
**Tuesday, March 22nd, 2022
6:00PM
Zoom**

We would like to respectfully acknowledge that our University and our Students' Union are located on Treaty 6 Territory. We are grateful to be on Cree, Dene, 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 and work towards the decolonization of Indigenous knowledges and traditions.

LATE ADDITIONS (SC-2021-24)

- 2021-24/1 SPEAKERS BUSINESS
- 2021-24/2 CONSENT AGENDA
- 2021-24/3 PRESENTATIONS
- 2021-24/4 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
- 2021-24/5 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORT
- 2021-24/6 OPEN FORUM
- 2021-24/8 BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS
- 2021-24/8c **MONTEIRO/BARAZESH MOVE TO** approve the First Reading of Bylaw 2300:
Councillor Elections to Students' Council and General Faculties Council

See SC-2021-24.10
- 2021-24/8d Die Board Ruling

See SC-2021-24.11

2021-24/10 INFORMATION ITEMS

2021-24/10f Executive Committee Reports

See SC-2021-24.08-09

2021-24/10g Council Submissions

See SC-2021- 24.10-11

2021-22 - Council Submissions

UASU Students' Council Agenda Submission

This form is intended to be used by members of Students' Council to submit items for Council meetings.

Council Meeting Date

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Mover

LEY

Email

rowan.ley@su.ualberta.ca

Action Requested

Information Items

Information Items

Abstract

President's Report

Attachments



Council Report 03_22_22.pdf

Date: 03/22/22

To: Students' Union Council

Re: President Report 03/22/22

Dear Council,

This is my third-last report to you all, and I have to admit I am a little surprised to be here! Four years on Council has come and gone so fast. There have been many successes, and definitely many mistakes (those have taught me much more). I am privileged every day to work with you and our amazing UASU staff. I would take some more time to reflect, but this will be a busy couple of weeks— so I will jump into the content of my report and save the sentimentality for later.

Successful Conclusion of Exploration Credits Project

I am happy to start with a success. As of the writing of this report, the Exploration Credits proposal will have come to GFC for a final vote. Provided nothing dramatic happens between now and Monday, I believe the vote will have passed by the time we meet as all indications are of a positive response. That means Exploration Credits will be university policy for the next academic year. If by Council GFC has surprised us and defeated the motion, well, this will be a very different conversation.

I want to take a moment to stress the significance of this win and the exceptional speed at which it was achieved. This will allow students in a wide variety of programs to take a pass-fail elective, and I am pleased that this is one of the most progressive and open-ended policies of this kind in Canada. Some relevant details:

- Students will be able to wait until the add-drop deadline before deciding whether to take their course as an Exploration Credit or for a grade
- Faculties will be able to make closed-list electives, like possibly Complementary Studies and Impact of Technology in Engineering, eligible for exploration credits. This is a step up over most universities where only open electives are eligible.
 - If Exploration Credits passes at GFC, the Registrar's Office will be contacting faculties to ensure they are aware of this option
- Students will be allowed to take up to 12 Exploration Credits, which is tied for the most to be available at any major Canadian university

The fact that Exploration Credits will likely go from an election promise of VP Monteiro and I to University policy in a single year is also cause for celebration. Most major academic advocacy projects, like Fall Reading Week, take years. This is a testament to the power of student advocacy and the ability of the UASU to get big things done.

Rowan Ley, President

2-900 SUB | 780 492 4241 | president@su.ualberta.ca

1

U-Pass Rebate Concluded

We successfully worked with ETS to get the UPass rebate for Winter 2021 approved, and final paperwork is currently being done. All students will be rebated \$45. This is a substantial success for us, representing \$2 million in savings at the U of A alone. I am grateful to ETS for their willingness to collaborate on this file, as I know this makes a big difference to some students who are struggling right now.

Mask Mandate Removal and COVID Safety

We are extremely disappointed by the interference of the provincial government in the University's COVID policies. The cancellation of the mask mandate is premature, and we believe this should have been left to the end of the semester at the earliest in keeping with previous promises to students.

