

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday, December 2nd, 2014
ETLC E1-008

LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2014-16)

- 2014-16/1 SPEAKER'S BUSINESS
- 2014-16/2 PRESENTATIONS
- 2014-16/3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
- 2014-16/4 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 2014-16/5 QUESTION PERIOD
- 2014-16/6 BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS
- 2014-16/6a **DIAZ MOVES THAT** Students' Council, on the recommendation of the DIE Board Tribune Selection Committee, appoint Nikki Way and Asmaa Mohamed as DIE Board Tribunes.
- 2014-16/6b **HODGSON MOVES**, upon the recommendation of Bylaw Committee, to ratify the Gateway Student Journalism Society's referendum question.
- Please see document LA 14-16.01
- 2014-16/7 GENERAL ORDERS
- 2014-16/8 INFORMATION ITEMS
- 2014-16/8c Finance Committee Summary Report – November 25, 2014
- Please see document LA 14-16.02
- 2014-16/8d Navneet Khinda, VP External - Report
- Please see document LA 14-16.03
- 2014-16/8e Cory Hodgson, VP Operations & Finance - Report
- Please see document LA 14-16.04
- 2014-16/8f Bylaw Committee Summary Report – November 28, 2014
- Please see document LA 14-16.05

2014-16/8g William Lau, President - Report
Please see document LA 14-16.06

Do you support a \$2 fee increase to a total of \$5.31 per student per Fall and Winter semester, and a \$0.63 increase to a total of \$1.05 per student per Spring and Summer semester, to support The Gateway for equipment upgrades for online focused publication transitions and summer operations?

The fee will be collected from full-time and part-time undergraduate students, including off campus students; Augustana students will be exempt. Students will have the option to opt out online from the fee.

The \$2 increase will fund equipment upgrades, and new softwares to allow more efficient transition to the online and mobile focused publication. The \$0.63 increase will fund, and continue summer training and production.

The structure of the Board of Directors overseeing the fee will follow the structure outlined in the Gateway Student Journalism Society's bylaws. Composition of the board may be changed by a joint resolution of Students' Council and the Board of Directors.



FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: November 25th 2014

Time: 6.28 pm

2014 – 2015

Motions

1.	<i>HODGSON/SLEIMAN moved to approve the agenda for November 25, 2014 as tabled.</i>	<i>CARRIED 5/0/1</i>
2.	<i>HODGSON/SLEIMAN moved to approve the minutes for October 28, 2014 as tabled.</i>	<i>CARRIED 3/0/3</i>
3.	<i>DIAZ/CROUTZE moved to adjourn the meeting.</i>	<i>CARRIED</i>

December 1st, 2014

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council for December 2nd meeting

Dear Council,

I am reporting to you after what has probably been the most exciting and most fast-paced two weeks of this year so far! I'm also looking forward to being back in Council after a month.

To recap:

- Rally at the Legislature
- Throne Speech at the Legislature – shift in government's language is worrying
- Ottawa for a week – CASA's Advocacy Week 2014
 - 8-9 meetings personally with Members of Parliament + President Lau's meetings
 - Highlight: meeting Prime Minister Stephen Harper
 - Plenary
 - UASU got a policy stance on education tax credits passed!
 - Committed to a GOTV campaign for 2015
- A week of catch-up
 - Meeting with Deputy Minister, Marcia Nelson
 - Code of Student Behaviour Review
 - Senior Manager's Meeting
 - Progress on Women in Politics/Feminism Project
- Coming up:
 - PCAA Riverview Meet-and-Greet
 - CAUS mini lobby-conference
 - Senate Plenary

Rally at Legislature // Provincial Advocacy Re: Tuition // Upcoming Budget

The Students' Union **hosted a “Rally to Prioritize Postsecondary Education” on Monday, November 17th**. Students from all five universities across the province were in attendance – collectively, the members of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) represent 100,000 students. There was a reported 300-400 students in attendance, which is quite successful for a rally on a Monday afternoon during winter. This provided us with another media cycle province-wide on the day of the government's Throne Speech, which helped keep the eye on PSE.

It is likely no surprise that we have been pushing quite publicly on the issue of “market modifiers,” also known as differential tuition hikes. Since August, the SU has received constant media attention on this issue. We have confidently capitalized on this attention by being public about students' issues and concerns, so that we can keep families in Alberta informed of the proposed tuition hikes and the rising costs of education. This increased attention has helped us in our advocacy efforts with Minister Scott and Premier Prentice as we now have other MLAs also asking questions and keeping post-secondary on the agenda.

