

**Monday April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Telus 150**

**LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2015-00)**

**2015-00/5**

**GENERAL ORDERS**

**2015-00/5a**

KHINDA/ZHANG MOVE to allow Councillor Zhang to sit as a member of Students' Council while working as the External Policy Information Officer for the Department of Research and Political Affairs within the Students' Union.

Please see document LA 15.00.01

**EPIO and Council** LA 15.00.01**Request to allow Bo Zhang to sit as Councillor and EPIO**

Prepared by: Justin Williams, DRPA



**To:** Students' Council

Hello Members of Students' Council:

I am writing you today as part of the request to allow Bo Zhang to sit as a member of Students' Council while working as the External Policy Information Officer for the Department of Research and Political Affairs within the Students' Union. In this correspondence I will attempt to layout why I believe Councillor Zhang should be allowed to sit as a member of Students' Council while working as the External Policy and Information Officer.

Section 3.3 General Hiring Principles of the Operating Policy Manual states that an elected member of Students' Council may not serve as Students' Union term employees unless they receive permission from Students' Council. It is my understanding that this portion of Operating Policy originated when Students' Council was an active part of hiring many term positions. However, this conflict does not exist within the Information Officer positions, as a panel hires them with full-time staff from the office and out-going executives.

In addition to there not being a conflict in the hiring of the information officers, there should not be a conflict between their council duties and their employment responsibilities. As information officer, the student staff members learn about issues in higher education and do research to meet the advocacy goals of the Students' Union. There should not, then, be any conflict between the work that they do as members of council and as information officers. This additional information and insight can strengthen the understanding of the council member and make them a more productive member of students' council.

Finally, beyond any issues of conflict these responsibilities are ones that I have personally witnessed being managed in my times with the Students' Union. While none of my staff have been official members of students' council during their time as information officers, many have been members of GFC and long-term proxies of Students' Council. When student staff take on these responsibilities, the department is happy to work to make sure that they can be successful in all of their commitments – as the professional and personal development of the information officers is an important component of their time with the department.

When Bo applied to work with the department, we understood that he was running to be a member of Students' Council. Selecting him to work as the External Policy and Information Officer, the committee believed that these were commitments he could manage and excel at. I hope that Council will allow him this opportunity.

If Council has any questions about this, I am happy to assist where necessary.

Sincerely,

Justin Williams  
Director of Research and Political Affairs  
University of Alberta Students' Union