Because this is a directive from the provincial government, having it reversed would be very challenging. For the moment, our approach is to dramatically step up our distribution of N-95 masks, which we know are substantially more effective at preventing infection of the wearer. Distribution is expanding to more InfoLink locations, the Geer Store, a variety of faculty associations, and the Food Bank. We obviously recognize the mask mandate can't and shouldn't last forever, but it should have been withdrawn at a more responsible and fair time.

Transition Planning

Over the next month, I will be transitioning VP Monteiro into his new role as President. This will take an increasing amount of time as we get closer to May 1st. Myself and all of this year's outgoing Executives will be ensuring a smooth handoff of our projects to the new team and I have full confidence that they will execute on them well.

While we are busy with transition, we are never too busy to chat with Council. Don't hesitate to get in touch if there is anything I can do to help for the remainder of this term. Sincerely,



University of Alberta Students' Union President
Rowan Ley

2021-22 - Council Submissions

UASU Students' Council Agenda Submission

This form is intended to be used by members of Students' Council to submit items for Council meetings.

Council Meeting Date

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Mover

Monteiro

Email

abner.monteiro@uasu.ca

Action Requested

Information Items

Information Items

Abstract

VPA Report #22

Attachments



SC22_March_22_2022 .pdf

Date: 03/22/2022

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Academic 2021/22 Report #22

Dear Council,

This past month has been packed full of so much stuff and has been extremely busy. With that comes a few very exciting updates to share with you!

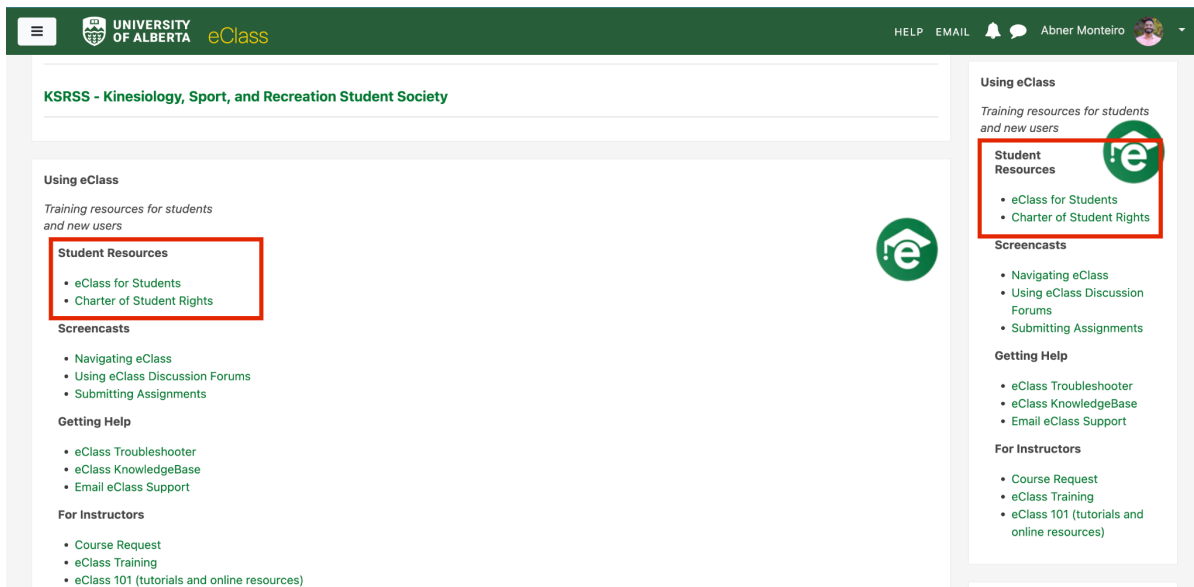
Exploration Credits Passes at GFC

Yesterday at General Faculties Council, Exploration Credits passed with flying colours. As a refresher, Exploration Credits is a new grading regulation that has been a project between the Students' Union and Registrar's Office this past year! Essentially, a student will get up to 12 credits in open electives over their degree - with some restrictions on allocating them - to designate those courses as CR/NC before the withdrawal deadline.

