

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL

#### October 4th, 2022 6:00 P.M. Council Chambers/Zoom

The University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students' Union occupy Indigenous land in amiskwacîswâskahikan (Beaver Hills House), on Treaty 6 territory. From time immemorial, the banks along the river valley have been known as the Pehonan, a meeting place for the nêhiyawak (Cree), the Niitsítapi (Blackfoot), Métis, Dënesųłiné (Dene), Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee and others. The University, the Students' Union and much of the city are located on the unlawfully stolen land of the forcibly removed Papaschase Cree.

We acknowledge that sharing this land gives each of us the responsibility to research the historic contexts of Treaty 6, to reflect on our personal relationships to the land, the Nations we've named, and to our roles in upholding justice on this territory. Since they began, the Students' Union and the University have benefited from historic and ongoing dispossession of land and resources from Indigenous Peoples. As a result, it is our responsibility to seek the restitution of this land and its resources. Finally, we seek to do better by working to make our learning, research, and governance align with the histories, languages, teachings, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples in the land presently occupied by the Canadian state.

We encourage critical reflection by asking the following question. In relation to the territory on which you are situated, what role do you play in strengthening the resistance and resurgence of Indigenous students within your communities?

#### ORDER PAPER (SC-2022-12)

2022-12/1a Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85666007012

Meeting ID: 856 6600 7012

- 2022-12/2 CONSENT AGENDA
- 2022-12/2a Students' Council Votes and Proceedings (SC-2022-11) Tuesday, September 20th, 2022

See SC-2022-12.01

2022-12/2b **ALI/FOTANG MOVE TO appoint** Simon Cudmore, Leena El Jirari, and Gregory Choi to Sustainability Capital Fund Committee

See SC-2022-12.07

2022-12/2c **ALI/FOTANG MOVE TO** appoint Kian Kyars, Audrey Johnson, Fardeen Ansar to Sustainability Ad-Hoc Committee.

See SC-2022-12.08

2022-12/2d **ALI/FOTANG MOVE TO** appoint Kian Kyars, Chelsea Ambeault to Translation Committee

See SC-2022-12.09

2022-12/2e ALI/FOTANG MOVE TO appoint Janvi Bali to Student Group Committee

See SC-2022-12.10

- 2022-12/3 PRESENTATION
- 2022-12/3a **MONTEIRO/FOTANG MOVETO** allow a presentation from the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

See SC-2022-12.11

2022-12/3b **FLAMAN/CARBAJALVELEZ MOVETO** present on Bill 1: Simplifying and Clarifying Governance Documents

See SC-2022-12.12

**FOTANG/VILLOSO MOVE T** O allow Juan Vargas to present on the Climate Emergency Unit

See SC-2022-12.13

- 2022-12/4 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
- 2022-12/5 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORT
- 2022-12/6 OPEN FORUM
- 2022-12/7 QUESTION PERIOD

- 2022-12/8 BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS
- 2022-12/8a **WATTAMANIUK/FLAMAN MOVE THAT** the Tuesday, November 15th meeting of Council instead occur on Saturday, November 19th, at the Augustana Campus, with the bus departing from North Campus at approximately noon.

See SC-2022-12.14

- 2022-12/9 <u>GENERAL ORDERS</u>
- 2022-12/9a **SINGH MOVES TO** discuss the remuneration/honorarium report as prepared by the General Manager.

See SC-2022-12.15

- 2022-12/10 CLOSED SESSIONS
- 2022-12/11 INFORMATION ITEMS
- 2022-12/11a Students' Council Votes and Proceedings (SC-2022-11)

See SC-2022-12.01

2022-12/11b Executive Committee Reports

See SC-2022-12.02-05

2022-12/11c Board of Governors' Report

See SC-2022-12.06

2022-12/11d Students' Council Submissions

See SC-2022-12.07-16

2022-12/11e Students' Council - Attendance

See SC-2022-12.17



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#### VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS (SC-2022-11)

2022-11/1	SPEAKERS BUSINESS
	SPEAKER: Called the meeting to order at 6:09 P.M.
2022-11/1a	Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85666007012
	Meeting ID: 856 6600 7012
2022-11/2	<u>CONSENT AGENDA</u>
2022-11/2a	Students' Council Votes and Proceedings (SC-2022-10) Tuesday, September 6th, 2022
	See SC-2022-11.01
	APPROVED
2022-11/2b	<b>VILLOSO/FLAMAN MOVE TO</b> ratify the appointment of Leighten Janzen and Navneet Chand to the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement (DIE) Board

See SC-2022-11.02

Committee

APPROVED

2022-11/2c **KAUR/FLAMAN MOVE TO** ratify the appointment of Paige Boyer and Himasha Rao to the SCFC Committee.

See SC-2022-11.03

APPROVED

- 2022-11/3 PRESENTATION
- 2022-11/3a **FOTANG/FOGUE MOVE TO** allow the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) executive board to Present on CAUS' advocacy activities.