It is all the more important that students keep pushing to make post-secondary education an election issue. **The province is keeping our expectations low about reinvestment into our institutions and that worries us**, since students are continuously being asked to make up for these cuts. Students trusted a pledge from Premier Jim Prentice that he would restore the funding cut to Alberta's post-secondary system cut in 2013. As of Friday, November 28, we have started hearing that Minister Don Scott is expecting his budget to be affected by the drop in global oil prices, which raises the possibility that the funding will not be restored as promised. While students heard a pledge from the previous Premier that cuts to education would not be felt on their backs, the Minister is now referring to Market Modifier tuition hikes as “opportunities.” If the government fails to honour their promises, we're worried that students in Alberta will soon be forced to pay more for a lower quality education. Students should have access to an education that is of quality and also affordable. In one of the wealthiest provinces in Canada, this shouldn't be such a difficult ask of our government.

Federal Advocacy Week

President Lau and I spent **a week in Ottawa on Parliament Hill** with our federal lobby organization known as The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). It's made up of 22 student associations across the country. Between approximately 60 student leaders, **we had over 140 meetings** with Members of Parliament, the Prime Minister, and Senators on our various federal asks for post-secondary. Our asks include changes to the Canada Student Loan Program, better labour-market indicators, increased funding for mental health services/campaigns, as well as a focus on grant funding. You can find them all at <http://casa-acaе.com/policy-and-advocacy/current-priorities/>.

I had a few personal successes as well! One, I got the award for “most likely to be the next governor general”, aka, the best schmoozer award. Jokes aside, I am very proud of the fact that **CASA has now adopted a policy stance on federal education-related tax credits**. Out of all the federal money spent on post-secondary education, the government spends the *most* on tax credits, which is an extremely inefficient way of meeting policy goals, such as increasing access and affordability for Canadian students. This was a controversial topic for the organization for a few years, but I’ve been consulting members on this since May, and I am really happy to say that **CASA now supports a policy of reallocating taxpayer money currently spent on tax-credits to the front-end targeted aid in the form of needs-based grants**. In the future when we go into lobby meetings and an MP asks us where we will get the funding from for one of our asks, we can point to the reallocation of tax credit spending as an example.

CASA members have also committed to a **Get-Out-The-Vote Campaign** for the **2015 federal election**. Stay tuned for more updates on this, but it is essentially what it sounds like – getting as many students as possible out to the polls come federal election time.

This Week – Provincial Advocacy & Internal Projects

On Monday, November 24th, I met with the Deputy Minister for Innovation and Advanced Education, Marcia Nelson. She has an extensive policy background and is really quite intelligent. The Assistant Deputy Minister was also in attendance. It was an informal discussion – we discussed current changes at the UofA, UofA-specific and CAUS advocacy goals, as well as the situation regarding market modifiers. Overall, it was a very positive meeting. There aren’t too many updates since they are in the middle of budget-season, so anything that will change, will come out with the budget. Despite potentially damaging setbacks to our education regarding tuition, I still hope to see some of our asks reflected in the upcoming budget, such as a renewal of the mental health funding and a reallocation of funding from back-end financial aid to front-aid.

In conjunction with student volunteers from the Faculty of Law, **the Students’ Union is undertaking a review of the Code of Student Behaviour (COSB)**. This will be a multi-year project and we are currently in the very early stages of reviewing the Code. I will be taking the lead on this project.

I went to **this week’s senior manager meeting** in place of President Lau. We discussed a number of things, one of them being the potential for creating a **communication plan** specifically focused on how the Students’ Union utilizes social media.

For **the project focusing on women in politics as well as feminism on campus**, there has been some progress, despite me putting it on the back burner for a month. I met with the marketing team and they are working on a design and a name now. With the committees of volunteers, we are working on some other items, such as ideas for events.

Coming Up This Week

Tonight, **you are all invited to attend a meet-and-greet with the MLA from Edmonton-Riverview, Steve Young.** Their office has arranged this meeting to take place right after our Council meeting and their AGM. There will be a number of guests in attendance, including:

- MLA Kerry Towle, Innisfail-Sylvan Lake (the newest PC MLA; she crossed the floor last week)
- Terri Beaupre, PCAA President (just 27 years old)
- Kim Krushell, former Edmonton City Counselor & now PC-Regional Director)
- James Cumming, federal PC Candidate for Edmonton Centre
- Members of the PC Youth
- Minister Don Scott *might* drop by

After Council on December 2nd, come to Dinwoodie at 8pm!