This marks a huge advocacy win for undergraduate students at the U of A and will give so many students the ability to explore their passions and more of what the UofA has to offer them. Implementation of this regulation is scheduled to begin in Fall 2022!

Charter of Student Rights and Responsibilities on eClass

This week, I met with Information and Technology Services (IST) and finalized the inclusion of the Charter of Student Rights and Responsibilities on eClass! This platform point of mine aimed to increase awareness of this document for students and instructors, and we were able to get it in the one place where the most eyes can see it! I'm very happy that we were able to put this policy resource in an area that is extremely easy to direct students.



The screenshot shows the eClass website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the University of Alberta logo, the text 'UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA eClass', and user information 'HELP EMAIL Abner Monteiro'. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is titled 'KSRSS - Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation Student Society'. The page is divided into several sections: 'Using eClass' (with a sub-section 'Student Resources' highlighted by a red box), 'Screencasts', 'Getting Help', and 'For Instructors'. The 'Student Resources' section lists 'eClass for Students' and 'Charter of Student Rights'. The 'Screencasts' section lists 'Navigating eClass', 'Using eClass Discussion Forums', and 'Submitting Assignments'. The 'Getting Help' section lists 'eClass Troubleshooter', 'eClass KnowledgeBase', and 'Email eClass Support'. The 'For Instructors' section lists 'Course Request', 'eClass Training', and 'eClass 101 (tutorials and online resources)'.

UASU Elections

I took a leave of absence to run for Students' Union President, as many of you know. I am honoured and privileged that students resonated with my message and chose me to represent them in the upcoming year! This election period was intense, exhausting, and demanding for every student leader involved (11 of them!). I want to thank every candidate who put their name forward to represent students and make the challenges they face a priority for this election.

In particular, I want to thank VP Kimani and Councillor Ali. They both ran great presidential campaigns and identified critical issues that need to be addressed by your Students' Union.

Finally, congratulations to the 2022/23 incoming team: Joannie, Gurleen, Julia, and Christian! I can't wait to get started and bring all the fantastic ideas all of us have to life!

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abner Monteiro', enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

Abner Monteiro

Vice President Academic
University of Alberta Students' Union

2021-22 - Council Submissions

UASU Students' Council Agenda Submission

This form is intended to be used by members of Students' Council to submit items for Council meetings.

Council Meeting Date	Tuesday, March 22, 2022
Mover	Monteiro
Email	abner.monteiro@uasu.ca
Action Requested	Approval

Approval

Motion	MONTEIRO/BARAZESH MOVE TO approve the First Reading of Bylaw 2300: Councillor Elections to Students' Council and General Faculties Council
---------------	--

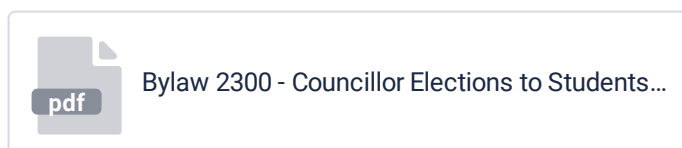
Abstract

This motion is being brought forward to Council for approval to develop a process via consultation that allows us to fill vacant seats on Students' Council and GFC. This allows maximal accessibility to student governance involvement and ensures sufficient representation on GFC and Students' Council so that students are consulted on important decisions.

Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Chief Returning Officer
Bylaw Committee Chair

Attachments



Bylaw 2300

First Reading

Councilor Elections to Students' Council and General Faculties Council

1. A temporary replenishment procedure needs to be developed between the General Election and the By-Election period so that we can replenish vacancies on General Faculties Council and/or Students' Council. This is necessary for both bodies to function optimally and properly represent students.
 - a. This process would increase accessibility to student participation in governance and ensure we have maximal student representation for SU and GFC committees - areas where students' voices are vital in guiding the direction of the Students' Union and the University of Alberta.
 - b. Replenishment between the General Election and By-Election would be temporary, and all seats that are filled through this replenishment process will expire by the By-Election. This is to ensure that students can still have continuous representation, but are able to elect their representatives.