See SC-2022-11.08

CARRIED 26/00/00

**ALI/WATTAMANIUK MOVE TO** extend the presentation by ten minutes. CARRIED 24/00/02

**ALI/SINGH MOVE TO** extend the presentation by ten minutes. CARRIED 27/00/00

2022-11/3b **MONTEIRO/FOTANG MOVE TO** present the 2022-2023 UASU Executive Goals.

See SC-2022-11.09

CARRIED 25/00/00

2022-11/4 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

FOGUE - VP Student Life - Report VILLOSO - VP Operations and Finance - Report FOTANG - VP External - Report KAUR - VP Academic - Report MONTEIRO - President - Report

2022-11/5 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORT

Dhillon - Audit Committee - Report Flaman - Bylaw Committee - Report Wattamaniuk - Council Administration Committee - Report Monteiro - Executive Committee - Report Villoso - Finance Committee - Report Ali - Nominating Committee - Report Fotang - Policy Committee - Report Dorscheid - Board of Governors Representative - Report Villoso - ARRC - Report Brooks - Student Group Committee - Report Soto - Translation Committee - Report

#### 2022-11/6 OPEN FORUM

#### 2022-11/7 QUESTION PERIOD

LIU: Asks VP Academic KAUR to prepare a report on practicums by the next Council meeting.

KAUR: Mentions that she will be providing information on that.

MONTEIRO: Asks Councilor ALI about the timeline for filling Nominating Committee vacancies, how soon these vacancies can be filled and if the committee is planning to conduct interviews for these positions.

ALI: States that October 3rd is the goal for these positions to be filled and that there are enough candidates to fill these positions.

Adds that the process of how the Nominating committee operates is flawed. Plans to have candidates appointed for next term than before next term starts so there will be a smooth transition by May 1st and to get all the committees operational as soon as possible.

SINGH: Asks GRAHAM if students, in general, are eligible to attend Council Standing Committee meetings.

Adds that currently there are no means for students, in general, to attend the meetings which are happening online. Adds that during the meetings, the zoom link among others is on a request basis. Suggests updating the SU website to include meeting location, time and agenda for meetings that are open to the students in general or maybe a shared calendar with all governance meetings.

Asks that instead of a request-basis structure, these meetings be accessible instead.

GRAHAM: States that there is a Governance Calendar that has the Student Council Committee meeting schedules and important deadlines. The governance team have been working in the past couple of weeks to share that information with the councilors.

Mentions putting the link to that calendar on the committee on the website and ensuring agendas are posted to the meeting invites. And minutes will be posted as soon as they are approved at the next meeting as per the procedure.

ZUKOWSKI: Mentions that currently, the calendar does not have the agenda on it, however, it includes the meeting room and the zoom link.

ABBASI: Asks VP FOGUE about the updates on Augustana Residence Association.

FOGUE: States that Augustana currently has all the information needed to be able to proceed with a consultation process as well as working on creating a constitution as well as sending a request to Bears Den to become a Student Group before becoming an SRA. The next step is working with the Augustana Students Association to talk about what the Augustana Residence Association will look like within Augustana.

REISBIG: Comments about the efficiency of the Perks App. Suggests having an award to students who get a streak and to be able to send points to points to a friend as a gift. Adds that it's noticeable that inflation also hit the perks app store.

MONTEIRO: Thanks REISBIG for being a great supporter of the app. Will look into incorporating the suggested ideas into the development of the app.

VILLOSO: Point of Clarification. Mentions that the purpose of SCFC is not to adjudicate complaints but to adjudicate green fund applications instead.

ALI: Point of Clarification. Mentions that he does not recall saying the comments about SCFC.

WATTAMANIUK: Asks BoG Representative DORSCHEID if he got a chance to talk with Schultz and hear about her takes on PSE.

DOESCHIED: States that he was not able to yet, but will reach out given a chance.

SINGH: Asks VP External/Policy Chair Fotang if it is a good idea to create a policy about Students Council cost priorities.

FOTANG: Mentions that the error is not getting council feedback early in advance. Had individual conversations with councilors to get a sense to push the provincial level.

Adds that there are existing policies that direct the committee to do campaigns on a certain platform.

SINGH: Asks if council make a policy about cost priorities and go that way or does council mandate or just focus on best practice that before this meeting in costing happens, at least once a year to be brought up to council.

FOTANG: States that building something either within Policy Committee or within a discussion period of council to suggest what the committee hopes to bring as cost or

cost identified as priorities and ask what council thinks and feedback on these priorities.

#### 2022-11/8 BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2022-11/8a **WATTAMANIUK/FLAMAN MOVE THAT** the Tuesday, November 1st, meeting of Council instead occur on Saturday, November 5th, at the Augustana Campus, with the bus departing from North Campus at approximately noon.

See SC-2022-11.10

TABLED

WATTAMANIUK/VILLOSO MOVE TO go into committee of the whole

CARRIED 28/00/00

**FLAMAN/ALI MOVE TO** TABLE the motion. CARRIED 28/00/00

- 2022-11/9 GENERAL ORDERS
- 2022-11/9a ALI/SINGH MOVE TO discuss DIE Board (#HA07 and #HA06).

