

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL

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**Tuesday November 18th, 2014  
ETLC E1-008**

We would like to acknowledge that our University and our Students' Union are located on Treaty 6 Territory. We are grateful to be on Cree, Saulteaux, Métis, Blackfoot, and Nakota Sioux territory; specifically the ancestral space of the Papaschase Cree. These Nations are our family, friends, faculty, staff, students, and peers. As members of the University of Alberta Students' Union we honour the nation-to-nation treaty relationship. We aspire for our learning, research, teaching, and governance to acknowledge continuing colonial violence and respect Indigenous knowledges and traditions.

## ORDER PAPER (SC 2014-15)

- 2014-15/1      SPEAKER'S BUSINESS
- 2014-15/1a      Announcements – The next meeting of Students' Council will take place on Tuesday, December 2, 2014
- 2014-15/2      PRESENTATIONS
- 2014-15/3      EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
- 2014-15/3a      Executive Committee Report  
Please see document SC 14-15.01
- 2014-15/4      BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 2014-15/5      QUESTION PERIOD
- 2014-15/6      BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS
- 2014-15/6a      **ORYDZUK/GRUHLKE move to** approve the Deferred Maintenance policy in second reading based on the recommendation of Policy Committee.  
Please see document SC 14-15.02
- 2014-15/7      GENERAL ORDERS
- 2014-15/7a      **LAU MOVES TO** appoint three (3) members of Students' Council to Student Financial Support's Scholastic Distinction and Leadership Scholarship Ranking Committees.

Please see document SC 14-15.03

**2014-15/7b** **HODGSON moves to** approve Bill #7 in first reading based on the following principle:

Bylaw 6000 should be rescinded, as it is now redundant

**2014-15/7c** **HODGSON moves to** strike the Students' Union Governance Review Task Force

Please see document SC 14-15.04

**2014-15/8** **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2014-15/8a** Nicholas Diaz, VP Student Life – Report

Please see document SC 14-15.05

**2014-15/8b** Navneet Khinda, VP External - Report

Please see document SC 14-15.06

**2014-15/8c** William Lau, President - Report

Please see document SC 14-15.07

**2014-15/8d** Kathryn Orydzuk, VP Academic - Report

Please see document SC 14-15.08

Executive Committee Motion Tracking

32	2014-11-13	5/0/0	HODGSON/DIAZ moved to approve the following requests for Wall of Gold: Sexual Assault Centre (November 23), Orientation (January 12), International Week (January 25), Health Week (March 23), SU Appreciation Week (March 30), Sexual Assault Centre (April 6).
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WHEREAS funding for routine building and systems preventive maintenance has been significantly cut back, resulting in a substantial backlog of deferred maintenance;

WHEREAS the accumulation of significant deferred maintenance liability represents a failure of the government to adequately fund the operations of the University;

WHEREAS deferred maintenance reduces the quality of the undergraduate learning experience, the University's public image, and presents a potential health and safety hazard;

WHEREAS it is inappropriate for the University and the government to expect current and future undergraduates to fund the correction of historically deficient resource allocation;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the University of Alberta Students' Union advocates to the provincial government for a one-time capital funding package to be delivered over a period of years to remedy the historically accumulated deferred maintenance liability;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University of Alberta Students' Union advocates to the provincial government for the institution of an ongoing operational funding envelope to the University, designed to provide for adequate ongoing preventive maintenance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University of Alberta Students' Union advocates to the University to adequately prioritize preventative maintenance in future budgets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University of Alberta Students' Union advocates to the University to follow construction practices that minimize future maintenance costs.



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November 3, 2014

**To** William Lau  
President  
Students' Union

**From** Christie Nobes  
Program Coordinator  
Student Financial Support  
B07 Administration Building

**RE: 2015 Scholarship Ranking Committee**

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Student Financial Support is requesting that you designate three representatives from the Students' Union to sit on our Scholastic Distinction and Leadership Scholarship Ranking Committees. These committees review applications submitted by undergraduate, entrance, and transfer students both domestic and international.

The first committee will review applications for the Entrance Scholastic Distinction, Global Citizenship, and the Entrance Leadership competitions. Members of the committee would receive applications in January and will be given two weeks to review and rank them.

The second committee will be smaller and will be ranking applications for the Undergraduate and Transfer Leadership competitions. Applications for these groups would come out in May. Committee members will have two weeks to read and rank the applications.

Members of each Scholarship Ranking Committee will be asked to read and rank approximately 40 applications, taking approximately 10-12 hours. These rankings will be used by Student Financial Support to select the recipients of the competitions listed above. Additionally, for International Students, we will use these rankings to award various country specific awards with similar criteria. More information on these scholarships can be found on our scholarships website [www.ualberta.ca/awards](http://www.ualberta.ca/awards).

Please fill out the attached form by **December 17, 2014** and send it back to me via email to [christie.nobes@ualberta.ca](mailto:christie.nobes@ualberta.ca).

Kind Regards,

Christie Nobes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christie Nobes'.

