
Tuesday, May 19, 2015

NREF 1 003

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 2015-02)

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|-------------------|---|
| 2015-02/1 | <u>SPEAKERS BUSINESS</u> |
| 2015-02/1a | Announcements - The next meeting of the Students' Council will take place on Tuesday June 2, 2015 at 6.00pm in NREF 1-003. |
| 2015-02/2 | <u>PRESENTATIONS</u> |
| 2015-02/3 | <u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT</u> |
| 2015-02/4 | <u>BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORT</u> |
| 2015-02/5 | <u>QUESTION PERIOD</u> |
| 2015-02/6 | <u>BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS</u> |
| 2015-02/7 | <u>GENERAL ORDERS</u> |
| 2015-02/7a | WANG/RAHMAN MOVE TO appoint the following students to the Senate:
<i>Marina Bannister, Mackenzie Martin, and Braiden Redman.</i> |
| 2015-02/7b | RAHMAN MOVES TO appoint 2 Arts Students' Councillors to the Arts Faculty Student Association Restructure Committee. |

2015-02/7c ZHANG/ALLARD MOVE TO strike the Governance Structure Review Task Force based on the terms of reference attached.

Please see document SC 15-02.01

2015-02/7d ZHANG MOVES TO appoint four members of Students' Council to the Governance Structure Review Task Force.

RAHMAN/KHAN MOVE to abolish the Law Faculty Membership Fee (FMF).

2015-02/8 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2015-02/8a Social and Environmental Responsibility Committee Terms of Reference.

Please see document SC 15-02.02

2015-02/8b Governance Structure Review Task Force Final Report

Please see document SC 15-02.03

2015-02/8c VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC Report

Please see document SC 15-02.04

2015-02/8d VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL Report

Please see document SC 15-02.05

2015-02/8e VICE PRESIDENT OPERATIONS Report

Please see document SC 15-02.06

2015-02/8f VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE Report

Please see document SC 15-02.07

2015-02/8g

PRESIDENT Report

Please see document SC 15-02.08

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 the Students' Union's governance has repeatedly been brought forward as a root issue. The last time the Students' Union's 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's governance structure 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, 2016 that will focus on the following issues:

1. Reviewing the decision made in 2002
2. Review the Final Report provided by the Task Force during 2014–2015 year
3. Examining other student association governance structures
4. Examining literature on governance structures
5. Identifying the challenges student representatives face
6. Identifying the unique qualities of student governance at the U of A
7. Propose recommendations

Due to the large nature of this discussion, the task force may deem that additional review needs to happen once the April deadline is reached. Therefore the task force may issue a recommendation to the 2016/2017 Students' Council to continue the task force and build upon the work accomplished this year instead of issuing a report.

Meetings

Meetings will be held biweekly from June to April

Membership

- 2 Students' Union Executives
- 4 Representative from Students' Council
- 2 Student at Larges
- General Manager of the Students' Union
- Director 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 an Executive Committee meeting respectively. The student at larges and staff members shall be selected by the rest of the task force at a initial meeting held in early December.

SC 15-02.02

Students' Union

Social and Environmental Responsibility Committee

Terms of Reference

Mission:

Support the Students' Union in its ongoing efforts to be socially and environmentally responsible in its administrative, political, and business endeavors, in accordance with the values of the Students' Union.

Guide the Students' Union in becoming a leader in economic, environmental, and social sustainability; and a model of global citizenship for the University, and the broader community.

Provide meaningful opportunity for students to have real impact in their communities and show them they have the ability to affect change in the world.

Mandate: Execute the goals established by the previous year's iteration of the Social and Environmental Responsibility Committee

Starting from a review of the Students' Union Strategic Plan, identify operational sectors of the Students' Union to investigate using a social and environmental lens.

Develop SMART goals, in the areas identified through this review, for the following year's Social and Environmental Responsibility Committee to

accomplish.

The Social and Environmental Responsibility Committee may also be tasked with initiatives and objectives by the Executive Committee.

Membership:

Membership of the committee shall include:

1. One member of the Students' Union executive
 - a. This member will be selected by the Student's Union executive committee on a yearly basis or as vacancies occur.
2. One member of the Student Umbrella for Social Justice
 - a. This member will be selected by the Student Umbrella for Social Justice on a yearly basis or as vacancies occur.
 - b. This individual must be an undergraduate student at the University of Alberta
3. One member of the Alberta Public Interest Research Group.
 - a. This member will be selected by the APIRG board on a yearly basis and/or as vacancies occur.
4. One member of the Aboriginal Student Council.
 - a. This member will be selected by the ASC on a yearly basis and/or as

vacancies occur.

5. Up to two (2) Students' Union employees.

a. This member will be selected by the General Manager of the Students' Union and ratified by the Students' Union executive and selected on a yearly basis and/or as vacancies occur. Preference will be given to employees from departments or services related to the mandate of SERC.

6. The Students' Union Team Lead - Operations

7. Up to four (4) Students-at-Large.

a. Up to four (4) undergraduate students will be selected via an application process, defined below, on a yearly basis and/or as vacancies occur

b. The committee should seek out individuals who have training, education, or strong interest in one or more of social, environmental, or economic sustainability.

c. Ideally the selection process will be administered by the previous year's SERC and concluded by May 1st.

Student-at-Large (SAL) Selection Process:

SAL seats are open to any undergraduate student at the University of Alberta with a successful application. Students' Council members, SustainSU volunteers, APIRG board members, and SUSJ members are eligible to apply for SAL seats on the committee.

The committee shall create an application, set a selection timeline, and advertise a request for applications based on the goals set by the previous year's Social and Environmental Responsibility Committee. Interviews may be conducted at the committee's discretion after reviewing applications. The committee may request the Nominating Committee of Students' Council to advertise and administer the selections process based on the timeline established by the Social and Environmental Responsibility Committee

The application shall consist of a short letter of intent, focusing on why they are interested in the current goals, and a resume/CV, or any other process as determined by the committee.