See SC-2022-11.11

CARRIED 27/00/00

2022-11/9b **DORSCHEID/MONTEIRO MOVE TO** discuss the development of the University of Alberta Strategic Plan.

See SC-2022-11.12 CARRIED 27/00/00

**BROOKS/FLAMAN MOVE TO** extend the meeting until the completion of agenda item 9b. CARRIED 26/00/00

ALI/SINGH MOVE TO close discussion. CARRIED 22/00;/00

- 2022-11/10 CLOSED SESSIONS
- 2022-11/10a **ALI MOVES TO** go in-camera (personnel discussion)

WITHDRAWN

2022-11/11 INFORMATION ITEMS

2022-11/11a Students' Council Votes and Proceedings (SC-2022-10)

See SC-2022-10.01

2022-11/11b Executive Committee Reports

See SC-2022-11.04-07

2022-11/11c Students' Council Submissions

See SC-2022-11.02-03 and 11.08-15

2022-11/11d Students' Council - Attendance

See SC-2022-11.16

2022-11/11e Executive Committee Reports

See SC-2022-11.17

2022-11/11f Board of Governors Report

See SC-2022-11.18

2022-11/11g Students' Council Submissions

See SC-2022-11.19

SPEAKER: Adjourned the meeting at 9:34 PM



Council	Meeting	Date
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Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Meeting Schedule

Submitter

**Email Address** 

Type of Item Submission

Information Item

president@uasu.ca

Abner Monteiro

Is this a Consent Agenda item?

Yes

# **Approval/Discussion Items**

Strategic Plan

# **Calls for Nominations**

Council Committees and Boards

# **Written Nominations**

# **Information Items**

Agenda Title

President Report #12

### Description of the Information Item

Bi-Weekly President's Report for Students' Council.

### Attachments



# **Presentations**

# **Written Questions**

### Is there anything else that you would like to include?

Nope





Date: 10/04/2022 To: Students' Union Council Re: President 2022/23 Report #12

Dear Council,

I hope all of you are doing well! These past two weeks have been extremely busy. Below is an update on what I have been up to.

#### **Break The Record**

Last week, we attempted to not only break the record for the world's largest dodgeball game, but we set out on a broader vision to revitalize student life and build community at the U of A after 2.5 years of isolation and challenge. BTR was a dream come true, with 4,967 people all gathered together to celebrate our return to campus and build a connection with one another. I am so proud of our UASU team for their hard work and dedication in making this event possible and the University of Alberta and the Graduate Students' Association for coming together as one university to make this event a reality!



#### **Board of Governors**

#### Board Learning, Research, and Student Experience Committee

At BLRSEC, we discussed the sexual violence and student conduct policies, access to Mental Health resources, and food insecurity. Regarding SV/SC policy, I followed up on the concerns raised by VP Fogue at the September GFC Meeting and presented the same concerns around resources for Augustana and CSJ, as well as issues with the collective agreement and what commitments the university will make to addressing these serious concerns from students.

Discussing mental health and food insecurity, I shared some recent internal SU data surrounding student access to mental health support and wait times for support. It is clear that access to mental health support is limited on campus, and we will be advocating for the government and university to provide financial support to decrease wait times or help students find alternate ways to access therapy or support that may not be directly on campus.

#### **University Commons Tour**

The other day, Council had a chance to tour University Commons and provide feedback on what we would like to see the space look like. I asked many questions about how we will use the space, the available space for students and student groups to book and use, and the technology available in rooms to support students in their learning and extracurriculars. The new building will also have 49 gender-neutral washrooms - a massive win for the SU in their advocacy to improve accessibility on campus.



#### Work Integrated Learning

VP Kaur and I will be working with Karsten Mundel (Provost Fellow for Experiential Learning) to provide better support for students on WIL terms. More updates to come in future reports!

#### Forward Slash / Edmonton Global

VP Fotang and I attended Forward Slash, an event hosted by Edmonton Global - an economic development group aimed at showcasing what Edmonton has to offer - to promote innovation and discuss Edmonton's economic future.

#### The event allowed us to promote work-integrated learning opportunities to many businesses and companies to showcase their work and discuss advocacy around accessible and safe transit, affordable housing, and employment opportunities that keep students in Alberta.



Cheers,

**Abner Monteiro (he/him)** President University of Alberta Students' Union



Council Meeting Date	Tuesday, October 4, 2022	
Meeting Schedule		
Submitter	Christian Fotang	
Email Address	christian.fotang@su.ualberta.ca	
Type of Item Submission	Information Item	
Is this a Consent Agenda item?	No	

# **Approval/Discussion Items**

Strategic Plan

## **Calls for Nominations**

Council Committees and Boards

# **Written Nominations**

## **Information Items**

Agenda Title

Exec Report

### **Description of the Information Item** Exec Report

Attachments



# Presentations

# **Written Questions**





Date: 2022-09-29 To: Students' Union Council Re: Vice President External 2022/23 Report #10

Dear Council,

Below is a summary of recent activities and duties I have undertaken these past two weeks. I will follow up with a more fulsome report.