CN  
Enclosure

# Students' Union Governance Structure Review Task Force

## Terms of Reference

### Purpose

Through conversation with Students' Council over the years, and recurring issues such as councilor engagement, student participation in elections and satisfaction with the Council experience, the structure of governance system has repeatedly come up as a root issue. The last time the Students' Union governance structure was reevaluated was in 2002 when Students' Council was reformed as a policy board to guide the organization. Given the last review was done 12 years ago, having a conversation about the Students' Union governance structures comes at an appropriate time and could yield valuable results.

### Scope

The task force will provide a report on their findings to Students' Council before April 30th, 2015 that will focus on the following issues:

1. Examining the decision made in 2002
2. Examining other Student Association governance structures
3. Examining literature on governance structures
4. Identifying the challenges student representatives face
5. Identifying the unique qualities of student governance at the U of A
6. Propose recommendations

### Meetings

Meetings will be held biweekly from January to April.

### Membership

- 2 Students' Union Executives
- 4 Representative from Students' Council
- 2 Student at Large's
- General Manager of the Students' Union
- Directory of Research and Political Affairs
- 2 Students' Union staff members

### Membership Selection

The Students' Council and Executive representatives shall be selected by a vote at a Students' Council meeting and a Executive Committee meeting respectively. The student at larges and staff members shall be selected by the rest of the task force at the first meeting of the task force.

### Resource Personnel

- Manager of Discover Governance

November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014

To: University of Alberta Students' Council 2014/2015

Re: Vice President Student Life Council Report

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Hi Council,

This report covers from November 1st to November 13th.

## **Advocacy**

The first **RHA Council** meeting went very well! We achieved consensus on pursuing a new structure for the RHA that mirrors COFA, and we agreed to hold an electronic vote to fill the RHA executive for the time being. That vote is ongoing until Monday evening, and I will be requesting a draft structure from Discover Governance soon.

At the **Residence Advisory Committee**, we collectively made the argument that the arbitrary and un-regulated fee structure for residences made little sense, and more specifically that lockout fees have little rationale when they do *not* track the revenue from those fees, and Residence Assistants are already on call.

Our meeting with Protective Services and Safewalk about **AUSFJ** security concerns will be on Monday the 17th.

I have been invited to speak at a media conference on the upcoming **Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA)** bill. This will be a great opportunity to speak to our campus services, and the nature of post-secondary GSA equivalents across the country. That comparison will hopefully draw attention to the fact that GSA equivalents at post-secondary institutions see almost no contention, as compared with GSAs in secondary school in Alberta.

## **Council and Governance**

I brought the Student Group **Bylaw 5600** work and the bylaw committee feedback to governance committee. My next step is to transcribe their feedback, and bring that past our SGS working group, then back to bylaw committee. I anticipate this being the last of the work possible over this semester. We could then look at resuming in the winter term.

## **Student Groups and Associations**

**Wellness Project** grant adjudication happened over this last week. We are meeting on Friday the 14th and will hopefully disperse funds soon.

## **Health and Services**

We have hired a new **Infolink** manager! She was our previous assistant manager, so she is now opening up applications for the assistant manager position.

## **Events**

Registration for **Antifreeze** teams is now open! Is council interested in having a team?

I would be so happy if you joined us for our **Rally to Prioritize Post-Secondary Education** on Monday! We've heard the government's narrative for quality for post-secondary institutions - which is good! - until they talk down our expectation for funding. The cost of that quality is falling on students. I hope to see you out at the legislature (with your friends!) to let the government know that post-secondary education should be a top priority.

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Best,

Nicholas Diaz

Vice President Student Life 2014-2015

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**To:** Students' Council

**Re:** Report to Council

Dear Council,

What a week! I hope you found time to relax as well as study during our long-weekend! This has been a very, very fast-paced week and a half with a lot of things evolving. Unfortunately, I will be away from Council since I will be in Ottawa lobbying Members of Parliament on student issues. Definitely let me know if you have questions or want to chat!

The last time I officially corresponded with Council was when I submitted to you my report regarding the details of the Rally. It's attached at the end of this report as an information item.

Over the long weekend, I'm really happy to say that I reached out to every single Councillor at least once. It's no surprise by now that a letter was sent around to select individuals regarding concerns about the Rally. It was signed by 16 people and of those 16, everyone who has gotten back to me is fine with the Rally, and in fact, supports it, with the exception of a couple individuals. VP Hodgson and I also hosted an information session to which three Councillors came. Despite the low turnout, we had some really good conversations!

The next few days are going to be very high profile for post-secondary education in Alberta. The new University of Alberta President will be announced *tomorrow* (November 14<sup>th</sup>!) and the Rally is on Monday! Those are big media events that will help us keep postsecondary on the minds of the public.

As you may have seen in the Gateway, students at the U of A had a really neat opportunity to meet with Minister Don Scott on Monday. This was an informal opportunity for other students to get a crack at external advocacy, sort of like the cherry on top of our usual business meetings. A huge thanks to Governor Hansra who could make this possible through his relationship with Minister Scott! Additionally, MLAs Matt Jeneroux and Steve Young were in attendance – some of the biggest champions of postsecondary, especially the University of Alberta.

