired Amanda Henry as the SGA. Since then she has proved to be invaluable in dealing with Faculty Associations, as well as developing a governance program for student representatives, and compiling a list of all the student representatives on campus. I have been working very closely with her and the DRPA to ensure that the position develops in a sustainable manner.

With the DRPA leaving and a new hire taking over, we are forced to figure out a new reporting structure for the SGA. This gives us an opportunity to shape the future of this position. There have been several good conversations, and a decision on how to proceed will be forthcoming imminently.

Excellence in Teaching

I have been working closely with Dr Luth as his report on grading works its way through governance. His Provost Fellowship has been extended for another year, and he will be bringing forward a new policy sometime in the New Year.

CLE is developing a long-term work plan, and I have been involved in some preliminary discussions to see what could be done to help improve teaching here at the U of A. I will keep council informed of how these progress.

Sadly, my plans to restart the Professor of the Week program fell to the wayside as several other issues consumed my summer. At this point in the year, it will not be done.

Improving the Student Experience

The “10 things you should know” has been published and a large number of copies have been distributed, and the Academic Policy and Process Review Task Force (APPTR) is in full swing, and is in the process of determining its top priorities. I will keep Council informed of its progress.

As well, the Registrar has undergone both an Awards and Admissions process review, which should help to eliminate needless barriers for both students and staff involved in those areas. Some of the areas of focus so far include: transfer credit and study abroad programs, international student support, academic advising, and the Assessment and Grading report.

Academic Relations Group

Earlier in the year I attempted to re-launch the Academic Relations Group. Due to a lack of interested participants, I decided that I would no longer pursue establishment of this group. There are currently discussions underway about how to recruit students into the Academic Portfolio. They are still in their infancy and will be continuing throughout the semester. Ultimately, there needs to be an ability for the VPA to recruit students to send as delegates to committee meetings.

Awards Night

Working with the VP Operations & Finance and the Senior Manager of Student Services, we have successfully transitioned the SU awards program to the Student Financial Aid Information Centre. Save the date cards have been sent out for the awards night in March, and the deadline to apply for awards is quickly approaching. I am very pleased with all the hard work put in by the services staff to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Improving Academic Student Services

Most of the work in this area that will come to fruition in the near future is being undertaken by the APPTR, which I mentioned earlier. In the longer term, the Registrar is looking at creating a welcome centre. A few months ago, a group of people from the SU traveled to BC to visit UBC and Simon Fraser. I was able to see what they had done in terms of a welcome centre and have been able to use the knowledge gained to inform our advocacy in this area.

As for possibly housing it in SUB, the General Manager, and the VP Operations are in discussions with the University regarding a possible SUB expansion, and our space program has been through FDC. However, any possible expansion is likely several years away.

Institutional Management in Higher Education

In September, the UGAA, Dr Kanuka from the Centre for Teaching and Learning, and I attended the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s (OECD) Institutional Management in Higher Education conference. The conference addressed many issues pertinent to higher education today, including how to manage an institution during times of recession, the role of the for-profit sector in public institutions, and issues of access in postsecondary education. These sessions provided a global perspective on many issues facing the U of A today.

The most interesting session was on the OECD Assessment of Higher Education Learning Outcomes pilot project that is being undertaken this year. The project hopes to create standardized learning outcomes for students in a particular field of study. The pilot project is being conducted with economics and engineer, and will be completed by the end of 2012.

Graduate attributes are something that the University is very keen on pursuing. They feature prominently in the Academic Plan, and will be important to monitor global trends to ensure that we are implementing a program that is consistent with work already conducted.

VP Academic

The University's VP Academic, Colleen Skidmore and I started the year off with a long and productive meeting about sharing goals and trying learning about each other's role. Since then, we have monthly coffee meetings to discuss University issues and have a good working relationship. I expect Dr Skidmore to be an important point of contact for the SU for the duration of her term.

Academic Plan

While not initially in my goals document, I find it pertinent to provide an update on how the academic plan is progressing. The writers used the Christmas break to incorporate feedback on the third draft into what will become the final draft that will go through GFC. This draft, titled *Dare to Progress*, is significantly different from the second draft, *A Vibrant Academy* which was significantly different from the first draft, *A Balanced Academy*.

While it is my view that the second and third drafts of the plan are not as strong as the original, the plan has retained many important initiatives including an increase in support for undergraduate research, a commitment to improving academic advising, the adoption of graduate attributes, and a commitment to financial aid and child care.

VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL

Income Contingent Loan Repayment

As the Alberta student loan has only recently been integrated with the federal Repayment Assistance Program, there has no data on uptake rate or problems with the program. While the program is relatively solid, there are several changes that would make it work better for borrowers. As this is a harmonized federal-provincial program, any changes made would have to be simultaneous.

The implementation of income-contingent loan repayment is something that has been a smaller issue than initially envisioned. While there is some work that can be done on it, it was a lower priority for last semester.

Due to its low relative priority, this project will be undertaken primarily this semester. There may also be the potential to work with inter- and intra-provincial groups to make recommendations to the Canada Student Loan Program for Improvements to the RAP.

Tuition and Education Tax Credit Reform

As my one big idea to bring forward in my term, the conversion of tuition and education tax credits (TETC) to more effective forms of SFA has made nominal progress, but requires significantly more effort to make some headway with what is, frankly, a difficult and unpopular proposal.

Tax credit reform was made a lobbying priority at CASA Policy & Strategy Conference, pending the revision of its political policy. Due to the sheer number of CASA political policies due to be fixed this year, our Policy Committee is relatively clogged and we have not passed the updated tax credit policy in 2010. It will be passed in the winter semester, allowing CASA staff to lobby on it. Due to the lower personal income exemption for federal income taxes, many more people benefit from the federal portion of the TETC while still in school, making its conversion to up-front grants much less clear-cut. On the provincial front, I succeeded in putting tax credit into a CAUS policy and priority. It was included in our pre-budget submission to the government, presented to the Student Finance Board, and included in our pre-budget submission to the government as a method of financing our ask for increased SFA. Regardless of the arguments in favour of converting the TETC system to up-front grants, the Minister was entirely unreceptive to the idea. This was largely to be expected, as the proposal is very large and would be to the benefit of some while being to the detriment of others. Thus, we may need to reconsider the redistributive model under which this idea has been put forward.

An unexpected landmine that was struck by this project has been the adamant opposition from the Alberta Student Executive Council. Our TETC reform proposal was not put forward to ASEC before it was published and consequently their opposition to the project was not overcome. Ultimately, their statement of opposition to the Minister in regards to tax credits contributed very significantly to stalling this project for the year.

This project will not be completed this year and was not intended to be. For this project to be successful, the reform of the TETC system has to continue to be a lobbying priority at the provincial level, until the idea can set. This semester, a comprehensive document for TETC reform must be written to ensure issue continuity.

Post-Secondary Education Data

The smallest of my election issues, PSE data has received little attention over the past semester. At the federal level the state of PSE data and research is in flux following the non-renewal of both the Millennium Scholarship Foundation research branch and the Youth In Transition Survey. Currently the only CASA policy on PSE data is the policy on a Pan-Canadian Dataset. While helpful, this policy is insufficient and under revision. An improved PSE data policy would help this issue and should be passed before the March 2011 AGM.

On the institutional level, talks with the Registrar's Office and the Dean of Students have resulted in a SU seat on the new Assessment Working Group, where our goal is to access and analyze new data on the student body at the U of A.

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

My work with CASA, particularly my work as Chair, has taken a very significant portion of my time despite not having featured among the project in my 2010 goals document. Conducting the organizational business of CASA has been rewarding, if time-consuming. Our Board of Directors this year has had to deal with a large amount of Human Resources and membership issues left over from the turbulences of last year. This year, we have successfully hired a new Government Relations Officer, Policy & Research Officer, and the Public Relations & Communications Officer, in addition to selecting a new National Director in June. Under the direction of the General Assembly, we have developed a new fee model that will remove most of the distortions plaguing our current fee model. This fee structure will be voted upon at our 2011 AGM, along with our revised constitution, revised political policies, and the New Federalism proposal. In November, CASA organized a very successful lobby conference where our delegates secured 163 commitments from politicians. I was also able to meet with the Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the Opposition, and also able to present to a parliamentary committee on the census. CASA has been a driving force behind the educational provisions in the current copyright bill, which will be a significant improvement over the status quo. The final form taken by the bill in the next several months will determine the extent of our success on this file.

This semester will require additional work in my capacity as Chair, as we will be rewriting our HR Policy Manual and we will need to prepare intensively for this year's very important AGM. In my capacity as SU executive, I will be conducting our review of our membership in CASA. This is a scheduled review, which will examine the benefits and concerns of our membership, and we are one of several CASA members undergoing this process. It will take time to conduct and will be submitted to Council before the end of the term.

Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS)

The Council of Alberta University Students has had a successful year so far and will be ramping up its efforts in advance of our March 2011 Lobby Conference. We have been working on restoring the needs-based grants cut last year, converting the TETC into up-front grants, increasing the Campus Alberta Grant to universities, and easing the rules around voting to enable more students to vote in the next election. These priorities have been pursued in meetings with the Minister, with the Ministry and with the Student Finance Board. The coming semester will largely wrap up the drafting of the MNIF regulation, which will be one of the most important accomplishments of the year. The rest of the lobbying this semester will depend in large part on the shape of the provincial budget, which

could return either the recession status quo or further cuts to stem the deficit. Either way, we will be working all semester on restoring some of the province's needs-based bursaries and changing voting regulations. This has become an increasingly large priority to CAUS, and while we have made no progress with either Elections Alberta or with the Solicitor General (under whom Elections Alberta operates), Minister Horner did agree to set up a meeting with CAUS and Minister Redford. Additionally, CAUS will be drafting the outline of an election campaign plan focusing on student turnout.

Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees

Our proposal for the mandatory non-instructional fee regulation has been the primary project for the members of CAUS so far this term. This project has continued movement all year, but due to several unexpected roadblocks, the path has been longer and more winding than we'd hoped. A large portion of this project has been to work with our two provincial partners, the Alberta Students' Executive Council and the Alberta Graduate Council, to find a compromise position that we can submit to the Ministry of Advanced Education & Technology. AET had previously made it clear that student unity would be required for this proposal to go forward.

After much discussion and deliberation, a joint student letter was submitted to Minister Horner on November 14. Appreciation for the intention of the letter was expressed and comment from AET will be received in January. Despite having taken longer than expected, this project is on track to make certain that future students won't be faced unwanted mandatory non-instructional fees.

Undergraduate Research/Co-ops

This year has seen an increase in interest in undergraduate research from the U of A, but no movement this year. The details of this will be discussed in greater detail in the report of the Vice-President (Academic).

In terms of lobbying the provincial government for funding for experiential learning programs, this priority has been edged out of our talks with the provincial government by our discussions of the restoration of up-front grants, the reform of tuition and education tax credits and the regulation of MNIFs. There can be discussion of adding it to our lobbying priorities for LobbyCon, but there will be little room for a spending request for experiential learning. The potential of lobbying for experiential learning initiatives in conjunction with the University has not been fully explored, and while it is still a possibility, it may be difficult without the University having a clearer plan. This semester, it will be necessary to do additional research on the role that co-op programs can play, allowing us to construct a concrete proposal with which to present the University and AET.

New Federalism

In the wake of the interest among student leaders in the "Open Letter to Canada's Student Leaders", the CASA General Assembly tasked the Chair and ND with exploring, without prejudice, the potential benefits of restructuring the organization to make the provincial alliances the constituent components of new federal advocacy organization.

This is a relatively new area of exploration for CASA and the August 2010 Partners Conference made headway into hammering out the basic model upon which a larger restructured organization would work, as envisioned by CASA and the provincial alliances present at the conference. The principles

of this model were laid out in the communiqué that was distributed after the conference. All the Partners were asked to discuss several issues with their members and report back before the November 2010 Lobby Conference. At that conference the Board of Directors presented the discussion on New Federalism with a recommendation to continue exploring the concept until the March 2011 AGM. This was voted upon by the General Assembly, and tasked to the National Director and me. The report to be presented at AGM will flesh out the skeletal structure of the communiqué, evaluate additional variable and alternative options, and contain recommendations for the CASA General Assembly.

VICE PRESIDENT OPERATIONS AND FINANCE

Strategic Plan Review & Building Visioning

The Strategic Plan committee has been meeting once every two weeks since its inauguration. This committee has been working on developing a draft of the strategic plan for council's review later on this semester. We have also held a series of management retreats to gather feedback on the draft. More information on the Strategic Plan can be found in President Dehod's report. In addition to completing the document, we are also in the process of developing bylaw principles relating to the Strategic Plan, as has been done in past iterations of the Plan.