#### BTR

Huge shoutout and thank you to all the councilors and volunteers who were able to make BTR happen. Particularly to our events team and VP Fogue. While we did not break the record, we certainly lifted school spirits and brought a sense of community bag to campus.

#### **Residential School Memorial**

I was privileged to have been able to partake in the Residential School Memorial. VP Villoso and the ISU team did a great job organizing and planning the event. This event was a reminder that there is very much still a lot of work to be done in our country and within our institution in regard to reconciliation. I hope that many of you can take the time to pass by the memorial, reflect, and as we often ask ourselves at council, what role we play in the resurgence and revitalization of Indigenous students and Indigenous people in our community.

#### **Senate Plenary**

Last week, I attended Senate Plenary. On the first day of Plenary, I had the chance to meet our new student senators but also see the Dean of Faculte St. Jean, Jason Kerry present. Dean Kerry shared his vision for the campus and the bold steps he hopes to take to ensure that CSJ is leading the way and our university in building a strong and vibrant francophonie not only in Alberta and Western Canada but a global francophonie that is ready to tackle the issues surrounding our world.

On the second day of Plenary, I presented the executive goals to Senators. I was pleased by the reception and feedback our goals received. Senators were engaged and wanted to know how they can support us in achieving many of our goals, especially in regard to those that touch on student mental health, accommodations, and affordability.

#### CASA

#### **E-Plenary**

Last week Friday, I chaired CASA's E-Plenary. This was a special meeting to approve a flight of new Political policies, Operating Procedures and ratify new observers. It has been incredible to witness the pace at which we are recruiting new observers and new members. The task of solving and advocating on behalf of students cannot be done alone. It required a bold, brilliant, dedicated, and united student movement. CASA's expansion in Provinces such as Ontario is a testament to our work and the results we are getting on behalf of students. I look forward to sharing more updates with council.

#### Mental Health Report

Earlier this week, CASA released its report on Student Mental Health two years after COVID-19. For context, CASA partnered with Abacus data and the Mental Health Commission of Canada to survey Post-Secondary students across the country. Some interesting data to highlight is that 75% of students struggled with mental health during their studies, and their mental health worsened during the pandemic. Students also identified more support for their diverse needs. This is important data that will fuel our advocacy, especially amongst MPs and folks within the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

#### **Forward Slash**

President Monteiro, Councillor Arslan, and I attended Forward Slah, a conference organized by Edmonton Global, an economic development group that helps promote the region. This event was an opportunity to highlight the role post-secondary students play in the region and why retaining and attracting talent is necessary for Edmonton. Beginning these conversations but also finding the solutions for supporting students is incredibly important. Whether it's creating more student-centered employment opportunities, transit safety, or affordable housing, these are all priorities with multiple stakeholders whom we had the chance to meet and continue these discussions with.

As always, thank you for taking the time to go through this report. I look forward to your questions and comments.

Cheers,

Christian Potang

**Christian Fotang** Vice President External University of Alberta Students' Union



Council Meeting Date	Tuesday, October 4, 2022	
Meeting Schedule		
Submitter	Julia Villoso	
Email Address	julia.villoso@su.ualberta.ca	
Type of Item Submission	Information Item	
Is this a Consent Agenda item?	Νο	

# **Approval/Discussion Items**

Strategic Plan

## **Calls for Nominations**

Council Committees and Boards

# **Written Nominations**

## **Information Items**

Agenda Title

VPOF Report #11

### **Description of the Information Item**

This is my bi-weekly report for Council!

Attachments



# Presentations

# **Written Questions**





Date: 09/28/2022 To: Students' Union Council Re: Vice President Operations and Finance 2022/23 Report #11

#### Dear Council,

Hope you all had a good two weeks! Mine has been incredibly hectic and I will tell you all more about it on Tuesday, so I will give you a short report this week:

#### **Break The Record**

I'd just like to thank everyone who came out for Break The Record! Although we were short, just about 1100 people, I think everyone had such a great time. It was really nice to see a lot of the campus community come together towards a common goal. I'm also proud to be on the winning Green Team!!! I'd like to especially thank our VPSL Joannie for tirelessly working so hard on this project for the past couple of months. So please give her some praise when you see her!



#### **National Day of Truth and Reconciliation**

The Residential School Memorial: Students Healing from Our Past and Building Our Future is currently on display at Main Quad. Thank you to everyone who came out to the ceremony and helped us plant

the 10,028 flags for each child lost to the Indian Residential School System. If you get the chance to stop by the Main Quad before October 3rd, I encourage you to read our lawn signs and honor the children taken from their communities. I invite you all to reflect on the importance of National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and what it means to be on the land you live on.





#### The rest of my report will be dedicated to the things you can do for Truth and Reconciliation:



#### SETTLERS TAKE ACTION

1. Learn about the territory you live on at Native-Land.ca

2. Learn about Residential Schools to honour the lost children and Survivors, and learn of the lasting impacts on Indigenous peoples.