Today, Advanced Education Minister, Don Scott, called me to officially notify us that he will be delaying the decision on the market modifier proposals. This can be looked at a couple different ways. On the plus side, I prefer the Ministry take the time to go through the proposals and consider the implications rather than making a rushed decision. On the other hand, the longer this is pushed back and in the case there *are* tuition hikes, it will impact the University budget process. Furthermore, it will mean less time for students to financially prepare. Some may interpret this delay as a partial “win”, others may be concerned that this will be announced at a time when students are not paying attention, such as during final exams. At this point, I remain on the positive end of the spectrum.

Regardless, this does *not* render the Rally useless. The point is, this time of year is absolutely *crucial* for the government since they are in the budget planning process. By getting hundreds of students out there now, we visibly show the Minister, the Premier, all other MLAs, and the public that students are willing to put in the effort to demand that government prioritize our futures. This is not meant to antagonize anyone, nor should it if you think about it. Students rallying at the legislature also translate into students voting, and government is *always* receptive to that.

So, I've been working on making sure this Rally is a success since I got back from Toronto. I'm happy to say that the marketing is going well as is outreach. I really think we could use more of a push here though – there's only so many class-talks and one-on-ones a handful of people can do!

Let's put this situation into a broader context – During the Progressive Conservative Leadership race, we heard from now Premier Prentice that he would reinvest in terms of more funding for postsecondary. I'm already hearing rumors from credible sources that it will no longer be happening. Furthermore, in 2016, the Tuition and Fees Regulation, which is part of the Post-Secondary Learning Act, is set to expire. That means it could either be renewed as is, or it could be changed. That makes me slightly nervous. The way things seem right now, I am sometimes uncertain that we will even have our tuition cap in the coming years, something that students have worked long and hard for. Having tuition tied to a measure of inflation is a really good and reasonable middle ground.

### Other News

We still have to set up the details, but after our Council meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Students' Council is invited to a meet and greet with MLA Steve Young (Edmonton Riverview)! This should be fun! MLA Young is very active with the university community. Stay tuned for more details.

### Conclusion

With all that said, I truly hope Councillors make a strong showing at the Rally – if we are not here for our students and for postsecondary now, then when? As always, I am available to answer your questions. If you have questions or concerns regarding the Rally during the Council meeting, please direct them to VP Hodgson, as President Lau and I will be absent.

See you Monday! ;)



### Navneet Khinda

Vice President External 2014-2015 // [University of Alberta Students' Union](#)

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*Information Item*

November 8th, 2014

**To:** Students' Council

**Re:** Report to Council regarding the upcoming "Rally to Prioritize Postsecondary Education"

Dear Council,

It has come to my attention that while I was away, a number of Councillors expressed their concerns regarding the upcoming Rally. After I came back, I discussed this matter with a few Councillors and I came to the conclusion that while this is understandable, a lot of these concerns are based on some misunderstandings. If my previous report to Council was unclear or insufficient, I apologize. In this report, I address these misunderstandings.

Before I get into that, I do want to say thank you; thank you for caring so much about the Students' Union and its image; and thank you for taking your position as Councillor seriously and for your continued interest in the Students' Union advocacy efforts. We are truly stronger when we are united and I hope that the following report helps in your understanding of my work.

### **The Timeline of Events and Decision-Making**

For roughly three months now, myself and Executives from other Students' Unions across the province have been getting our message in the media constantly and consistently. Since the beginning of my term, the message has also been the same – that we are advocating for an Alberta post-secondary system based on the following principles: *predictability*, *accessibility*, *affordability*, *quality*, and *accountability*. No matter what issue is at stake, those are the principles I base my work on.

So when the market modifier issue arose (again), we took to the media. Why? Because without such actions, the public, and more importantly the students, would not be aware that this was going on. If I had not gone to the media about market modifiers, this issue would not be a public debate – and in my opinion, the question of tuition is inherently a social policy that warrants such public debate.

The Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education (IAE) set a deadline for November 17<sup>th</sup> as the day for which the decision regarding market modifier proposals would be made. November 17<sup>th</sup> is also the first day of the fall sitting of the legislature, meaning the first day of governing. It's a very symbolic day that the government uses to set forth its priorities.

During our CAUS meeting, we spent about four hours talking about the topic of a Rally. Many members around the table were of the opinion that we need to keep the momentum going because our students demand it. Up until this point, we did a good job at keeping this issue in the public eye. Now that the market modifier proposals have been submitted to the Ministry, we felt

that we could still continue our advocacy while the Minister makes his decision. The idea of a Rally had already been mentioned in passing, and now it got some momentum around the table.

Initially, President Lau and I were hesitant about a Rally for a number of reasons. One, events of this scale typically take much longer to organize and here we only had two weeks at the most. Second, we are the only Students' Union in Alberta that delegates as much representative authority as we do to its Faculty Associations. Of course, this presents us with an additional layer to work with, as you might have noticed. However, we debated this topic of a public demonstration for roughly *four* hours, considering the potential dates, times, risks, and opportunities. Nevertheless, at the end of that meeting, everyone around the table was convinced that November 17<sup>th</sup> would work best for this initiative, and that we should certainly go ahead and do it. I left that meeting confident in the decision I made and ready to stand by it fully, despite knowing that the University of Alberta Students' Union would need to bring out the most students to make this a success.