Meetings:

Quorum will be five (6) members and occur bi-weekly.

The committee shall operate from May 1st to April 30th. A meeting schedule shall be determined at the first meeting of the year and will be determined on a per-trimester basis with the semesters being defined as the following:

- a. May to August,
- b. September to December and
- c. January to April.

The Chair may call additional meetings, provided that the members are given seventy-two (72) hours notice.

All recommendations and decisions of the committee will be made by consensus. The version of consensus used by the committee will be Seeds For Change (2010).

Chair:

The Students' Union Team Lead - Operations shall serve as the de facto chair of the committee. The Chair shall be responsible for the following:

- a. Producing an agenda prior to each meeting and emailing it to all members in advance of the meeting;
- b. Securing a location for meetings;
- c. When necessary, moderating debate;
- d. Facilitating the committee's ability to achieve its mandate
- e. Delegating such responsibilities to committee members as are appropriate for its stated mandate;
- f. Recommending to the committee changes to its terms of reference when they are in conflict with higher legislation;

Should the Chair be absent, an interim Chair may be appointed.

Reporting:

Minutes of each meeting will be provided to the executive committee of the Students' Union as an information item. They will also be made available online for the general student population through the University of Alberta Students' Union website.

Committee Timeline:

May: Review goals set by previous year's SERC

June to August: Conduct research required by goals and compile information for recommendations

September to December: Compile report to the Executive Committee on SERC goals.

December 31st: Submit report to the Executive Committee

January to March: Develop goals for following year's SERC. Goals should be set in accordance with the mandate of SERC and the SU Strategic Plan.

April: Advertise and select Student at Large members for following year's SERC

SC 15-02.03



Governance Structure Review Task Force Report

Introduction

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 the Students' Union's governance has repeatedly been brought forward as a root issue. The last time the Students' Union's 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, a conversation about the Students' Union's governance structure was started, and, while it has not completed its work, has so far shown the value in reevaluating our structures.

First Steps

At the first meeting of the task force we started by reviewing the documentation available on the subject matter so far, mainly the Student Council and Engagement Task (SCET) Force Report and the a summary of the reports from the Council Reform and Progress (CRAP) Committee. We then commissioned research on a scan of the governance structures of the student associations at other institutions and research on the literature of different governance structures. Next we discussed how to solicit feedback and input from different stakeholder groups (Councillors, students at large, SRA representatives, etc.) and decided this would be best handled by a sub group of the task force, the Research and Explorations Subcommittee.

The Research and Exploration Subcommittee

The subcommittee discussion focused on narrowing down the purpose of collecting testimony and feedback, the stakeholder groups to engage, and the process through which the information would be collected. There was only one meeting of the group, but its conversation proved quite fruitful, and a template for primary research has been developed on the strategies recommended for this process. While they are not for recommendation, minutes from the meeting are attached in the appendix for reference.

Discussions of the Task Force

The Task Force had numerous discussions over the course of its lifespan. First we reviewed the CRAP summary and discussed our favorite and least favorite changes from over the last 10 years. At the following meeting, we started to break down the actual areas where we could affect change. The areas we identified so far where: transition, Council functionality and structure, SU culture, councillor development and engagement and executive involvement. The areas that could be improved or restructured are not limited to these areas,

but these are the ones the task force identified as a priority. The last discussion meeting of the task force centered on the specific issues with councillor engagement and transition. We discussed these issues in depth and offered possible solutions to some of the problems we identified. While specific detail is not provided here, the discussion and possible solutions are captured in the minutes for these meetings in the appendix.

Next Steps

The task force was incredibly well received by all members, managed to accumulate a significant amount of background documentation for its short life span, and fostered some of the most in depth discussion that has happened on our governance systems in recent memory. With the ground laid for the broad solicitation of input from all stakeholder groups, and the discussion framed, it is the Students' Union Governance Structure Review Task Force wholehearted recommendation for the 2015/16 Students' Council to restrike this task force with the same terms of reference to continue this important discussion.

Recognizing that this is a longer-term discussion, the committee recommends further that the committee begin meeting over the summer to review the collected materials and finalize the research tools needed to conduct further stakeholder research. This will allow the Fall semester to conduct primary research to be reviewed for the committee during the remainder of the year.

Appendix

Meeting Minutes

Governance Structure Review Task Force

January 7, 2015

11:00am

Room 0-48 SUB

Attendance

Cory Hodgson	<i>VP Operations & Finance</i>
Nicholas Diaz	<i>VP Student Life</i>
Lok To	<i>Councillor</i>
Justis Allard	<i>Councillor</i>
Bo Zhang	<i>Councillor</i>
Travis Dueck	<i>Councillor</i>
Fahim Rahman	<i>Student at Large</i>
Sarim Mirza	<i>Student at Large</i>
Marc Dumouchel	<i>General Manager – arrived 11:22am</i>
Justin Williams	<i>Director of Research and Political Affairs</i>
Rebecca Taylor	<i>Discover Governance Manager</i>
Craig Turner	<i>Initiatives Manager</i>

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by HODGSON at 11:07am.

Approval of Agenda

HODGSON MOVED THAT the Task Force approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED (friendly)

Introductions

Members in attendance introduced themselves.

Appointment of Members

HODGSON/ZHANG MOVED THAT the Task Force appoint Fahim Rahman and Sarim Mirza to the Task Force as Students at Large, and appoint Rebecca Taylor and Craig Turner to the Task Force as SU Staff representatives.