3. Buy and wear an Orange shirt created by Indigenous artists and associations. SUBMart is selling shirts right from Orange Shirt Society and the UofA Bookstore is selling shirts to support First People's House.

4. Learn and inform others about Indigenous advocacy projects on campus, such as The Maskwa House of Learning. Maskwa House will serve as a specialized space for Indigenous students on campus, used for programming and ceremonies. In 2005, the project was

in the works since at least 2005, and was known as the "Gathering Place." In 2015 the UAlberta President David Turpin made the announcement of Maskwa House at his installment ceremony. Now in the present day, since 2016 there have been no further developments to accomplish this goal.

#### 5. Read the Truth and Reconciliation Report and it's Call to Actions

Follow @OnCanadaProject for Critical, Credible, and Compassionate Information

6. Follow discussions and learn about Indigenous peoples and culture from Indig-led organizations. Organizations associated with our campus community: First People's House, Indigenous Students' Union, Indigenous Business Students Association, Indigenous Law Students Association

7. Support Indigenous owned businesses. Here are two different resources you can look at with <u>shopping and dining</u> and this <u>Indigenous shopping guide</u>.

8. Attend an Indigenous-led event on the 30th and show your support. You can find some within Edmonton <u>here</u>.

9. Make a donation to an Indigenous people or organization: Here is a <u>list</u> of Indigenous organizations you can donate to all across Canada. One organization the SU donates to is the <u>Indian Residential</u> <u>School Survivors Society (IRSSS)</u>.

10. Take the time to learn about the history of Indigenous people in Canada. You can sign up for the UAlberta Indigenous Canada Course: <u>Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)</u>, or you can read from this <u>list</u> <u>of 48 books</u> to better understand Residential Schools.

11. Contemplate any personal discomfort resulting from Canada's activities

12. Learn how to properly acknowledge the land we live on

13. Create space for Indigenous people to speak and trust Indigenous leaders

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me!

Best,

**Julia Villoso** Vice President Operations and Finance University of Alberta Students' Union



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# **UASU Students' Council Agenda Submission** Form

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Council Meeting Date	Tuesday, October 4, 2022
Meeting Schedule	
Submitter	FOGUE
Email Address	joannie.fogue@su.ualberta.ca
Type of Item Submission	Information Item
Is this a Consent Agenda item?	No

# **Approval/Discussion Items**

Strategic Plan

## **Calls for Nominations**

**Council Committees and Boards** 

# Written Nominations

## **Information Items**

**Agenda Title** 

**VPSL** Council Report

### **Description of the Information Item**

VPSL bi-weekly report for council.

### **Attachments**



# **Presentations**

# **Written Questions**





Date: 10/04/2022 To: Students' Union Council Re: Vice President Student Life 2022/23 Report #11

Cher conseil, I hope everyone has had a good first month.



#### **Break the Record**

4967 players, students, and members of our community. I am beyond overwhelmed by the success of Break the Record 2022. Once again, I would like to thank everyone who took the time out of their day to rep their UofA colours. BTR was more than just breaking the record. It was about Ualberta pride and getting students, staff, alumni and the community to be a part of something together. After what has been a long 2 years of isolation, we can proudly say we were able to establish togetherness and school pride. Julia and I have been meeting with students to ensure that students get their prizes won at BTR.

Thank you once again to everyone who helped out. This was a team effort and I appreciate you all.

#### **Residential School Memorial**

Julia and I alongside members of the ISU have been working on hosting the second annual RSM. Unfortunately, the number of flags planted grew this year. I would like to use this section of my report to encourage you to go out to Main Quad and reflect. I am so honored to have been a part of this journey with some of our Indigenous Students on campus. I have learned so much by simply taking the time to listen. I would like to give honor and thanks to <u>Mackenzie</u>, <u>Shauna</u>, <u>Chantel</u>, <u>Shannon</u>, and <u>Tamara</u> who helped plan this event.



**ICYMI** - Here is some news coverage from the memorial CB- Edmonton: <u>https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2077391427835/</u> at 10:05

#### Global-Edmonton:

https://globalnews.ca/video/rd/47061406-3dfd-11ed-84ec-0242ac110003/?jwsource=cl at

### 10:12

CTV-Edmonton:<u>https://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=2525229&jwsource=cl</u>at 39:55

#### **International Day**

I have started planning International day alongside my ISA Counterparts Madina and Nikita. This event will be taking place on Nov 17th. The event's goal is to create a platform for our community to come to celebrate and learn about our different cultures. We have been finalizing the venue details and looking at the set that would work best for us and regional groups. Students will get the chance to visit different booths and explore different countries and cultures.

Joannie Fogue

Joannie Fogue Vice President Student Life University of Alberta Students' Union



Council	Meeting	Date
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Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Meeting Schedule

Submitter

**Email Address** 

Type of Item Submission

Information Item

bog@su.ualberta.ca

Is this a Consent Agenda item?