Students' Union Building renovations are also being considered in the short term:

First, we are having University planners redesign the Student Financial Aid & Information Centre area to include the Campus Food Bank. This will allow for improved service between both units (as there is a significant number of crossover clientele) and to increase space for the CFB—something that's been a requirement for several years. As well, the CFB is looking at plumbing in order to improve their ability to provide perishable items and comply with food health requirements (currently they are using L'Express' kitchen to do so). The implementation for this will likely occur in the summer, as it would likely require a complete water shutdown of SUB for a day. This is beneficial, as we could anticipate any of our portion of renovation costs in the upcoming capital budgets.

Second, we are working with the Office of the Dean of Students and University planners to redesign a space on the second floor for the Peer Support Centre—a move we think would work well, given the other health and wellness related services located there.

With these two moves from the lower level, this gives us an exciting opportunity to rethink how we're utilizing space downstairs. We could see a major renovation to the lower level phased over the next five years. There's a lot of "sardined" space that could be opened up as quality student lounge and group space. Several executives and student service managers took a trip to UBC to examine their new Student Involvement Centre to get some ideas flowing.

Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre

President Dehod and I have been meeting roughly every two weeks with the architectural consultants and representatives from Physical Education & Recreation, the Office of the Dean of Students, and University Facilities & Operations, etcetera. We intend to present to Students' Council the progress when the project is at the point where it moves from the schematic design phase to the design development phase, as well as bring the final building agreement for ratification as per referendum.

Business Competitiveness & Value Review

In general:

I feel like there's progress to be made in this upcoming semester and the progress thus far in this area is less concrete and more anecdotal. We are working on providing better measurement and metrics

tools. Our student survey indicates that students are generally satisfied that our business portfolio provides value.

Room At The Top and Dewey's: Service, Product, Events, and Character

While I think there has been modest improvements in customer service and product line-up, I *still* 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.

Please, please, please send me comments/complaints/suggestions. They really assist me in pinpointing areas for improvement.

The Academic Materials Landscape & SUBtitles/SUBprint

The national publishing consortium idea is on hold as we manage the immediate problems resulting from the non-renewal of the University's Access Copyright agreement. This may severely impact the ability for SUBprint to produce coursepacks (a large portion of revenue in SUBprint) and we will be continuing to follow this and mitigate any negative impacts on the upcoming budget.

More information on academic materials can be found in Vice President Eastham's report.

Students' Union Sustainability Assessment

The Sustainability Assessment Coordinator has largely completed the three major stages of this program: research and develop assessment tools, involve and work with key stakeholders in planning and implementing the assessment, and finally, reporting and communicating the findings of the assessment.

We have yet to produce a final written report as we are refining the final draft. Students' Council can expect a presentation on the report in January/February. I would say this is a month or two behind where I would like it to be—however, I am very satisfied with the quality of the work done so far.

An implementation plan resulting from the assessment will likely be a task for the new executive to complete.

Student Group Services

We have updated the framework with the Office of the Dean of Students and the Grant Allocation Committee and have developed a more clear (and relatively objective) series of guidelines and "grading" criteria that are now included for student groups' reference.

The Grant Allocation Committee has opted to suspend the capital granting program in favor of a program where Student Group Services purchases capital items and loans these out to student groups. Where this may not be optimal for very specific event-related items, student groups are now encouraged to include these costs in event/activity grant proposals.

We are currently investigating the costs of implementing a free-use materials (poster paper, die cuts, miscellaneous craft supplies, etc) program within Student Group Services. This idea came out of our trip to UBC's Student Involvement Centre.

More information on Student Group Services can be found in Vice President Tighe's report.

This project is well on its way. The Access Fund reserves and endowment have been transferred to the Student Endowment Fund under council's authorization. The Access Fund is able to operate with a leaner reserve, while the transferred funds will ensure the sustainability and viability of the SU Awards program in the future. Bylaw and operational requirements for this change have also been implemented, and the Student Financial Aid and Information Centre is doing a great job picking up the program. We've hired a student to be an Awards Administrator within SFAIC as well to assist with the additional workload. The Awards Night is currently being planned for March 28, 2011. The Awards Night program is still being planned and will require support from Programming & Venues.

It is important to note that this year's awards program will run identical to last year's in terms of awards delivered: The implementation of any new awards will be left to the next year's Grant Allocation Committee, as the new SIEF investments produce yields.

InfoLink

We have discussed with the Provost as well as University Facilities & Operations regarding our intent to submit a proposal for the designation of Infolink service spaces across campus and in new buildings.

The information video monitors (SUTV) have now been installed and look great (although, at the time of writing, one of the video splitters fried on us and some of the monitors are down until a new one is ordered.)