7/0/0 CARRIED

Timeline for the Task Force

The Task Force reviewed its Terms of Reference, and discussed how it will go about fulfilling each component:

1. Reviewing the decision made in 2002 – TAYLOR to provide research briefs to the Task Force
 - a. Reviewing external changes since then (i.e. provincial legislation)
2. Reviewing the Students' Council Engagement Task Force Report – HODGSON to provide to the Task Force
3. Examining other student association governance structures – WILLIAMS to provide research briefs
4. Examining literature on governance structures – TAYLOR to provide research briefs
5. Identifying the challenges student representatives face – to be dealt with through discussion and a subcommittee
6. Identifying the unique qualities of student governance at the U of A – to be dealt with through discussion and a subcommittee
7. Propose recommendations – final task of the Task Force

The Students' Council Engagement Task Force Report is readily accessible and would therefore be a good starting point to discuss at the next meeting.

Selection of Chair

HODGSON MOVED THAT the Task Force have a rotating Chair for each meeting, to be selected by the Task Force at each meeting.

CARRIED (friendly)

Creation of Subcommittee

There was general agreement amongst the Task Force members that a fact-finding subcommittee should be struck. The subcommittee would be responsible for development and execution of a process to gather information from individuals in student governance, and to report back to the Task Force.

The Subcommittee may employ interviews, focus groups, surveys, discussions with individuals, etc.

HODGSON MOVED THAT the Task Force create the Research & Exploration Subcommittee and appoint MIRZA, DUECK, HODGSON, TAYLOR and WILLIAMS to the Subcommittee.

11/0/0 CARRIED

Meeting Schedule

HODGSON MOVED TO adopt a meeting schedule of every 2nd Wednesday at 11:00am.

CARRIED (friendly)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40am.

SU Governance Task Force – Research & Exploration Subcommittee

Jan 29, 2015

10:00am

Room 0-48 SUB

Attendance:

- Cory Hodgson
- Justin Williams
- Craig Turner
- Rebecca Taylor
- Travis Dueck
- Sarim Mirza

Meeting Discussion:

- Purpose:
 - Expectations of student leadership role
 - Desired
 - Perception
 - Challenges / barriers to entry
 - Expectations of structure
 - Relationship between SU and SRAs
 - Committees / workflow
 - Role of the institution
 - Relationship between Council and Exec
 - Knowledge level
 - Knowledge test
 - Comfort level with knowledge
 - Sources of knowledge – what is useful and what is not
 - PD/training
 - Transition
 - Curricular
 - How do they prefer to receive knowledge
 - Value
 - Participatory (i.e. of Council)
 - Do they have purpose
- Collection:
 - Rebecca/Kathryn to gather data from their existing SRA / student rep surveys
 - Focus Groups:
 - Council
 - SRA
 - Staff
 - Interviews:
 - Former councillors
 - Current councillors

- Surveys:
 - Students at large

Governance Structure Review Task Force

February 4, 2015

11:00am

Room 0-48 SUB

Attendance

Cory Hodgson	<i>VP Operations & Finance</i>
Nicholas Diaz	<i>VP Student Life</i>
Justis Allard	<i>Councillor</i>
Tavis Dueck	<i>Councillor</i>
Fahim Rahman	<i>Student at Large</i>
Marc Dumouchel	<i>General Manager</i>
Justin Williams	<i>Director of Research and Political Affairs</i>
Rebecca Taylor	<i>Discover Governance Manager</i>
Craig Turner	<i>Initiatives Manager</i>

Discussion

The committee discussed the timeline of events and decisions made by the Council Reform and Progress (CRAP) committee, including favorite and least favorite decisions and other issues that came to mind.

Favorite CRAP

- Not giving the BoG seat to the VPA – we need diverse opinions.
- The new meeting structure is better, although the increased prevalence of presentations causes meetings to run too long.
- Idea of having two year terms (which was brought up but not implemented by CRAP).

Least Favorite Crap

- Driving change as a councillor can be difficult, though it's not always that way and Council or the Executive are able to drive change.
- Average duration of time people spend on Council seems to have decreased.
- The Executive tends to set up their own committees for feedback – this could be improved if we gave first dibs to committee seats to Councillors.
- Concerns over filling high number of committees when number of Councillors shrunk.
- New Standing Orders were difficult to read and understand.

Other Issues and Ideas

The Council presentation issue can be dealt with by restricting presentations to things that are directly relevant to Council and sending all other information as a one-pager instead. Presentations are being used as non-consultative consultation by the university, which can hurt our advocacy efforts.

Idea of two-year term, if considered, should be presented as an option not a requirement. It could also cause problems for one-seat faculties.

Need to explore not just policy and operations, but also how people see the role of Council.

Also need to look at how Council interacts with SRAs and other demographics on campus, since RHA and athletics seats were removed.

In some places, the Speaker is also a governance officer. We could consider reforming the role of the Speaker.

Governance Structure Review Task Force

February 25, 2015

11:00am

Room 0-48 SUB

Attendance

Cory Hodgson	<i>VP Operations & Finance</i>
Nicholas Diaz	<i>VP Student Life</i>
Lok To	<i>Councillor</i>
Bo Zhang	<i>Councillor</i>
Sarim Mirza	<i>Student at Large</i>
Marc Dumouchel	<i>General Manager – arrived 11:22am</i>
Justin Williams	<i>Director of Research and Political Affairs</i>
Rebecca Taylor	<i>Discover Governance Manager</i>
Craig Turner	<i>Initiatives Manager</i>

Discussion

Focus of today's meeting: areas to impact change

Transition

Be clearer about expectations and roles for Councillors.

- Deal with them during elections, not just after.
- Market positions better, and have more concrete deliverables for the positions.
- Avoid setting false expectations.

Tenure:

- Students aren't spending as many years on Council as in the past, leading to faster loss of institutional memory and talent.

Council Functionality

Meetings are too long and not productive enough. Need to look at:

- Council composition
- Engagement
- Defining roles of Councillors, committees, and other parts of the SU
- Stock formats for committee standing orders
- Reduced redundancy between standing orders and bylaw

Consider Student At Large involvement, especially on committees.

Increase administrative support.