On Wednesday and Thursday, we have **a number of meetings lined up with the PSE Critics and leaders of the Opposition** for CAUS' "mini lobby con". So far, I will be meeting MLA Kent Hehr, MLA Blake Pederson (and other Wildrose MLAs), and MLA Brian Mason.

Finally, my week will end with another plenary meeting for the U of A Senate.

The term is coming to a close very fast, and I am very much looking forward to a break before the New Year begins. Once again, feel free to ask me questions on any of the items presented here and I am always available to meet.

Cheers!



Navneet Khinda

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

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December 1, 2014

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Students' Council

Hello Council,

Apologies for the late report, we were having server issues over the last week and I was unable to access my files.

PROJECTS

North Power Plant

Still editing my visioning document and I hope to be done extremely soon.

DFU Task Force

This is more or less finished now. With three groups going to referendum we have the perfect opportunity to see the impact of the changes. The last two steps of this will be a review of Bylaw 3000 and a review of DFUs current mandates.

Student Market Research Team (SMRT)

SMRT is going extremely well, with the students involved breaking into to groups to work on singular projects. We should be running a couple of surveys in Winter semester and will also be doing some analysis from sales data.

Faculty Association Financial Reviews

I've met with 3 of the 4 Fas who will be piloting the new system in Winter semester and all seem happy with it so far. I'll be consulting more broadly with FAs and trying to meet with all of them in the Winter semester.

CoSSS Fee

No updates yet, and there will likely be none until Winter semester.

OTHER:

Access Fund

No updates.

Bylaws

I'm planning on working with Bylaw for another committee reform bill.

FACRA

Had a board meeting and multiple other meetings.

GSJS (Gateway)

We'll be having a fairly important board meeting next week to discuss the future of the paper so there's some important prep I've been doing for this.

Miscellaneous Items

- Strategic Planning Committee Meetings
- First meeting of the PAW Strategic Operating Committee
- Had a tour of the underground tunnel system and how utilities work at the U of A
- One on ones with various councilors
- Presented at GFC
- Attended a presentation on policy by UBER
- The Rally!

Live Long and Prosper,

\$\$\$Cory Hodgson\$\$\$

(electronically submitted)



BYLAW COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: November 28^h 2014

Time: 6.00 pm

2011 – 2014 *MEETING #*

Motions

1.	<p><i>HODGSON / ALLARD moved to send out email motion at 6.48 pm</i></p>	<p><i>CARRIED 7/0/0</i></p>
2	<p><i>HODGSON/ ALLARD moved to approve the email motion on Gateway Student Journalism Society's referendum question, as follows:</i></p> <p>Do you support a \$2 fee increase to a total of \$5.31 per student per Fall and Winter semester, and a \$0.63 increase to a total of \$1.05 per student per Spring and Summer semester, to support The Gateway for equipment upgrades for online focused publication transitions and summer operations?</p> <p>The fee will be collected from full-time and part-time undergraduate students, including off campus students; Augustana students will be exempt. Students will have the option to opt out online from the fee.</p> <p>The \$2 increase will fund equipment upgrades, and new softwares to allow more efficient transition to the online and mobile focused publication. The \$0.63 increase will fund, and continue summer training and production.</p> <p>The structure of the Board of Directors overseeing the fee will follow the structure outlined in the Gateway Student Journalism Society's bylaws. Composition of the board may be changed by a joint resolution of Students' Council and the Board of Directors.</p>	<p><i>CARRIED 5/0/2 (i.e. 5 in favor and 2 abstentions)</i></p>

December 2nd, 2014

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

From: William Lau, President 2014-2015

Re: Report to Students' Council (for December 2nd, Meeting)

Dear Council,

First off, a huge shoutout to the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus and the Faculty of Education Handbell Ringers for an outstanding performance last night at the Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols to celebrate Advent & Christmas. The collage of biblical readings, community hymns, and world-class musical performances made for an amazing start to our holiday season. I strongly encourage all of you to attend next year's Festival if you have yet to check one out!