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### **Question: “What is the message/purpose of this Rally?”**

There are a number of issues and messages that underlie this Rally, and all of them are enveloped by one basic message – that we want the Alberta Government to prioritize post-secondary education.

There are some key messages as well:

1. Market modifiers are a short-term fix, not a long-term solution. They will not solve the greater problem around the institution's structural deficits (remember the Budget presentation on October 21<sup>st</sup>?). The business case around market modifiers is highly flawed. So, the message to the Minister is, let's work together to find lasting solutions instead.
2. Premier Prentice has already promised funding to post-secondary institutions. If that promise is indeed kept, and funding is restored, then market modifiers are unnecessary. This is where the phrase of “stop breaking promises” comes into play.
  - a. Here's another broken promise – in 2010, Minister Horner said that Market modifiers would only be used once.
  - b. The last PC government said that the latest budget cuts would “not fall on the backs of students”. Guess what, they did.
3. The phrase “market modifiers” may sound complex, and indeed it does to many students, but they are simply tuition hikes targeted to specific programs that make higher education less accessible. We want the Minister and the government to be clear about what this means for access to education for Albertans.
4. Tuition is tied to CPI, which is a measure of inflation. It is done this way to ensure predictability for families and students. The existence of these loopholes, such as mandatory non-instructional fees and market modifiers, make the tuition cap meaningless. The message here is to close the loopholes.

*The underlying message – Minister, Alberta must prioritize post-secondary education. This message can be demonstrated in a number of ways. People can write catchy slogans on signs for instance!*

**Misunderstanding: “The decision to host the Rally is a rushed decision and therefore will be unsuccessful”**

As mentioned earlier, all other Executives and I deeply and thoroughly consider the impacts of decisions like these. They are not made in haste nor are they made without forethought. However, Councillors are correct in that this is a short timeline.

Typically, organizing students for an event such as this takes time. From the moment we decided on hosting a Rally to the actual event itself, we had two weeks including weekends. That is indeed a short time-line and I am certainly feeling the pressure. However, I’m confident we can make it a successful event if we put our minds to it and our hearts and souls into it. I promise I am working my hardest to bring students together.

Much of the marketing (posters, graphics, handouts, etc.) had to be done in a matter of days and I organized much of this while I was out of town. The SU’s Marketing department did a stellar job of responding to the tight deadlines and being in constant communication with me. The two biggest challenges regarding an event like this is getting the marketing right and getting as many students out there as possible. Posters should be up this weekend or Monday, and we will also have “tags” to hand out to students that they can pin to their clothing.

Finally, we had to pick November 17<sup>th</sup> as the date. We could not protest at the Legislature before that date because there would be no MLAs in the legislature, seeing as Session has not started. We cannot do it after November 17<sup>th</sup> because all the Presidents and VP Externals of Alberta University SU’s will be in Ottawa for our federal lobby week. In fact, we were supposed to leave for Ottawa on November 15<sup>th</sup> to have some time to prepare for our week of meetings with MPs on Parliament Hill. However, we decided that our advocacy efforts provincially are more time-sensitive and urgent so we prioritized this and chose to arrive at our federal lobby week one day late.

I did my best to ensure that all angles have been thought of before making the call that this event would happen. Finally, since this is an important day for government, there will already be a lot of media at the Legislature, making our chances of spreading our message to families across the province that much better.

**Misunderstanding: “This is a CAUS event, not an SU event, and therefore we should change our current marketing tactics on Facebook”**

Yes, there is a Facebook event to advertise the Rally – we would be remiss if we didn’t do so. However, it seems that many Councilors are upset that the Students’ Union is hosting it.

That decision was made for a number of reasons. First, we are physically hosting the event, in that most attendees will meet in Quad before the Rally (except for MacEwan students since they will start walking from their school).

Furthermore, every SU involved in this event also has their own Facebook event page, since their logistics are slightly different than ours. Here they are below:

Students’ Association of MacEwan University --

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1482375138717711/?pnref=story>

Students’ Association of Mount Royal University --

<https://www.facebook.com/events/371552346338440/>

(The UofC and UofL will be creating their events soon!)

Finally, the average student is not aware of CAUS. It’s difficult enough having the entire undergraduate student body be aware of the Students’ Union, let alone one of our advocacy groups! In this regard, it makes the most sense from a marketing standpoint to use the Students’ Union as a host. We need to get students to know about this event, care about it, and attend it – the best way to do that is to use what most students already know.

One more thing I will add: CAUS is a tool of the Students’ Union. It does not dictate our actions and it is a very consensus-driven organization. There are rarely decisions made where more than one Member disagrees. Its power lies in the fact that when we come together, we bring the voices of 100,000 university students to the table. Our issues as Students’ Unions are very similar. Finally, we are able to be agile while being wholly representative of each Members’ values.