Do a better job of planning/prioritizing for Council

- Involve staff
- Get Council to identify areas of interest rather than creating specific plans

SU Culture

Integration of Council into broader organization:

- Disconnect between Councillors and committees, and operational side of SU.
- Consider having staff members as committee resources.

Adoption of SU culture:

- Council has been distanced from organizational culture and lacks one of its own.
- Need to increase knowledge of strategic plan.
- The SU is more of a multi-culture, so each area can have its own individual culture centered around core values – Council can have its own culture, but will need the help of the Executives to build it each year.
- Need to include vectors – Executive culture is maintained by permanent staff, but because Council oversees everything it should be somewhat separate from staff. We also need to avoid creating a cult.
- Prestige or pride of being a Councillor can be improved.

Do a better job of consolidating SU-related advertising and tabling during Week of Welcome to make connecting with the SU (and Council) easier.

Councillor Development

We should consider looking at the role of the Councillor from an educational perspective.

- Focus on leadership development.
- Contemporary students have grown up in more structured environments and we haven't adapted to their learning and organizational styles.
- Should make GovCamp attendance sound more mandatory.

Figure out what Councillors want out of their experience and then work to create it.

- Could be done at GovCamp.
- Bo expected more interaction with the organization, but has found that it feels like the SU sees Council as something it has to put up with.
- Bo was happy with personal development, but not satisfied with the amount he was able to tangibly achieve. For example, he wanted to improve the way job opportunities are promoted to students, but the initiative quickly became overwhelming and he didn't have the resources to handle it on his own.
- Lok got the most personal development out of committee involvement.
- Give Councillors cheat-sheets on how to get things done within organization.

Plan more informal interaction outside of Council so that Councillors can learn to communicate with each other better.

Executive Involvement

Executives could become agents of Council.

- Councillors can more easily see tangible returns on initiatives they want to accomplish
- the possibility of introducing separate agents of Council, but was determined to be infeasible because it would result in staff having multiple managers
- Would introduce a formal mechanism for Councillors to carry out initiatives more successfully

The possibility of removing voting powers of executives was discussed, but ultimately determined to be a bad idea as it would further distance them from Council.

Create clear protocols of who can talk to who about starting a new initiative – currently, Councillors must talk to executives about everything, who can then talk to managers, but we want to move to a more collaborative approach.

Future Meetings

We will begin writing out ideas into reports, recommendations, or plans.

Governance Structure Review Task Force

March 18, 2015

11:00am

Room 0-48 SUB

Attendance

Cory Hodgson *VP Operations & Finance*

Lok To *Councillor*

Bo Zhang *Councillor*

Sarim Mirza *Student at Large*

Rebecca Taylor *Discover Governance Manager*

Craig Turner *Initiatives Manager*

Next Steps

Cory will write a draft of the committee’s year-end report, and will bring it back to the committee for edits/suggestions/approval.

We will continue to meet into April to ensure we can reach our goals for the end of the semester.

Discussion

Focus of today’s meeting: Transition and Council engagement.

<i>Problem/concern</i>	<i>Possible solution</i>	<i>Other notes</i>
New councillors uneducated	Make training mandatory.	Maybe not mandatory, but

about how council works. People campaign on things they can't do.	Make pre-campaign training mandatory to run. Include presentation in mandatory candidates meeting.	should be heavily implied instead of mentioned casually.
Takes whole year to learn job.	GovCamp needs to be better at imparting knowledge Extend Govcamp to be a week long.	Participation too low to extend time period.
Don't want people to be interested only in one area or issue.		Most people don't know a lot coming in, and will fall easily into the existing structure without causing a problem.
Poor Council attendance.	Make attendance mandatory – introduce possibility of removal for poor attendance. Make removal a procedural process. Fill seats vacated due to poor attendance with nomination and appointment system. Attendance not taken after 10pm. Make sure new Councillors know it's a semi professional position.	In order to introduce mandatory things you need to be able to discipline – hard to do without compromising democratic principles. Don't want empty seats. Whole other problem: can you appoint Councillors? Length and location of meeting would have to be considered.
We try to have perfect democracy but it doesn't help people become effective actors in the organization.	Find a way to better balance the voice of students with the effectiveness of the organization.	Effectiveness more important than exact representation of student voice.
Purpose and duties of council unclear.	Look more closely at the point of council and make sure it's accurately reflected in procedures and practices. Councillors required to report on what they're doing on committees every meeting	
Council is the best place to disseminate information, but presentations take too	Should explore limit on presentations. Need to be more explicit	30 minute presentation time allows time for questions. City Council only has 3

<p>much time.</p> <p>A lot comes to council that's irrelevant, and a single person can drive it. Can't stop presentations until the presenters are already there, at which point it's hard to say no.</p>	<p>about the correct avenue for disseminating different types of information. Giving Councillors more of an operational role can reduce the need for presentations, because they're already engaged and knowledgeable.</p> <p>Council needs to decide what kind of presentation they want to see. Make Speaker role more developed and have them decide (would require more permanent speaker).</p>	<p>minutes.</p> <p>Who enforces what kind of information is brought as presentations? Majority of useless presentations come from exec.</p>
<p>Debate is inefficient. Suspending rules can be beneficial but it's overdone and leads to longer meetings.</p> <p>Committees do work, then Council re-does the work (such as making major amendments to bills during debate), so those on committees do the same work twice. Committee agendas go out late so those who might be interested in a topic have no way of knowing at which meeting it will be discussed and have to bring their ideas to Council.</p>	<p>Do better job of teaching Councillors how to debate. Push questions (especially those for clarification) about a motion to Question Period and them keep out of debate. Encourage more written questions. Give more authority to committees so council doesn't have to debate as much. Make committees do agendas earlier, and make agenda items more explicit.</p>	<p>City Council is moving to a facilitator structure, with someone in the middle reporting/running debate.</p> <p>Caused big problems for GFC in terms of function and relevancy. If we remove debate from Council we may as well remove Council. Council should be for deciding whether or not something should be passed, denied, or moved back to committee, and for explaining why and giving further direction to committees.</p>

Meeting Recap

Talked about more committee structure, written reports, and publicly shared info.