As you may recall, Vice President Khinda and myself were absent at the last Council meeting due to our participation in Canadian Alliance of Student Associations' (CASA) Lobby Conference in Ottawa. I personally had a chance to meet nine parliamentarians in person to talk about the future of post-secondary in Canada. Our three primary asks were as follows:

1. CASA recommends the federal government eliminate the Canada Student Loans Program in-study income assessment. CASA estimates this would cost the government approximately \$26.9M a year.
2. CASA recommends the government adopt the recommendations of the advisory panel on Labour Market Information (LMI) and invest \$15M in establishing a new set of LMI measurements.
3. CASA recommends that the federal government renew the Mental Health Commission of Canada's mandate for another ten years (2015-2025), ensuring a focus on students and youth at a cost of \$25M a year.
 - a. CASA recommends that the federal government, through the MHCC, actively pursue campaigns on university, college and polytechnic campuses across the country, aimed at decreasing the stigma associated with individuals suffering from mental health issues, by allotting the MHCC a dedicated (additional) funding stream in the amount of no less than \$4.5M a year for the remainder of their mandate.

Upon my return, I started my Monday off with a bang, at The Alberta Safe & Caring Schools Forum: Policy to Practice – Creating Safe Spaces Conference. Although this conference was primarily for the K-12 system, many lessons were learned that are directly transferrable to our campus health conversations. Unfortunately, I was only able to attend two sessions before I returned back to campus for my regular work. I plan to host a session after finals to discuss some of the conference’s discussion topics on our campus, with support from the conference organizers. Some of my key takeaways are outlined below:

1. Stress is a physiological response, with physiological (physical) impacts on one’s health;
2. Lack of sleep is the primary stressor of our current generation; and
3. Smiling is a sign of the relief of tension.

Moreover, there was a presentation on the Government of Alberta’s Education Act that governs K-12 education in our province. Recent changes showed an introduction of softer emotional wording to the history of legalistic jargon. Words such as “welcoming”, “caring”, “respectful” and “safe” were introduced, not without pushback from their legal team. The primary strength of such language was the generation of dialogue between all who interacted with the Act at various levels. I plan on exploring the introduction of such language in our policies on campus as well.

The next day, I spent most of my day dealing with University Alumni Affairs. A meeting with Vanessa Nemetchek, U of A’s new Manager of Corporate Alumni Relations allowed us to state our appetite for stronger relationships with local corporations to provide more work-integrated learning opportunities for our students. An opportunity also existed for corporations to visit campus more often to be an active partner in professional development/skills training programs. That evening, I attended the Venture Mentoring Service’s inaugural anniversary gathering, where various start-ups presented their recent progress. Over the past year, VMS has provided mentorship to 17 projects, with a pool of over 30 (and still growing) alumni mentors.

Some of you may have also noticed that I have given up my jet-black hair at the 11th Annual Engineering Head Shave to fundraise for the Alberta Cancer Foundation. In participating, I challenged our past-Provost Dr. Carl Amrhein to join me, which he did even after his secondment to Alberta Health Services as their Official Administrator. Together, we fundraised \$5,550 for cancer research. Shoutout to not only all the other students who participated in the head shave, but a huge thank you to the Engineering Students’ Society that organized the event.

You may have also heard about our recruitment for the Peter Lougheed Leadership College Focus Groups. Over one weekend, we had over 430 students sign up for focus groups, where about 80% of students had to be turned down due to limited seats. We have thanked all respondents for their active engagement and encouraged students that we weren't able to accommodate to send us written feedback.

Last but not least, there have been some miscommunications around the applications for SU Awards. Originally, the application deadline was 11:59pm on Friday night. Unfortunately, maintenance of our server was scheduled for that evening, resulting in a barrier for application submissions. Moreover, the office did not have the capacity to process the overwhelming number of CCR requests that were received. The SU Awards application deadline has been extended to Friday December 5th at 11:59pm.

We would really appreciate Council's support in:

- Promoting the Students' Union Award for Leadership in Undergraduate Teaching Excellence (SALUTE) award that celebrates instructors;
- Promoting the volunteer opportunities on the Adjudication Committee. If you know students who have an interest in working in collaborative committees, free food, fantastic reference letters, and an inside look at scholarship adjudication processes, direct them to volunteer for the Adjudication Committee.

Please contact awards@su.ualberta.ca if you have any questions.

See you soon,



William Lau

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

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