**Misunderstanding: “This Rally is meant to be “radical”, “disruptive”, “disrespectful”, or “aggressive”; or “it will damage the Students’ Union’s reputation”**

Let me preface this answer by saying that I am fully committed to the Students’ Union and the values this organization represents. I have been involved directly and indirectly with the SU for my entire university degree – I served as a Councilor for two years, I’ve participated in many campaigns, and I’ve volunteered extensively. In my role as VPX, I work 60 hours a week, 6 days a week. The reputation of this organization is very important to me, not only because it reflects on my performance as an Executive, but because I am proud of the SU’s history, its current work, and its potential.

Given that, the risk of harming our reputation is always on my mind. And believe me, when it comes to balancing risks and rewards with a given advocacy strategy, that is something that I am consistently doing. This Rally will not damage our reputation – all the messaging that will be used before and during the Rally is the exact same that I have been using in every single media interview. All of our messaging stems from the principles I use when advocating to the Government.

Of course, there are always risks involved in any public event, since we can never control the actions of every individual. But that is a risk I am willing to take. I am confident that our students are respectful and understanding of what this Rally is about. It is meant to be a positive demonstration of support for strengthening Alberta's post-secondary education system. It is not the first time the SU is organizing a Rally, nor will it be the last.

**Misunderstanding: “Protests are ineffective; this is a desperate attempt; it will harm government relationships; we should lobby in meetings first”**

In a sense, the Students' Union is also an interest group to the government since we advocate on behalf of students' interests to try and influence the political agenda. Influencing the agenda of the government can take on many, many forms.

Student leaders pride ourselves on the relationships we cultivate within and outside of government. Influencing decision makers involves a number of strategies and players. This includes members of government, members of the opposition, the media, other lobbyists who share similar interests, and the voters.

As the VP External, I understand that each strategy has its time and place. In my opinion, protests and rallies can be effective if used well. They should not be the answer for every advocacy group and they shouldn't be the first tool used out of the toolbox.

On my own and in partnership with my colleagues at UofC, UofL, Mount Royal, and MacEwan, I have spent many months in meetings with MLAs and other people. Specifically in regards to the issue of Market Modifiers, I've been in discussion with Ministry staff for many, many hours.

The UASU Executives have also talked to the UofA Administration about this. In fact, they too have been notified of the Rally and are generally supportive of it, which is quite exciting. Many stakeholders have been engaged regarding students' issues. A rally, then, seems like a natural next step to ensure ongoing advocacy.

Furthermore, the public demonstration used last year regarding the international student differential fee (IDF) was quite effective. It didn't stop the increase, but through the combined efforts of the roughly 100 students who showed up to the Board meeting and last year's Executives' lobbying efforts, the issue became quite pertinent. The Board members had to respond in a balanced way; the Vice-Chair stated that she wanted to ensure a strategy for international student financial aid, for example. And now, after that and continued pressure this

year, the Ministry of IAE is in the process of developing “best practices” regarding the international fees at Alberta institutions. This issue is now on the Ministry’s agenda.

In 2010, the University of Alberta introduced a mandatory non-instructional fee – the CoSSS fee that we know so well. However, it was introduced at a price tag of \$550! The SU hosted a successful rally, and after that the price was reduced by *half*.

As student leaders, our main priority should be ensuring that our constituents’ concerns are heard by decision-makers; that our actions are in their best interests. Of course, maintaining relationships is absolutely essential, yet that is never the primary goal – it is a means to our goal.

Furthermore, this is a new government and a new Minister for advanced education; this is a good way to show him that students truly care about their education and that his decisions will impact many people.

A rally is just another tool when it comes to building a stronger post-secondary system.

**Concern: “Why did this decision not come to Council to be ratified first?”**

In regards to this, I want to say that on my end, there is never an intention of “side-stepping” the Council or anything of that sort. In fact, Council was the first body to be officially notified of this Rally in writing. After that, the Faculty Associations were to be notified, as well as the Graduate Students’ Association.

I understand that some Councilors wish we had discussed this in Council before the decision was made final. I sympathize. First, I needed to balance the accuracy of information and details against timeliness. For instance, I think it is inappropriate and unprofessional to just tell Council that “I am organizing a Rally” without having the details figured out, such as the messaging, the time, the location, etc. Once an information item is sent to Council, it is, in essence, public knowledge. This is why I have to be sure that the basic facts are decided so that anything I share cannot be distorted or misinterpreted, which can happen if there are details left unsaid. This is why my report to Council was sent a few hours before the meeting – I wanted to be sure you received the most up-to-date and accurate information from me.

There is nowhere in bylaw that states that I must have the approval of Council before executing an event or any other advocacy related item. If that were the case, it would make our organization very slow to react and respond and not as agile as it is now, while having the checks and balances that it does. To this end, I was simply unaware that Council wanted me to bring items like this forward for approval. In an ideal situation, I would have had the time necessary to bring this forward to Council first and ask for opinions and suggestions. Frankly, I did not have the luxury of that time. I could not possibly have waited for approval from a meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup> for an event that had to be organized by November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Council is a very important venue for debate and discussion when it comes to judging priorities, setting policy, and ensuring policies and bylaws are followed. Importantly, my decisions are

based on our policies, which are set and decided upon by Students' Council. Furthermore, I would like to say that this is why students elect us in the portfolios that we have – so that we can make decisions when the time calls for it with the trust and authority vested in us from students. It is my job and responsibility to make these decisions, decisions that I do not take lightly. I want to make it clear that we have role division in the Students' Union for a reason. Simply put – it is my prerogative to decide which tools to use regarding the advocacy goals that students want me to achieve.