Next meeting: talk about report and what happens next.



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

STUDENTS' UNION

University of Alberta Students' Union

Cory Hodgson — Vice President Operations and Finance

vp.finance@su.ualberta.ca

780-492-4236



May 19th, 2015

To: Council

Re: VPA Report

Dear Council,

I hope May has been treating you well. I've been continuing to get settled into my new role, outlining places to focus on for the year. It was also great seeing a lot of you out for Gov Camp this past weekend!

Here is a report on my duties to date:

1. Transition Retreat

Retreat was excellent in helping me get more settled into the role both the VP Academic and the Students' Union can play for undergraduates, and also helped the new team get settled. We've also started on our goal setting for the year, so stay tuned for more details on my plans for the year.

2. University Committees

The VP Academic sits on over 50 committees, some of which are written into University Governance and some of which are administrative committees.

So far, I've sat on the Standing Committee on Convocation, which discussed collecting feedback from graduates post-graduation as well as how to better incorporate Oaths into the ceremonies for professional Faculties, as well as the University Writing Committee which reviewed an introductory writing course offered in a blended manner.

3. General Faculties Council

General Faculties Council and its standing committees are where a number of items essential to the University are required to be discussed, such as the approval of program and course changes. I attended a meeting of the Committee on the Learning Environment, the Academic Standards Committee Subcommittee on Standards, and the GFC Executive Committee. At CLE, we received an update from the URi and other learning services such as the University Press and our Museums units. At ASC SOS, proposals for certificates in Kinesiology, Psychology and Aboriginal Community Relations as well as MSc.s in Urban Planning and Audiology were brought forward. Finally, at Exec, the primary discussion was around the President's Visiting Committee, where a strategic review of a couple of Faculties per year was discussed. I wasn't satisfied with the value of undergraduate satisfaction within PVC's reviews, and hope to see that changed in the future.

4. Registrar's Office

The RO gave me an update on their plan to move towards an online Calendar for the coming academic year. It's in the very early stages right now, and they don't have a hard launch date, but are hoping to



bring the information into a more intuitive interface for searching what you need from the Calendar. The first step will be ensuring all the content is accurate, followed by modifying the presentation of the content. I trust the RO to provide updates when it is ready for testing.

5. Academic Relations Group

I've appointed Kyle Monda and Jeffry Kochikuzhyil to the Academic Relations Group for the summer, and will be recruiting more members come September when there are both more students on campus and more active committees.

Thanks so much for your time, and looking forward to the next report.

All the best,

Fahim Rahman

(Electronically submitted)

May 19th, 2015

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

Introduction

Hey Council!

This will be my first official report to Council and I'm super excited! It's been an incredibly busy but very exciting last few weeks. This report will be full coverage of my entire VPX year so far, how exciting!

All in all, the last couple weeks have been pretty packed but I feel like myself and the rest of the team is learning at an incredible rate and are running on all cylinders already.

My apologies that I'm not in Council right now, if you do have any questions about my report or the VPX portfolio, feel free to email me or Facebook message me. I will be checking my email periodically and let's be honest, we can't go longer than a day without checking Facebook. It's a sad, sad world my friends but we shall face it together. Anyways, to the report:

Government

So just in case you haven't heard, Alberta has a new governing party, pretty big deal. I know that you are probably very interested in what this means for the coming year and the next 4 years in terms of advocacy that the SU does, and in a way we are still in the process of figuring that out ourselves. A lot of the real nitty-gritty work will have to wait for the announcement of the new Minister of Advanced Education, and to hear the priorities of the new government. That said, once I get back from our CASA conference in Ottawa, I will start meeting with MLA's in the Capital region (Edmonton and area) to start building those new relationships.

The change in government means that we need to significantly change the way we lobby. We will be changing not only the things we ask of the government, but also our approach to our advocacy and how we propose certain solutions. However, I am cautiously optimistic that this government will be open to many of the priorities we have set provincially through CAUS (see below) and we can make a lot of progress on them.

I'm sorry if my analysis of the change may seem lack-luster, but there is a lot I can talk about and would rather answer specific questions over rambling. One take away from the change: I'm cautiously optimistic about the year ahead and will start building the relationships needed for the years ahead ASAP.

Exec Retreat

We left for exec retreat on the 28th of April and stayed until the 3rd of May and it was a blast. We all learned a ton about our own portfolios in addition to learning about the Students' Union in general. We also focused a lot on team building between all of the executives and the General Manger. It was very intense and at times more information than I could cram into my brain, but a great learning experience and transition into the job.

CAUS Changeover

After coming back from exec retreat I was in the office for 3 days, then off to Canmore for 4 days for CAUS Changeover. CAUS, or the Council of Alberta University Students, is our provincial advocacy group and we all met in Canmore to discuss the coming year. CAUS consists of the student associations from; the University of Calgary, the University of Lethbridge, MacEwan University, Mount Royal University, and ourselves. All the people there are great to be around and it was a fun and productive 4 days. Myself, Naveneet, and William Lau all attended Changeover.

Most of our first day consisted of travelling down to Canmore and getting to know everyone. The first two days were focused on presentations surrounding topics like Open Educational Resources, Mental Health Funding, and Student Financial Aid in the province. In between we got to know each other better and I regret to inform you that the UASU disc golf team was narrowly beat by the University of Calgary Students' Union. CAUS traditionally plays a game of disc golf between all our members ever year at Changeover.

The last day in Canmore focused on our goals and priorities for the year. This was by far my favorite day, and I believe that CAUS has some really good asks to the Alberta government this year. We have six different asks and I will outline them below. Keep in mind that they are still a rough outline and more wordsmithing and review is still needed on them.