I am unsure of whether we will be able to develop an unstaffed booth prototype in the current year—SUTV is a good step that could be integrated into the overall unstaffed location concept of the InfoLink redesign.

All said, Vice President Tighe has largely taken this project on, whereas I have taken on a more consultative role.

Website Overhaul

We have commissioned Whitematter to develop a new website. This website **is** intended to be launched in January 2011. The back end, as well as the visual layout, are to be updated.

We will issue a presentation to Students' Council on Tuesday, January 11, 2011 regarding the website's next steps. We will also issue a demonstration of the website for feedback prior to launch as well. The website is more or less on schedule at the time of writing.

It is important to note that the website is intended to be a continual project after the initial implementation—that is to say, new features will be added afterwards.

As a side note, we will also be looking into French translation costs for portions of the website.

Operating Policy and Bylaws 3000 & 6000 Review

Operating policies have been updated and can be found here:

http://www.su.ualberta.ca/student_government/rules/operating_policies/policymanual.pdf

We have this year brought clarity to the board structure and procedure regarding the WUSC Student Refugee Program Dedicated Fee Unit—success!

I still have to propose updates/reformatting to the Students' Union financial bylaws (3000 & 6000). I do have the changes made, but need to develop principles that map out the desired changes. If there are bylaw committee members interested in assisting me, I would greatly appreciate this.

Operations & Finance Advisory Board

The Operations and Finance Advisory Board has met twice (once in October and again in November) and reviewed both Room At The Top and SUBtitles.

The group was always intended to meet once a month—unfortunately it took September to start it up, and December did not work out (exams, perhaps?) but I hope to have at least three more meetings throughout this semester.

Feedback has been provided to management, and I have noticed improvements in quality and service in these areas—this works well in conjunction with the business competitiveness and value review goal.

VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE

Introduction

This has been a very exciting, fast-paced, and productive eight months. This job has been one of the best experiences that I have ever had. I would like to note that there is nothing that I am working on that I am not working with others on. The Students' Union has many staff that work very hard to improve the student experience, and these goals would not be accomplishable without their help. I have also worked with students and University staff not directly affiliated with the Students' Union who have provided a tremendous amount of help. It has truly been a privilege to work with them to the extent that I have.

Since the start of my term, I have learned an incredible amount. I now realize that it is very hard to have a concrete vision of what your year will look like in these positions. Some things that you are very excited to work on end up changing or becoming ineffective to spend a lot of time on, while other new things that you never would have anticipated come up. As such, some of the goals that I had at the beginning of the year have changed. I have committed to, and am working on everything that I promised I would, but I have also become involved in many other projects that I did not expect I would in May. This has led to different progress and time commitments on projects than I would have initially expected, but has also opened the door to many new and exciting projects. You will therefore notice some similarities and some differences between this report and my initial goals report, but I will do my best to reflect on all of the things found in my initial report. Please don't hesitate to ask me any questions about this report or my position; I would be happy to sit down and talk with you about either.

Food Service Provider Selection

The Food Service Provider Selection Committee has selected Aramark to serve another term as The University of Alberta's Food Service Provider. As a member of the selection committee I was able to push for certain priorities for Aramark to focus on during their term. I have also checked in multiple times to ensure that the Lister Hall Students' Association is being properly consulted regarding changes to the Lister Hall dining service.

Although I pushed for it multiple times, unfortunately, the University would not allow student involvement in the contract negotiation process. This has made it more difficult to have specific asks for the contract itself, but I will continue to push for student involvement in any large-scale changes to food provision on campus. There will likely be renovations to some of the food service locations on campus over the next couple of years and I feel confident that students will be consulted on those changes. The conversation now has turned to discussions on the meal plan in Lister Hall, which I will go into in more detail below.

Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre

I have taken more of a supportive role on this project than I initially thought I would. Given that Nick Dehod and Zach Fentiman were the main points on this project in the previous year, and given that they both continued to serve on the executive this year, it made the most sense for them to continue to serve as project leads. They have worked hard with our General Manager, Marc

Dumouchel, the Graduate Students' Association and the University. Throughout the year I have kept up with the documents and progress of the project but, again, have taken on a more supportive role.