DISCIPLINE, INTERPRETATION, AND ENFORCEMENT BOARD

Citation: Flaman v Chief Returning Officer; Decision 02-2022

BETWEEN:

Levi Flaman

Applicant

- and -

**Chief Returning Officer,
University of Alberta Students' Union**

Respondent

BYLAW 2300 SECTION 9: DECISION

Panel Members: (Chair) Sarah Rhydderch, Chief Tribune
Scott Parker, Associate Chief Tribune
Hamza Mandour, Tribune

Panel Review Date: March 21, 2022

Witnesses for the Applicant: n/a

Witnesses for the Respondent: n/a

The reasons of the unanimous Board are delivered by S. Parker.

LEGISLATION:

Bylaw 2100 Chief Returning Officer and Elections Staff of the Students' Union

8. Duties of the Elections Staff

(1) Duties of the C.R.O. shall include

(a) overseeing the implementation of the Elections Bylaw, which includes Bylaws 2100, 2200, 2300, 2400, 2500; and...

(c) being the highest responsible manager of the Elections Office and elections staff, particularly when interpreting, enforcing, and delegating authority afforded by the aforementioned Bylaws.

(3) Duties of the elections staff to be found in Bylaw and include but are not limited to:

(f) determining the dates for all nomination deadlines, elections cycles, and voting days; ...

Bylaw 2300 Councilor Elections to Students' Council and General Faculties' Council

9. No Candidate Nomination Received

(1) Where no valid candidate or side for a given position has been received by the deadline, the C.R.O. shall extend the deadline for that position or side by 48 hours.

(2) Where the only nominations received for a given position is (are) joke candidate(s), the CRO shall extend the deadline for that position by 48 hours.

10. Candidate Registration Meeting

(9) In the event of an extension under section 14(1) the CRO shall hold an additional meeting for new candidates subject to the rules stated in section 15.

15. Joke Candidates

(1) A joke candidate shall be designated as such at the nomination deadline.

(2) Where a candidate has been designated as a joke candidate, as set out in Section 2(i), and that candidate does not wish to be a joke candidate, that candidate may provide to

the C.R.O. a new signed statement indicating the name under which they wish to appear on the ballot, within forty-eight (48) hours of the nomination deadline.

(3) Where a candidate who has been designated a joke candidate exercises their right, as set out in Section 15(1), to submit a new name under which they wish to appear on the ballot, and where the new name is, at the discretion of the C.R.O., a reasonable derivative of that candidate's legal name, that candidate's designation as a joke candidate shall be reversed.

DIE Board Protocol

Circumstances Where Panel Can Reject Application Without Hearing

(14) Upon review of the application, the panel may unanimously vote to dismiss an application for a Hearing or Appeal without meeting in person to hear evidence or oral submissions if the panel concludes the application is frivolous, vexatious, or has no possibility of success, or if the panel concludes the issue in question is outside its jurisdiction to hear. The panel must give written reasons for its decision to dismiss the application.

Holding

[1] The Dispute, Interpretation and Enforcement Board (“the DIE Board”) has unanimously voted to reject this application for a hearing, with reasons set out below.

Facts

[2] On March 15, 2022, Levi Flaman (“Flaman”) applied to the DIE Board to hear an allegation that the Chief Returning Officer (“CRO”) of the University of Alberta Students’ Union (“UASU”) violated Students’ Union legislation, specifically *Bylaw 2300, section 9(1)*.

[3] Based on information provided by Flaman, on March 15 at approximately 3:10 PM, the UASU elections office made an Instagram post that extended nominations “for all faculties” until Thursday, March 17 at 5 PM. This would result in an approximately 50-hour extension to the nomination deadline.

Flaman’s Position

[4] Flaman’s application (“the Application”) claims the CRO violated *Bylaw 2300, section 9(1)* by extending the nomination deadline for all candidates to the Students’ Council and General

Faculties' Council. Flaman claims that section 9 of *Bylaw 2300* prohibits any extension of candidate nomination deadlines unless one of two conditions are met: that there is no candidate available to run in a particular position 9(1), or that there is only a "joke" candidate available to run 9(2).