1. Tuition and Fees
 - a. Regulation of Market Modifiers and MNIFs
 - b. Ask for a fully funded tuition freeze (freeze comes from NDP platform), while long term options regarding tuition are explored
2. Mental Health
 - a. Extend and expand pilot project (\$3M given to U of A, U of C, and U of L)
 - b. Increase funding for MacEwan and MRU (they received a fraction of what the other 3 have)
 - c. Seat at the table developing a mental health strategy
3. Student Aid
 - a. Increased grants
 - b. Grants for rural and aboriginal students
 - c. Review of Alberta Student Aid
4. Student Employment
 - a. Seat at table in reestablishment of STEP
5. Research
 - a. Create an external arm's length research body that will track student experience
6. PLSA Governance
 - a. Increase BoG/GFC student representation
 - b. Move MRU/MacEwan to part 1 of PLSA

I realize that you may have some questions about these as they are very bare bones, but as I said, they are still in the development stage and feel free to ask me any questions you have.

Also, CAUS has hired a summer researcher and he is one of our own U of A students. We decided that we would like him to do research on both student employment programs as well as student financial aid. This will really help us with accomplishing our goals and being seen as a thought leader in the Alberta post-secondary system.

CASA Foundations

During this Council meeting and for the entire week, Navneet and I will be in Ottawa for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Foundations conference. Here we will be learning about the role of the federal government in post-secondary and meeting the other delegates. I will let you know how this goes next Council meeting.

ESA

The Edmonton Student Alliance is a brand new organization that brings together all public post-secondary institutions across the city, and we had our first meeting of the year on the 13th. Danika McConnell, the VPX from MacEwan University was elected as the chair and I was elected as the Vice-Chair! It will be interesting to work with the organization, as it has never existed in recent memory. As such, we have an opportunity to do a lot. We also set loose priorities for the year as well at the first meeting, and they are:

- Transit – including safety and routes
- Jobs in Edmonton for students
- Advocating for seats on Edmonton committees

I will be taking on the priority of jobs in the city, so if you have any ideas on how we might partner with the city to get students working in Edmonton, let me know.

As well, the first item of business for the ESA will be presenting at a Transportation Committee meeting focused on *Transit Security for Women*. Both Danika and myself will be speaking at the meeting on behalf of the ESA and will be speaking in favour of higher levels of security on Edmonton transit for our non-male students. This will be a great first step for the organization and a very important issue to our students in my mind, regardless of gender.

By now, you will have seen the google form that I have created to solicit feedback and personal experiences that students have had where they did not feel safe on Edmonton transit. It would be great if you could circulate this form to your networks so that we can have the biggest impact possible at the committee meeting!

Well, that about covers it. If I missed anything I will add it into my next report, and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask. Also, any feedback on the format of the report would be greatly appreciated. If this was too long/short, formal/informal, or if you want a take away at the end, or a "tl;dr" section let me know. I have to write these every meeting and would love for you to read them every meeting with earnest and a twinkle in your eye.

Until next time,
Dylan

Dylan Hanwell
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[University of Alberta Students' Union](#)
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May 19, 2015

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Students' Council

Hello Council!

I am very excited to be writing you my first report of the year! Although there isn't a lot to update you on just yet, I will go over what I've done since assuming the position this month.

I also apologize for not being present at this week's Students' Council meeting. I will be in the air at that time, heading to Montréal for an orientation session and conference for our Health and Dental Plan providers, Studentcare.

Executive Retreat

My fellow executives and I spent April 27 to May 3 with the outgoing team on a transition retreat, and I learned so much about the position and how to start the job off on the right foot. It was a very exciting week, and I definitely benefitted from it and now feel prepared to pick up where Cory left off, and be an effective student representative.

Media Brief: U-Pass & Smart Technology

Last week, I was able to chat with Stephanie Dubois from Metro Edmonton about smart fare technology testing for Edmonton Transit. They are considering implementing smart cards with chips in them over the next five to ten years, and both the Students' Association of MacEwan University and our Students' Union support using students as a test market for this technology, to be integrated with our ONEcards. This is a project I will be working on with Vivian this year, to hopefully get a pilot project implemented in the next few years.

You can read the full story here: <http://metronews.ca/news/edmonton/1360307/students-want-to-be-testers-of-edmonton-transits-smart-fare-technology/>

Edmonton Pride Parade

The Students' Union will once again be participating in Edmonton's Pride Parade on Saturday, June 6. We have spots for 20 representatives from the SU, so please fill out the form below to add your name to the group! The parade is set to start at 11:00am, so please arrive at the starting location (108 Street and Whyte Avenue) by 10:30am.

Sign up to be in the parade here: <http://goo.gl/forms/yVGwQ9LYMb>



One-on-One Manager Meetings

Over the past week, I have been meeting with each of the core managers at the SU to talk about how our departments intersect and what kinds of projects we want to work on this year, as well as to get to know them better. I am a big fan of teamwork and collaboration, so I hope to build good relationships with all of the managers so I have people to brainstorm with before making significant changes.

Business Group Start-Up

The General Manager of the SU has set up a Business Group, to meet biweekly and look into how to expand and manage our businesses. We had our initial meeting last week, where we looked at strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of each of our businesses, and will be meeting next in June to lay down some more concrete plans on how to move forward.

My Goals

I am working hard at getting the specifics of my goals hammered out. An abridged version of each of the Executive's goals will be presented at GovCamp, but we will be doing a more thorough presentation over the summer to Council. As a sneak peek, my goals fall under five main ideas: food, jobs, awards, communication, and safe spaces.

Finance Committee

Last year's Council transferred the Access Fund to the Registrar's Office, to create a more centralized bursary application process for students. We will be changing our standing orders to reflect this change, where we delegate the authority to disburse funds to them. As well, we will be amending standing orders to reflect the new structure of the SU Awards, which will now be applied for over the summer, adjudicated in the fall, and awarded to students in November.