U-PASS/Transit

There are a few parts to this subject. During the summer we finalized an agreement and signed the new contract with ETS and the University. In the Fall, we also sent lobby letters with Grant MacEwan, and Northern Alberta Institute of Technology and the Graduate Students' Association to municipal electoral candidates asking for the inclusion of currently non-participating municipalities (Spruce Grove, Leduc, and Fort Saskatchewan) into the U-Pass program. The cost of using the charter services from these municipalities to the U of A has become an area of concern for some students. Currently, St. Albert, Edmonton and Strathcona County participate in the U-Pass program. In some cases, the monthly cost of a charter service pass is more than five times that of the U-Pass. The letters were generally taken well and, although this is likely a multi-year project, I hope that we can see some progress.

We have also been working on the creation of a pilot program for a late-night transit expansion during exam times. The program would likely last for 1 or 2 weeks during the period between the end of classes and the end of exams. It would include more frequent and later service from the University to Medowlark, Capilano, Westmount, Northgate, West Edmonton Mall, and Mill Woods Town Centre. I am hoping for this to be in place for this April.

I am also hoping to make progress on a spring/summer U-Pass for undergraduates. ETS does not want to separate the four-month spring/summer term into two-month spring and summer term prices as would follow the class schedule at the U of A. The problem with the four-month term is that students who are only enrolled in spring or summer classes and are not in the city for the other term would be charged for something that they couldn't possibly use. This is something that, again, will probably be a multi-year project, but I do hope to see some progress before the end of the year.

Student Services

During the summer, I participated in the Office of the Dean of Students (DOS) review of the University Student Services. Upon the conclusion of the review, the DOS combined certain services into hubs. One such hub is the new Student Success Centre, which acts as a frontline office to help students find what they need no matter where on campus it is offered. Another combination was Student Counseling and the Sexual Assault Centre into the University Health Centre. These combinations are helping to find administrative efficiencies as well as to ideally provide easier-to-access services to students. Throughout this review, and since, we have been working with the DOS to increase collaboration between University and Students' Union Student Services. Through this collaboration we have gained support for training our Peer Support Centre volunteers and are currently in the process of attempting to move the Peer Support Centre to the second floor to be closer with the University's mental health services.

We have also begun our own Students' Union Services review, which is going very well. The review is one commitment that we made to the University in the Student Engagement Proposal submitted two years ago by President Janelle Morin and VPSL Kristen Flath, which secured us a lot of funding. The review is still going on but I hope for it to be completed by the end of March; the Senior Manager of Student Services and the Assistant Manager of Student Services have been really working hard on this. The review process includes: questionnaires and interviews with service

directors/managers, reviewing previous recommendations to services, looking at what other schools are doing, and stakeholder consultation. There will also be much feedback from the Students' Union's undergraduate survey. This process has proven to be a victim of its' own success in a sense, as we are getting a lot of very useful feedback which has caused the review to take up more time than originally planned.

Student Mental Health

This goal has been very collaborative and has been approached in a few different ways and worked on extensively by the President. We have managed to get this topic to be at the forefront of issues that the University is thinking about. The University has added 5 new counselors and is planning to add more in the near future. We have seen a large increase in use of University mental health services and these added positions have really helped cope with the increased demand. Although there have been new resources added, the University has still had to turn away some potential users due to lack of resources. We hope that the Peer Support Centre further collaborating with University mental health services will help provide additional support as well.

Another way that we are working on this is through some mental health/stress relief programming during high-stress times; the Peer Support Centre in collaboration with the Peer Health Educators has put this on. During mid-term exams in November, these two services provided a "stress relief week" which included: handing out bubble wrap, handing out snacks, delivering mental health awareness programming, creating a mental health wall where students could give their own tips on stress relief, and more. These services also did some programming during finals to a smaller extent and found much success in both of these endeavors. We are working to put on more mental health programming next semester and may try to put together a larger stress-relief week at the end of the term.

Programming/Events

Programming this year has generally gone very well. Week of Welcome generally went very well. We had evening events that seemed to be very popular with high attendance. About 600 attendees enjoyed the White Panda DJ show in Dinwoodie. The Mainstage event didn't do as well as we had hoped on account of the weather, but we still had around 800 people attend. The hypnotist and the movie night each brought in about 300 people and seemed to be very well liked. Beer gardens also did not do as well as we liked due to the rain. Students seemed to really connect with the theme this year, which was great to see.

Campus Cup went exceptionally well this year. The Student Programming Coordinator and Senior Manager Programming & Venues really worked hard on it. We had great participation from across campus and everything went very smoothly. This is definitely a program that could continue to grow in the future. The Students' Union Christmas Party for Kids also went very well this year. We increased the participation this year to about 400 inner city children attend, and everyone seemed to have a good time.