No

Dorscheid

# **Approval/Discussion Items**

Strategic Plan

# **Calls for Nominations**

Council Committees and Boards

# **Written Nominations**

# **Information Items**

Agenda Title

BoG Representative Report #12

### Description of the Information Item

BoG Representative Report #12

### Attachments



# Presentations

# **Written Questions**





#### Date: October 4, 2022 To: Students' Council Re: Board of Governors Representative Report #12

#### Dear Council,

This week was a very busy week for me with various different meetings. First of all, I want to thank each and every one of you for your thoughtful comments and feedback last council meeting in regards to the strategic planning of this institution. Please do not discount any of the comments you gave as I took each and every one of your comments and put careful consideration into how I would package them together to strategize for where our University should be in the future.

#### Strategic Planning Meeting with Curtis Gillespie

Upon taking your comments and feedback, I took some time to sit back and digest all of the information I heard and group them into high-level themes that would be appropriate for sharing with the board. Prior to my meeting with Curtis, I sat down with a fellow governor and picked his brain on the best way to present this information to the board. I gained a lot of value and insight from this meeting on how to best advance student interests in the strategic plan for Curtis. After this meeting with that governor, I met with President Monteiro to do a final consolidation/brainstorming before meeting with Curtis.

My meeting with Curtis went very well and he will be incorporating a lot of the feedback I gave to him in a package to the board with feedback from all the governors. Mr. Gillespie greatly appreciated what I had to say and it seems that we will get a lot of positive infromatioon put onto this document for the next board meeting.

#### **Board Governance Committee**

The agenda for this meeting was relatively light overall and not much substance that would be of interest to Students' Council. We discussed what went well and what went wrong with the strategic retreat, where next year's strategic retreat will be, and matters of board composition among other things. I hope to have excellent news for engagement with folks from the CSJ community next week so please stay tuned for that.

If anyone has any questions for me or any additional feedback to give, please reach out to me directly as I will be in Toronto during this council meeting and thus will not be in attendance on October 4th.



Council Meeting Date Tuesday, October		tober 4, 2022	
Meeting Schedule			
Submitter	Ali		
Email Address	haruun	@ual	berta.ca
Type of Item Submission	Appro	oval	
Is this a Consent Agenda item?	Yes		

## **Approval/Discussion Items**

#### Motion

Ali moves to appoint Simon Cudmore, Leena El Jirari, and Gregory Choi to Sustainability Capital Fund Committee

Mover	Ali
Seconder	Fotang
Presenter (If Not the Mover)	Ali
Does this item require a closed session discussion?	No
Office/Committee Responsible	Nominating Committee

#### Purpose

Appointments to SCFC

#### **Executive Summary**

Appointments to SCFC from Nominating Committee seeking Council ratification.

#### **Relevant Bylaws/Policies/Standing Orders**

N/A

#### **Engagement and Routing**

Nominating Committee

### **Approval Routing**

Nominating Committee



Students' Council

Strategic Alignment

Strategic Plan

# **Calls for Nominations**

Council Committees and Boards

## **Written Nominations**

## **Information Items**

### **Presentations**

## **Written Questions**

Is there anything else that you would like to include?  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{N/A}}$ 







Council Meeting Date	Tuesday, October 4, 2022
Meeting Schedule	
Submitter	Ali
Email Address	haruun@ualberta.ca
Type of Item Submission	Approval
Is this a Consent Agenda item?	Yes

# **Approval/Discussion Items**

### Motion

Ali/Fotang to appoint Kian Kyars, Audrey Johnson, Fardeen Ansar to Sustainability Ad-Hoc Committee

Mover	Ali
Seconder	Fotang
Presenter (If Not the Mover)	Ali
Does this item require a closed session discussion?	No
Office/Committee Responsible	Nominating Committee
<b>Purpose</b> Ratify appointments to Sustainability Ad-H	loc Committee
<b>Executive Summary</b> Ratify appointments to Sustainability Ad-H	loc Committee
<b>Relevant Bylaws/Policies/Standing Ord</b> N/A	ers
Engagement and Routing	

Approval Routing Nominating Committee Students' Council



### Strategic Alignment

N/A

Strategic Plan

# **Calls for Nominations**

Council Committees and Boards

# **Written Nominations**

## **Information Items**

### **Presentations**

## **Written Questions**

Is there anything else that you would like to include?  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{N/A}}$ 





ctober 4, 2022
alberta.ca

# **Approval/Discussion Items**

### Motion

Ali/Fotang to appoint Kian Kyars, Chelsea Ambeault to Translation Committee

Mover	Ali
Seconder	Fotang
Presenter (If Not the Mover)	Ali
Does this item require a closed session discussion?	No
Office/Committee Responsible	Nominating Committee
<b>Purpose</b> Ratify appointments to translation committee	
<b>Executive Summary</b> Ratify appointments to translation committee	
<b>Relevant Bylaws/Policies/Standing Orders</b> N/A	
Engagement and Routing Nominating Committee	
<b>Approval Routing</b> Nominating Committee Students' Council	