Applications are now open! Check them out here: <http://su.ualberta.ca/services/awards/apply/>

On a Personal Note

I hope to include this section in every report, to add some lighter news to the information-heavy report.

This week I attended my younger brother's high school graduation! He's the youngest of my siblings, and I'm so excited for what adventures await him! It was a great ceremony, although they played a slow version of "Wake Me Up" three times in a row while the graduands were proceeding to their seats; apparently they had no other music available.

Thanks for reading through, and have a wonderful week!

Cody Bondarchuk

May 19th, 2015

To: University of Alberta Students' Council 2015/2016

Re: Vice President Student Life Council Report

Hi Council,

Welcome to my **FIRST** report! Please feel free to ask any and all questions!

Council and Governance

It was a pleasure to attend the first **Council Administration Committee (CAC)** meeting this Tuesday! We had great conversations regarding councillor expectations for the year and what to prioritize. We also had the opportunity to touch on the topic of councillor engagement for Week of Welcome as well.

Health and Services

I had the opportunity to meet with Melissa Visconti (**Team Lead of the Healthy Campus Unit**) to chat about possible collaborations in 2015/2016, specifically focusing on the expansion of the **Unwind Your Mind** project. We are super keen on getting Faculty Associations involved in the progress of the expansion. More updates to come once we coordinate these meetings in the future.

Events

This past Monday (May 11th) I was invited to the **Lieutenant Governor's Circle of Mental Health and Addiction Luncheon**. I had the opportunity to meet with several non-profit executive directors. We also had some brief chats about future directions of the circle since a new Lieutenant Governor will be announced in less than a week. So far there was interest expressed on focusing development/support of mental health initiatives at a youth level. I see this as a great opportunity for the Students' Union to pitch in their thoughts and possibly secure a good partnership with the circle. More updates to come!

VP Bondarchuk and I are off to Montreal for the **Student Care Conference (Montreal Stakeholder Meeting)**. We are super sad that we couldn't stay for the council meeting :(We will be back on May 22nd, can't wait to tell you guys all about it!



Office of the **VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE**

I am excited to announce that **councillors K. Wang, Xu, Kwan, Lewis, Duan, Zhang and VP Hanwell** will be joining me for a little roadtrip down to Calgary for the annual **U of Calgary Wellness Summit**. Hurray for UASU representatives!

An invitation was extended by **Chancellor Young to the Honorary Degree Reception** event. Super excited to bring along **councillors Thronson and Kwan** on June 10th. This will be a great opportunity for us to meet other faces at the U of A.

Thank you for being awesome!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Kwan".

Vivian Kwan
Vice President Student Life 2015-2016

May 15th, 2015

To: University of Alberta Students' Union Students' Council 2015-2016

From: Navneet Khinda, POTSU 2015-2016

Re: Report to Students' Council (for May 19th Meeting)

Dear Council,

Welcome to my first written report! First, my apologies for submitting this late – I was feeling a little under the weather and forgot to submit it in time (we're only human!)

Having said that, it's been a whirlwind two weeks in office! My reports to you will serve as a snapshot of my activities between Council meetings and I'll go in depth into issues that I think are useful to Council. However, you may always ask me questions on any topic and you can always request more information if necessary.

Executive Summary

1. Exec Retreat
2. Get Out the Vote (GOTV) + Election Results
3. Board of Governors (BoG) Dinner + Meeting
4. Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) Changeover Retreat
5. Transition Meetings
6. General Faculties Council (GFC) Academic Planning Committee (APC)
7. Preparation for Canadian Alliance of Student Association (CASA) Conference
8. GovCamp this weekend + Goals Presentation



1. Executive Retreat

Our Executive retreat was from April 27th to May 3rd. I covered most of it during my oral report at the last Council meeting – basically, this is a very intense week where we have sessions all day going over the history of the SU, our portfolios, various issues, as well as some time for bonding. Our strength as an Executive is due in part to how well we know each other and can work together, no matter the circumstance!

2. GOTV + Election Results

We spent May 5th calling students to remind them to vote – a huge thank you to all our volunteers that made this happen! After that, we had our first Council meeting, and then proceeded to RATT to watch the election results roll in.

“Wow” is how I react to the results of May 5th. Welcome to a new era in Alberta politics – no longer are we working within the confines of a Progressive Conservative dynasty. While this is very exciting, we understand that this poses opportunities as well as challenges for our advocacy. There’s more on this topic under the “CAUS” section.

3. Board of Governors

On May 7th, I attended my first dinner with the Board of Governors – it was a very engaging evening! The members of the Board are very interesting and accomplished people and I look forward to learning a lot from them.

On Friday, May 8th, I attended my first Board Meeting as a Governor. Some notable items for Council are the approval of the GSA and SU fees for the 2015-16 academic year. I was also officially appointed to two committees – the Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC) as well as the Board University Relations Committee (BURC). Azhar Khan, the undergraduate BoG representative has a seat on Board Learning and Discovery Committee (BLDC) as well as Board Safety, Health and Environment Committee (BSHEC).

Another important update from the Board, is that with unanimous support from the advisory committee, the BoG has approved the appointment of Steven Dew to the position of provost and vice-president (academic), effective July 1st. Similarly, Heather McCaw has been appointed as the new vice-president advancement, effective September 15th.

4. CAUS Changeover

Immediately after the Board meeting concluded, I left to pick up my rental car and I drove to Canmore, Alberta – the location of our Changeover Retreat for CAUS. Here, the incoming and outgoing executives from all five of our member associations get together. We discuss the year past, the political environment, and we start the process of goal setting for the year to come. You can read more about the strategy/goals piece in VP Hanwell’s report! There is also new leadership! I have transitioned my role as Chair of CAUS on to the VP External at the University of Calgary Students’ Union – Romy Garrido. Her vice chair is Brittany Pitruniak, President at the Students’ Association of MacEwan University.