Council sets the direction, and the Executive Committee executes according to what has been decided in Council. I wholeheartedly welcome Council's suggestions and in fact, I encourage your participation. Sometimes though, reality dictates that not everything can be passed through Council.

However, I really appreciate the enthusiasm you have all shown for my advocacy efforts -- that's actually quite heartening. I do hope that you continue to email or message me personally the moment you have a concern or a question. I am always open to talking with Councilors.

There was also a volunteer/outreach session on Wednesday where those who wanted to get involved could get more information – I heard that a few Councilors came to that, so thank you!

There is also going to be a “sign-making day” coming up on November 13<sup>th</sup>. We still have to lock down a time and place so stay tuned or email Patrick Cajina at [aoco@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:aoco@su.ualberta.ca) for updates on this.

Given all the above information, I sincerely hope this answers all the questions you had and addresses all the concerns you mentioned to me. Thank you to everyone who has already asked for ways to get involved and who have already begun brainstorming ideas for the Rally. Have a wonderful weekend!

Respectfully,



**Navneet Khinda**

Vice President External 2014-2015 // University of Alberta Students' Union

Chair // [Council of Alberta University Students](#)

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November 14th, 2014

**To:** University of Alberta Students' Union Students' Council 2014-2015

**From:** William Lau, President 2014-2015

**Re:** Report to Students' Council (for November 18th, Meeting)

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Dear Council,

First and foremost, I will not be at the upcoming November 18<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, as Vice President Khinda and myself will be in Ottawa attending our federal Lobby Week with CASA, our federal lobby group. If you have any questions directed at us, please feel free to send them via email. If you want to chat in person, I hope to see most of you on Monday at our rally.

I hope you all **understand how important this rally is**, not only to the student body, but also to the University of Alberta and even Alberta as a province; education is widely recognized as the single most important factor in the development of a society.

We have heard three clear messages:

1. The government's attitude towards post-secondary education is rather simple: quality first;
2. The government is talking down the University of Alberta's expectations for reinvestment into Post-Secondary Education, and the university should plan for a 0% grant increase for the following year; and
3. The government will explore the removal of "barriers", removing the shackles from institutions, allowing them to "maximize revenue streams".

Together, this messaging is extremely troubling. The University has two primary sources of revenue: government funding and student dollars. A push for higher quality without any increase in funding means that the cost will be put directly on the backs of students.

This is not just a concern for our students though. Our faculty and staff will be negotiating their collective agreements this year to negotiate their compensation for the next two years. With awareness of the government's limited investment, how will we retain our top professors that provide us the quality of

education we value, the quality of education we expect and the quality of education we pay for?

Furthermore, with increased costs to post-secondary education, how does that impact the social fabric of our province?

Stop the broken promises.

Premier Prentice promised reinvestment into post-secondary education in early September during the PC leadership race, and we are already having our expectations talked down.

Previous leadership promised that budget cuts wouldn't fall onto the backs of students, and we have seen massive increases strategically handed to select populations to prevent an uprising; this year, proposed increases in certain programs up to 58%. Simultaneously, we have seen professors, courses and programs get cut, cheapening the quality of our education.

Yes, it will be cold, but *the time is now*.

Monday happens to be the first sitting of the Legislative Assembly for Fall 2014, where all MLAs will be present for the Speech from the Throne.

Moreover, the Government of Alberta is preparing its budget for the upcoming year, and we need to speak out about how important an affordable & accessible education is.

The success of our rally is directly correlated to whether the government will prioritize and reinvest in post-secondary education. The attendance at the rally will be directly correlated to how many people care about post-secondary education. I understand that students have class, but **I beg you to share [this event](#) and make this event as a priority**, for our students, for the U of A, and for Alberta's future.

**Come join us: 1:00PM in Quad (beside SUB) on Monday Nov 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**William Lau**

[President](#) 2014-2015 | [University of Alberta Students' Union \(UASU\)](#)

Governor | [University of Alberta Board of Governors](#)

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November 18, 2014

To: Council

Re: Report

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Hi Council,

Four days until the rally to prioritize post-secondary education!

In case you have somehow not heard about this, the entire purpose of the rally is not to slam market modifiers, but more so to protest against the government funding situation that makes them an option. On November 17th we will be meeting in quad at 1pm and then marching down to the legislature grounds.

We expect to be there at 2:15 if you are coming later/want to drive because it'll be cold. Speaking of cold, we will also be giving away free hot chocolate in Quad!