[5] Flaman submits that *Bylaw 2300(9)* explicitly permits extension of the nomination deadline only where there are no valid candidates. Flaman further submits that *Bylaw 2300(9)* does not permit, either implicitly or explicitly, the extension of any nomination contests where at least one valid candidate is entered. Flaman further submits that *Bylaw 2300(9)* does not permit an extension for all candidate nominations.

[6] In support of this claim, Flaman relies on *Bylaw 2900(10)(9)*. As the DIE Board does not find *Bylaw 2900* in the UASU Bylaws, we consider that Flaman is relying on *Bylaw 2300(10)(9)*. *Bylaw 2300(10)(9)* states that in event of an extension under section (14)(1) of *Bylaw 2300*, the CRO shall hold an additional meeting for new candidates "subject to rules stated in section 15." This leads to some additional confusion, since, as Flaman points out, section (14)(1) relates to "storage space", and not to nominations or extensions.

Issues

[7] The issue before the DIE Board is:

1. Did the CRO violate *Bylaw 2300(9)* by ordering an extension of all nomination deadlines?

Analysis

[8] Flaman maintains that *Bylaw 2300(9)* is explicit in only allowing nomination deadline extensions if there are one of two conditions met: either no candidate is available for a particular position (9)(1), or there is only a "joke" candidate available (9)(2). This is an incorrect interpretation of the Bylaw.

[9] The DIE Board interprets *Bylaw 2300(9)* as meaning the CRO "shall extend the deadline" up to 48 hours explicitly if at least one of the two conditions are met: (9)(1) no candidate available or (9)(2) only a "joke" candidate is available. It requires action on the part of the CRO to extend the nomination deadline explicitly on meeting one or both of the two conditions set out in the Bylaw. *Bylaw 2300(9)* does not restrict the CRO's authority to extend a nomination deadline for all candidates.

[10] For the CRO to have breached *Bylaw 2300(9)*, the CRO or their staff would have to fail to extend the deadline for nominations where there was no candidate or only a joke candidate. This was not alleged in this case.

[11] Under *Bylaw 2100(8)(1)(c)*, the CRO has the highest level of authority over elections staff. *Bylaw 2100(8)(3)(f)* gives elections staff the duty for determining “dates for all nomination deadlines, elections cycles, and voting days”. Therefore, the CRO and elections staff have the authority to set nomination deadlines, and the DIE Board considers extensions to nominations packages are within that authority.

[12] The DIE Board notes that there are some inconsistencies in *Bylaw 2300* of the Students’ Union that may have led to confusion regarding the interpretation of *Bylaw 2300(9)*. Notably, *Bylaw 2300(14)(1)*, which provides for storage space for campaign materials, is incorrectly referred to in other Bylaws. Flaman has pointed this out in their application. *Bylaw 2300(10)(6)(d)* refers to candidates “nominated under section *14(1)*”, and again in *2300(10)(9)* “in the event of an extension under section *14(1)*”. These inconsistencies did not affect the DIE Board’s interpretation of *Bylaw 2300(9)*.

[13] The DIE Board would like to address the delay in releasing this decision. Flaman’s application was not given the attention it deserved in a timely manner, as per the DIE Board’s duties under *Bylaw 1500(34)(5)*. This was largely unavoidable due to a combination of personnel changes and members being Covid positive. The DIE Board regrets this delay to adjudicating Flaman’s application. The DIE Board maintains there is no prejudice to the applicant as the application has been rejected regardless of the timelines.

[14] The Board finds that Flaman’s allegation that the CRO violated *Bylaw 2300(9)* is a result of Flaman’s misinterpretation of the Bylaw, and Flaman’s application is rejected on that ground.

DISPOSITION

[15] The issue before the Board, and the answers to that issue, are as follows:

1. *Did the CRO violate Bylaw 2300(9) by ordering an extension to all nomination deadlines?*

[16] The CRO did not violate *Bylaw 2300(9)(1)* or *2300(9)(2)*.

Application rejected.