We have more programming to come this semester and I hope to get a lot of participation. This year during Antifreeze we will be doing evening programming as a welcome back for students, which I am excited for. We are also looking to possibly regain our world record for the largest dodgeball game ever played in February. Finally, we will be looking at doing an end of term event to cap off the year. This year we turned the Associate Vice President (Student Life) position into the Student

Programming Coordinator and moved it under the Senior Manager Programming & Venues. This seems to have worked very well so far, and I think that we have seen an increase in the success of programming due to this change. As Students' Union programming grows, we will likely need to expand the department in future years.

Residences

There have been three main components of residence advocacy this year and collectively they have taken up a lot of my time. The residence community standards are in the process of being completely overhauled, the Residence Halls' Association is in a state of flux, and the meal plan in Lister Hall is facing a very large increase. The residence Community Standards, the residence rules and discipline process have changed substantially over this year, switching from a discipline process to a restorative justice process. I am not going to go into a ton of detail on the changes themselves here (as I have numerous files I would be happy to distribute upon request) but I will highlight some of the issues. We are concerned with the University taking authority away from the student discipline committee, which currently acts as a judicial board. We have also been concerned with the removal of much of the detail of residence rules, which have been replaced with rights and responsibilities. We have worked through many of our concerns but are still waiting for the completion of documents relating to the residence community standards. We will still be working on residence-specific rules, a memorandum of agreement related to the new restorative justice system. I am very much hoping to have all of this done by the end of my term.

As I mentioned above, the Residence Halls' Association (RHA) is currently in a state of flux. The RHA has not functioned for sometime as an effective body representing its members. This year the council has been reflecting on how to make the RHA more effective and relevant to students. I have met with the President multiple times and worked out some goals for the year. I will be working with our advocacy department to recommend some changes to the RHA, which would strengthen their position. I believe that there needs to be more integration of the RHA into the Students' Union and more buy in from residents are their respective associations. This is a large priority for me this semester.

The Lister Hall meal plan has seen a large increase put in place for next year. The University originally wanted to eliminate the lowest-level meal plan next year and increase all of the levels by around 8 %. They are now grandfathering out the lowest level plan over the next three years. Although University governance approved the proposal, we have received a commitment, from a counter-proposal we put forward, to increase the refundable amount. The details will be finalized over this semester.

Infolink

We are still finalizing the proposal for the restructuring of Infolink. It is very near completed and I am confident that it will be finished by mid-January. We will then present it to the University for feedback and incorporate some changes into our budget. Structural changes to the booths will happen during the summer. Some of the changes could include: booth design, staffing structure, increased presence on campus, and more.

Sustainability

We have been working on the Sustainability assessment for the majority of the year. I have been working closely on this with the President and the Vice President (Operations & Finance). We have hired a Sustainability assessment coordinator and established a committee to produce a final document, which we will use to increase the sustainability of the Students' Union as a whole.

We have finalized an agreement between ECOS and the Office of Sustainability and signed it for the year. The agreement outlines the collaborative relationship that will exist between the two organizations. It specifically references funding, volunteer sharing, event collaboration and general partnership. I have also been working with these two organizations to ensure that there is no duplication of service happening. ECOS is undergoing a more in-depth review, in the context of the services review, than some of the other services. This partnership has played a key role in looking at the service. ECOS may be looking at a name and mandate change in the near future, and I am hoping to have the review completed by the end of my term.

Student Engagement Plan

I am nearing the final stages of information gathering for this document and will begin the compilation of information and recommendations very soon. I formed a Student Engagement committee during the summer, which helped me create a process of information gathering and identify questions and stakeholders. The Student Engagement Plan is a document that interacts with many other documents that have been written or are in the process of being written over this year. I will attempt to briefly explain where this document fits in relation to a few other major projects.

1. The Student Engagement Proposal – The Student Engagement Plan will extend what was written in this document. It will show what we have done and can still do with the resources that it obtained for us.
2. The University Academic Plan – The Student Engagement Plan will ideally align with the vision of the new Academic Plan. It will address things more specifically than would be allowed by the Academic Plan's jurisdiction.
3. The Strategic Plan – The Student Engagement Plan will feed information into aspects of the Strategic Plan. The two documents will be quite separate but may refer to one another on certain topics.
4. The Services Review – The Services Review will feed information into aspects of the Student Engagement Plan. A separate review document will be produced but some recommendations of the Student Engagement Plan will likely come from the services review.
5. The Students' Union's Submission to the Academic Plan – The Student Engagement Plan will refer and defer to the submission to the academic plan whenever academics are referred to in the Student Engagement Plan.