### Strategic Alignment

N/A

Strategic Plan

# **Calls for Nominations**

Council Committees and Boards

# **Written Nominations**

## **Information Items**

### **Presentations**

## **Written Questions**

Is there anything else that you would like to include?  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{N/A}}$ 





Council Meeting Date	Tuesday, October 4, 2022	
Meeting Schedule		
Submitter	Ali	
Email Address	haruun@ualberta.ca	
Type of Item Submission	Approval	
Is this a Consent Agenda item?	Yes	
Approval/Discussion Items		

### Motion

Ali/Fotang move to appoint Janvi Bali to Student Group Committee

Mover	Ali
Seconder	Fotang
Presenter (If Not the Mover)	Ali
Does this item require a closed session discussion?	No
Office/Committee Responsible	Nominating Committee
<b>Purpose</b> Ratify appointments to Student Group Committee	
<b>Executive Summary</b> Ratify appointments to Student Group Committee	
<b>Relevant Bylaws/Policies/Standing Orders</b> N/A	
Engagement and Routing Nominating Committee	
<b>Approval Routing</b> Nominating Committee Students' Council	



### Strategic Alignment

N/A

Strategic Plan

# **Calls for Nominations**

Council Committees and Boards

# **Written Nominations**

## **Information Items**

### **Presentations**

## **Written Questions**

Is there anything else that you would like to include?  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{N/A}}$ 





Council Meeting Date	Tuesday, October 4, 2022
Meeting Schedule	
Submitter	Abner Monteiro
Email Address	president@uasu.ca
Type of Item Submission	Presentation
Is this a Consent Agenda item?	Νο

# **Approval/Discussion Items**

Strategic Plan

## **Calls for Nominations**

Council Committees and Boards

## **Written Nominations**

## **Information Items**

### **Presentations**

Motion	MONTEIRO/FOTANG MOVE TO allow a presentation from the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)
Mover	Monteiro
Seconder	Fotang
Presenter	Joomun
Should this Presentation Occur in a Closed Session?	Νο
Office/Committee Responsible	N/A

### Abstract

CASA is our national voice for Canada's post-secondary students. Established in 1995, CASA is a non-partisan, not-for-profit student organization composed of student associations across Canada. They



represent undergraduate, graduate and polytechnic associations.

At its core, CASA advocates on behalf of post-secondary students to the federal government. When Canada's leaders make decisions affecting our post-secondary education system, they turn to CASA for solutions.

CASA is here today to give the Students' Council an overview of what they do and answer any questions about the organization.

**Presentation Slides Upload** 



## **Written Questions**

Is there anything else that you would like to include?

Nope




### **Canadian Alliance of Student Associations**

Presentation to University of Alberta Student Union



### **Table of Contents**



- 1. What is CASA?
- 2. Governing Documents & Structure
- 3. What does CASA do?
- 4. Records of Success
- 5. A Year At CASA
- 6. CASA's Priorities This Year
- 7. What does this all mean for UASU?

## **1. What is CASA?**



### **CASA** at a Glance



### Mission



**Canadian Alliance of Student Associations** 

"Through its member-driven structure and grassroots approach, CASA's mission is to advocate for students using policy development and research, awareness campaigns, government relations, and partnerships with other stakeholders."

### Vision



#### Accessible

#### Affordable

#### Innovative

#### High Quality

### Values





### Membership





### Observers

BUSU



#### CENTENNIAL COLLEGE Student Association

CCSA

C



TRENT DURHAM





### **Membership Fee Structure**

Number of students	Cost per full-time equivalent (FTE) student
1 to 6,000	\$3.48
6,001 to 12,000	\$3.20
12,001 to 20,000	\$2.96
20,001 and above	\$2.63

\*Membership fees shall be subject to a maximum of \$59,533 and a minimum of \$5,777 per fiscal year, subject to slight annual adjustments for inflation.

## 2. Governing Documents & Structure



### **Governing Documents**





### **Strategic Plan: Pillars**



### **Our Structure**

- Our Members provide direction to our Board of Directors at our general assemblies
- Our Board is composed of:
  - Board Chair
  - Treasurer
  - Secretary
  - Director of Policy
  - Director of Advocacy
  - Director of Membership
  - Director of EDI
- CASA's Board provides direction to the Executive Director, who manages Home Office staff





### **Member-Driven**

• Membership is comprised of:

• Primary (Abner) & Secondary (Christian) delegates

• **Responsible for:** 

Reviewing & assessing CASAs actions

Electing CASA's board and committee representatives

Representing

your Students

at a National

level

Attending CASA Conferences to bring UASU's perspective

Meeting with federal MPs and politicians

Ensuring

compliance to

the governing

documents



### **The Board**





#### The board is comprised of:

 Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Advocacy, Director of Membership, Director of EDI, Director of Policy