5. Transition Meetings

I've been having sporadic meetings here and there with outgoing President, William Lau, and outgoing VP Operations, Cory Hodgson.

6. APC Meeting

I attended APC on May 13th. Nothing too important to Students' Council. There was a name change approved for a program as well as discussion around two joint programs.

7. CASA Foundations Conference

VP Hanwell and I will be attending the CASA Foundations Conference in Ottawa from Monday, May 18th to Friday, May 22nd. The Foundations Conference is extremely valuable since we get presentations and keynotes from post-secondary education experts; we discuss CASA business; and we choose the new leadership for 2015-2016. This includes a new CASA Chair, six additional Board members, and we nominate members to CASA Committees (similar to our Council structure).

CASA is composed of 21 student associations across the nation, representing over 280,000 students coast-to-coast.

8. GovCamp + Exec Goals

For those of you attending GovCamp this weekend, you'll get a chance to hear about the Exec's preliminary plans for our goals this year. It'll be a fun weekend overall!

Just a heads up that I won't be at this Council meeting. Please send me any questions you may have at president@su.ualberta.ca and I'll do my best to reply by Tuesday!

Cheers,

Navneet Khinda

President 2015-2016

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STUDENTS' COUNCIL

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, May 5 2015

NRE 1 003

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS (SC 2015-01)

- 2015-01/1** **SPEAKER'S BUSINESS**
Announcements - The next meeting of the Student's Council will take place on Tuesday, May 19, 2015.
- 2015-01/1c** CHENG/BONDARCHUK moves to approve the Student's Council Standing Orders.

Motion CARRIED.
- 2015-01/2** **PRESENTATIONS**
- 2015-01/2a** Robert's Rules of Order – Presented by Saadiq Sumar, Speaker. Sponsored by Councilor Zhang.
- 2015-01/3** **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**
- 2015-01/3a** **NAVNEET KHINDA**, President – Report
DYLAN HANWELL, Vice President External – Report
CODY BONDARCHUK, Vice President Operations and Finance – Report
- 2015-01/4** **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- 2015-01/4a** Report from the Board of Governors (BoG).
Report from the Council Administration Committee.
Report from the Bylaw Committee.
Report from the Nominating Committee (NomCom).
Report from the Chief Returning Officer (CRO).
- 2015-01/5** **QUESTION PERIOD**

2015-01/6

BOARDS AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2015-01/6a

PACHES/FLAMAN MOVES to nominate one member of Students' Council to Audit Committee.

FLAMAN nominates ADEMAJ

Councillor Ademaj appointed.

2015-01/6b

ZHANG/WANG MOVES to appoint one member of Students' Council to the Council Administration Committee.

LEWIS nominates ADEMAJ

Councillor Ademaj appointed.

2015-01/6c

K. WANG/ADEMAJ MOVES to appoint one member to Students' Council to the Nominating Committee.

KHINDA nominates SINGH

Councillor Singh appointed.

2015-01/7

GENERAL ORDERS

2015-01/7a

V. KWAN/BONDARCHUK MOVE TO enhance the Student Health and Dental Plan coverage to the following, from the following: increase the dispensing fee cap for eligible prescription drugs to \$8 per prescription (\$5 currently); increase coverage for Psychology to 80% per visit, with \$600 Annual Maximum (coverage of up to \$20 per visit and \$300 annual maximum currently).

Motion CARRIED.

2015-01/7b

BONDARCHUK/V. KWAN MOVE TO auto-enroll students beginning their studies in the Winter Term to the Student Health & Dental Plan, while still allowing an opt-out option for the fee.

Concerns raised about not having advertised the opt-in well enough.

Point made that this would be beneficial for Engineering students on co-op terms.

Motion CARRIED.

2015-01/7c

BONDARCHUK/HANWELL MOVE TO enter a Joint Resolution with The Landing to permanently appoint an ex-officio seat on The Landing Board of Directors for the Students' Union Vice-President (Operations & Finance).

Benefits of having more Students' Union voices on this board discussed.

Motion CARRIED.

2015-01/7d

BONDARCHUK/LEWIS MOVES TO appoint one (1) member of Students' Council to The Landing Board of Directors.

Councillor deJong appointed.

2015-01/7e

BONDARCHUK/FLAMAN MOVES TO appoint one (1) member of Students' Council to the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS) Board of Directors.

Councillor Ademaj appointed.

2015-01/7f

BONDARCHUK/LEWIS MOVES TO appoint two (2) members of Students' Council to the Health Centre Advisory Group (HCAG) Board of Directors.

Councillors Kwan and Allard appointed.

2015-01/7g

BONDARCHUK/FLAMAN MOVES TO appoint one (1) member of Students' Council to the Student Legal Services Board of Directors.

Governor Khan appointed.

2015-01/7h

BONDARCHUK/FLAMAN MOVES TO appoint two (2) members of Students' Council to the World University Services Canada (WUSC) Board of Directors.

Councillors Duan and Yu appointed.

- 2015-01/7i** BONDARCHUK MOVES TO appoint one (1) member of Students' Council to the Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG) Board of Directors.
- Councillor Xu appointed.
- 2015-01/7j** BONDARCHUK MOVES TO appoint two (2) members of Students' Council to the First Alberta Campus Radio Association (FACRA) Board of Directors.
- Councillors Flaman and Allard appointed.
Motion from floor KHINDA/DEJON Appoint member of SC to Policy Committee.
- Councillor Lewis Appointed.
- 2015-01/8** **INFORMATION ITEMS**
- 2015-01/8b** Report from VP Academic.
- See document LA.15.01.02
- 2015-01/8c** DFU Board and Committee Descriptions
- 2015-01/8d** Letter from Student Legal Services.
- 2015-01/8e** Council Standing Committee Chair Appointments