In the Academic portfolio, it's been a pretty interesting couple of weeks. On the evening of Halloween I met with the executives of ASA and AUFSJ for the inaugural meeting of Council of Campus Associations at Campus Saint Jean. We approved the Terms of Reference for the committee, which will be advisory to me, and discussed a number of issues pertinent to Campus Associations such as parking, CATPs, student services, safety, student group status, and SU political policy. I thought it was a very productive meeting and I'm looking forward to the next meeting in winter term, which will take place at Augustana Campus. I think that COCA will have a really positive impact on CAs and the students at satellite campuses in the future.

I kicked off the winter round of Be Booksmart with an email out to all profs about the ways that they can save students money on academic materials. If you are interested, this is what I sent them:

[Letter to Profs\\_Be Booksmart\\_Winter](#)

An important aspect of this email is the blurb at the end that says:

"Of course, I don't have all the answers. If you already make an effort to save students money on textbooks, or know a colleague who does, please email me back with a description of your/their innovative solution before the end of term. I want to create an Academic Materials Honour Roll to celebrate instructors who are innovating new ways to help save students money with academic materials, making post-secondary education more accessible for all. The instructor with the most innovative



solution will receive **The Students' Union and Centre for Teaching and Learning Award for Innovative Solutions in Academic Materials** and both the recipient of this award and the instructors on the Honour Roll will be recognized on the SU and CTL websites."

The Centre for Teaching and Learning has graciously agreed to donate \$500 by copy to the Be Booksmart initiative so that we can offer this award to recognize the efforts of professors who work hard to make sure that post secondary is financially accessible.

In Round 1, professors nominated themselves and their colleagues, but in Round 2, I need you!

If your professor uses an innovative method to save you money on textbooks you should nominate them so they can be on the Honour Roll or even win the Award! Nominate here: <https://docs.google.com/a/su.ualberta.ca/forms/d/1S5UfrvBjZ0QkRH8MnDIaDcEeRhjIJR4s73P9rPFz-Fo/viewform>

There have been a metric tonne of GFC committee meetings in the last couple weeks: CLE, SOS, EXEC, and SC.

CLE: Had a discussion on Fostering Pedagogy of Technology, meaning how technology is used at the U of A. I will be on a subcommittee that will do some visioning on this topic going forward. CLE will definitely be doing some analysis of how technology is used in the classroom and what that will look like in the future.

SOS: Talked about making it easier to transfer between CARI institutions and saw updates to the calendar in terms of the 10-point enrollment management plan.

EXEC: Lots of items - a handful of minor policy changes up for approval. One important thing that passed unanimously was the Academic Schedule for 2015/16, which includes Fall Reading Week! GFC will also now have a discussion period in which members can suggest broad topics of discussion for all of GFC to discuss. President Lau presented the SU goals for the year. We also saw the Dare to Discover Report Card, which is already done and submitted to the Board.

At Student Caucus last night we had a great turnout. I heard a request at the last meeting to meet earlier ahead of GFC proper so that students could get help with drafting questions for GFC prior to the written question deadline. So for this Student Caucus, councillors spent the second half of the meeting writing questions in pairs. Since undergraduates do not commonly submit questions to GFC I feel as though this exercise will go a long way towards breaking down barriers to students being engaged at GFC.



I recently got some amazing and exciting news from Ualberta Libraries last week. Libraries is making some funding available to make a large purchase of textbooks for the library so that there can be a textbook repository that is free to use for students.

I do not yet have all the details, but I have a library advisory committee meeting next week at which this will be discussed further. As you may remember, one of my campaign goals was to create a textbook repository in SUB. Although I was in the midst of planning and budgeting for that, I no longer feel as though this will be a useful service for students or an efficient use of their fees if it duplicates something that the library is already doing. What I will do instead is ensure that SU is supportive of this initiative.

On Monday, FA/CA Presidents, SU Execs, and a GSA rep met on campus with the Minister of Advanced Education. We went around the room and each person got to speak on the issues that are particular to their faculty. The mood of the meeting was generally positive and it sounded like there was an appetite for another similar meeting next term. Gateway wrote an article about it: <http://thegatewayonline.ca/index.php/blog/comments/minister-brief>

It's Official!

The Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES) Undergraduate Association, FAUnA, was recognized on November 7<sup>th</sup> and is the product of many months of work by the office of Discover Governance and several incredibly dedicated ALES students. I would like to personally thank Braiden Redman, Ruby Sarkar, Alyssa Cumberland, Leon Milner, Justis Allard, Michael Huang, Loana Valdez, Ivy Ye, and Natalia Mackowiak for all of their hard work over the past months. This new organization will represent, serve, and engage ALES students for years to come.

Finally,

The project managers of the Leadership College are looking for students to participate in a focus group in 2-3 weeks, and I was hoping some Councillors would be interested! The focus groups would be centred around marketing, but may cover other topics as well. Let me know if you want to be one of the students!

That's all for now,

See you Tuesday!

Kathryn

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

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Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> 2014  
ETLC E1 008

## VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS (SC 2014-14)

2014-14/1

### SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

Meeting called to order at 6:17 pm.