Health and Dental Plan

The Change of Coverage deadline passed this year with far fewer complaints than last year. We did everything we could to communicate the deadline to students and it seemed to work fairly well. I will see if we can move the change of coverage deadline back as close as possible to the University's fee deadline to minimize the number of students who forget to opt out. The plan also needs to be renegotiated this year, which will happen over the next 4 months. I do not believe we will be looking

at large changes in premiums or coverage, but I am actively seeking feedback from students to see if there is anything specifically that they would like to see changed. The negotiations will need to be completed by the end of March.

Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees

We have been working to increase the transparency of mandatory non-instructional fees at the University. The Registrar's office has agreed to update their fees assessment page to be much more detailed. This should be done this semester and I am hoping that it will allow students to more easily understand where their money is going. The new page should include more detailed breakdowns of fees, whether or not you can opt-out of a fee, and who to contact if you have questions about a fee.

We have also been working with the Dean of Students on the Health Services fee. The University currently collects a Health Services Fee as well as a Student Services Fee. With the conglomeration of some student services into the University Health Centre, there has been created an issue of transferring funds collected from the student services fee to the health centre fee. The Vice President (Operations & Finance) and I are working to fix the issue either by changing the amount of the fees (a zero sum game) or combining the two fees into one. The benefit of combining the two fees would be the expansion of mandate of the Health Centre Advisory Group, which provides recommendations on University health provision, to include all University Student Services. I am hoping that this will be figured out by the end of April.

There are currently 3 athletic-related MNIFs: The Athletics & Recreation Fee, The Campus Recreation Enhancement Fund, and the Golden Bears and Panda's Legacy Fund. There is definite overlap in the three fees and it has proven very difficult to effectively monitor the 3 fees as their separate administration becomes very confusing. There also seems to be a disproportionately small amount of money going towards Campus Recreation. I will be looking into possible solutions to these issues over this semester and hope to use the Athletics and Recreation Fee Advisory Committee to rectify these issues.

Survey

We successfully administered an undergraduate student survey this year that received over 6,500 responses. We gained access to a survey company through the Office of the Dean of Students and used them to administer the survey for us. This worked much better than last year as we had professionals look over the survey before it went out to make recommendations lowering bias and increasing the effectiveness of questions. Our Senior Manager of Marketing worked very hard on the survey to make it a success. I will be presenting the results to council in January and will be using the results for the Services Review and the Student Engagement Plan.

Microwaves

Microwaves on campus have been an issue for many years. After receiving a few complaints about broken microwaves I investigated the issue. Working with the Interdisciplinary Science Students' society, we were able to add a few microwaves to CAB and Bio Sci. I am currently working with ancillary services to try and procure University support with microwave maintenance on campus. If this happens, we would be able to put up more microwaves across campus with the support of Faculty Associations. We would then create a dedicated budget line to microwave upkeep and replacement on a yearly basis. The problem is simply finding a consistent body to clean and maintain

the microwaves, which I hope to find in ancillary services. Although this may seem like a relatively trivial issue, it is a very tangible concern shared by many students and is something that should have a solid solution. I hope to have this figured out by the end of January.

Athletics

The promotion of Varsity athletics has benefits for everyone: It increases the feeling of pride students have for their institution; it increases the sense of community on campus; it generates revenue; it gives our athletes much deserved support and brings the community together. I plan on working with the University Athletics Board (UAB) to accomplish this goal. I will be working with them in January to create a stronger partnership with the Students' Union than has existed in the past, and advocate for them to increase resources and support from their faculty. I believe the UAB is the best positioned to promote athletics but they need the support of the Students' Union to be most effective.

Alcohol Policy

The University is currently reviewing their alcohol policy. There is a lot of work that needs to be done and red tape to be worked through. There are issues with both the rules and policy itself and with the ability for the University to enforce it. There are also issues related to the mandate of the Alcohol Policy Review Committee, which have been brought forward. We are currently reviewing this committee and its' purpose, but with a limited amount of meetings per year, the discussion will likely take a long time. There are also serious issues related to alcohol rules for student groups running events. There needs to be more support from Risk Management to student groups and Student Group Services. I will continue to advocate for wide consultation on any changes to alcohol policy, and will get the ball rolling for future VPs to go with.