2014-14/1a

Announcements - The next meeting of Students' Council will take place on Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014

2014-14/2

### PRESENTATIONS

2014-14/2a

**Your Athletics and Recreation Fee, by Ian Reade; sponsored by President Lau and Vice President Diaz**

The Athletics and Recreation Fee supports the provision of recreation, sport and wellness services, access to recreation and sport facilities and the administrative support for these services that benefit students, including varsity athletics, recreation facility access, group exercise, intramural sports, aquatics, instructional recreation, special events, sports clubs, personal training, and sport development. The fee was recently increased, and we have invited the Director of Athletics, Ian Reade to provide updates on the impact of the fee. He will also discuss the processes around the Golden Bears & Pandas Legacy Fund as well as the Campus Recreation Enhancement Fund.

2014-14/2b

**Helping Individuals at Risk policy proposal by Acting Dean of Students Dr. Robin Everall, sponsored by President Lau and Vice President Diaz**

In the 2013 Provost Fellow, Student Mental Health Report, it was proposed that the Helping Individuals at Risk (HIAR) policy be augmented to include students at academic risk. The presentation will outline the proposed changes to the policy and procedure and seek student feedback.

**HODGSON/FAROOQ MOVED TO** special order item 2014-14/7a to the main agenda.

**Motion CARRIED**

2014-14/3

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Nicholas Diaz, VP Student Life- Report

Cory Hodgson, VP Operations & Finance- Report

Kathryn Orydzuk, VP Academic- Report

2014-14/4

**BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Sangram Hansra, Undergraduate Board of Governors Rep- Report

Marina Banister, Nominating Committee Chair- Report

2014-14/5

**QUESTION PERIOD**

Question period extended 15 minutes.

Question period extended 15 minutes.

**MOVED TO** extend question period by 15 minutes.

**Motion CARRIED**

Question period extended 15 minutes.

Automatic Recess at 8:30 pm.

Meeting called back to order at 8:45 pm.

2014-14/6

**BOARDS AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2014-14/6a

**ORYDZUK/KHINDA move to** approve the Student Financial Assistance policy in second reading based on the recommendation of Policy Committee.

**Speakers List:** Orydzuk, Diaz

**Motion CARRIED**

2014-14/6b

**ORYDZUK/GRUHLKE move that,** upon the recommendation of policy committee, the Deferred Maintenance Policy be approved in first reading based on the following principles:

1. Funding for routine building and systems preventive maintenance had been significantly cut back, resulting in a massive backlog of deferred maintenance.
2. The accumulation of significant deferred maintenance liability represents a failure of the government to adequately fund the operations of the University.
3. Deferred maintenance reduces the quality of the undergraduate learning experience, the University's public image, and presents a potential health and safety hazard.
4. It is inappropriate for the University and the government to expect current and future undergraduates to fund the correction of historically deficient resource allocations.
5. Adequate funding should be provided by the provincial government to cover the costs of accumulated and ongoing deferred maintenance.

6. The University should adequately prioritize preventative maintenance in future budgets.

7. The University should follow construction practices that minimize future maintenance costs.

**Speakers List:** Orydzuk

**Motion CARRIED**

2014-14/6c

**ORYDZUK/GRUHLKE move that**, upon the recommendation of policy committee, the Research Policy be approved in first reading based on the following principles:

1. Research and teaching represent the foundation of any comprehensive higher education institution and the University should view research and teaching as equally important constituent parts of the University.

2. Research is a valuable aspect of the University and conducting research is a necessary activity that improves the reputation of the University.

3. University culture lends itself to celebrate the successes of research while overlooking successes in teaching.

4. Indirect costs of research are necessary expenses not covered by research funding and are therefore covered by the University operating budget.

5. When the indirect cost of research competes with undergraduate education for funding, it encroaches on the quality of education delivered to undergraduates.

6. The University of Alberta should contextualize research in a manner that maximizes the quality of higher education within the institution.

7. Undergraduate research is valuable to students and to the institution.

8. There should be more opportunities for undergraduates to participate in research.

9. Undergraduates should be made aware of the research opportunities available to them.

**Speakers List:** Orydzuk, Farooq, Croutze

**Motion CARRIED**

**Abstain:** Wong, Warriar

2014-14/7

**GENERAL ORDERS**

2014-14/7a

**HODGSON/HWANG MOVE TO** approve Bill #4 in second reading based on the following principles:

All mentions and processes involving DFUs shall be moved to a newly created 6000 series of bylaws.

Two categories of DFUs shall be created, Operational DFUs and Granting DFUs. Only DFUs with 100% of funds going to grants shall be considered Granting DFUs.

Timelines for DFU creation shall be clarified and made explicit. Time will be allowed for the Students' Union to adequately consider a question.

Responsibilities of all parties involved in DFU creation shall be clearly outlined, and alternatives shall be made available should the Students' Union fail in its role to consider the question.

DFUs shall be moved to a five year plebiscite cycle, as opposed to the current referendum cycle. References to Class C and D fees shall be eliminated.

DFUs that have the condition of being opt-out as part of the referendum question shall conduct opt-outs through an online process.

Please see documents LA 14-14.01, LA 14-14.02, LA 14-14.03, LA 14-14.04 and LA 14-14.05

**Speakers List:** Hodgson, Champagne, Farooq

**Motion CARRIED**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm**