#### **Responsible for:**

Overseeing CASA 's Day-to-Day Creating Annual Action Plan

Ensuring Member-Driven Focus

Chair Committees



### **CASA Committees**

#### Each committee is:

- Made up of delegates from members
- Connected to the board of directors through a board representation
- Responsible for developing a work plan in conjunction with the Board of Directors' Action Plan
- Responsible for reports to membership at each CASA Conference



### Committees





### Staff

#### **Responsible for:**

- Working in compliance to the governing documents and membership's will
- We work on student federal advocacy for you between CASA conferences

#### Executive Director

Member Relations Officer

Policy & Research Analyst

Government & Stakeholder Relations Officer Mackenzy Metcalfe

 Works with the Board & Sits on Board, EDI, Governance + Internal Review + National Advocacy Committees

#### Wasiimah Joomun

• Works with the Director of Membership & Sits on Member Relations + National Indigenous Advisory Committees

#### **Trevor Potts**

Works with Director of Policy + Summer Intern & Sits on Federal Policy
+ Colleges Polytechnics Advisory + Graduates Advisory

#### **James Caldwell**

• Work with Parliamentarians and build on relationship with post secondary stakeholders, works with Director of Advocacy

## 3. What does CASA do?



### Advocacy at CASA









Consultation

#### **Policy & Research**



#### **Stakeholder Relations**



#### **Media Engagement**

#### 2 million students matter. You matter.

Vote in the Canadian Federal Election on October 19.



#### Campaigns





### **Policy & Research Papers**

### CONTINUED CONCERNS



#### Post-Secondary Students One Year into COVID-19



ABACUS DATA

#### THE NEW ABNORMAL



ATTA CASA ACAE

#### **Policy Library Highlights**

- Educational materials
- International students
- Mental Health
- <u>Student employment</u>
- Student financial aid
- <u>Student research</u>
- Latest Publication 2022 -<u>The New Abnormal</u>



### **Lobby Meetings**

- Meet with Members of Parliament (MPs), Senators, Ministers, and any others who have the power to influence public policy related to post-secondary education
- Ask for the policy changes you want and explain why they are needed!







### **Parliamentary Committees**

- Parliamentary committees make policy recommendations to the government after studying the issue and listening to witnesses
- Being asked to appear as a witness before a committee is a great honour as well as an opportunity to consult with students directly!





### **UEQ Partnership**

#### Union Etudiante de Quebec

- 9 student associations 87,000 students
- Graduate & Undergraduate students

#### Partnership

- Since May 2017
- Strong representation of Quebec students
- Neither UEQ or CASA has voting rights at the other's institution







### Campaigns







#### 2 million students matter. You matter.

Vote in the Canadian Federal Election on October 19.







## 4. Record of Success



### **CASA's Recent Successes**

Doubling of Canada Student Grants for 2021-22 & 2022-23 academic years

Launch of The National Standard for Mental Health and Well Being for post secondary students \$9 billion COVID aid package to postsecondary students & recent graduates

\$925 million invested in Canadian Research - the largest investment in Canadian History

Read about our wins & publications on our website (casa-acae.ca)

## 5. A Year at CASA

### **CASA 22-23 Timeline**





## 6. CASA's Priorities This Year



### **Advocacy Priorities**



Top 4 Priorities as voted by Membership at Policy & Strategy Conference

#### Student Financial Aid

#### Student Mental Health

#### Sustainability & Housing

#### Decolonization

# 7. What does this all mean for UASU as member?



### What Does It Mean for UASU?

Representing University of Alberta students at a national level -Christian as Chair

Attendance at CASA conferences Participation in CASA committees and working groups

Advanced stakeholder relations - your executives can thus focus on more internal issues and CASA builds on the external relationships

Access to professional training, advocacy resources, and student-union networks

Member-Drive & Value for Money



### Stay Updated With CASA



-

: www.casa-acae.ca



- :@casaacae
- : @CASAACAE
  - : Canadian Alliance of Student Associations



### Questions, comments, queries?

FEEL FREE TO EMAIL US

Mackenzy, ed@casa.ca

Wasiimah, members@casa.ca

Christian <u>chair@casa.ca</u>


### UASU Students' Council Agenda Submission Form

Council Meeting Date	Tuesday, October 4, 2022
Meeting Schedule	
Submitter	FLAMAN
Email Address	lflaman1@ualberta.ca
Type of Item Submission	Presentation
Is this a Consent Agenda item?	No

### **Approval/Discussion Items**

Strategic Plan

### **Calls for Nominations**

Council Committees and Boards

### **Written Nominations**

### **Information Items**

### **Presentations**

Motion	FLAMAN moves to present on Bill 1: Simplifying and Clarifying Governance Documents
Mover	FLAMAN
Seconder	CARBAJAL VELEZ
Presenter	FLAMAN
Should this Presentation Occur in a Closed Session?	Νο
Office/Committee Responsible	Bylaw Committee

#### Abstract

Given the sweeping restructuring being undertaken to the Students' Union bylaw structure as a result of Bill 1, this presentation is a quick review of why we undertook it, a summary of what's been done up to



now and a preview of what the final product is shaping up to be so as to answer any lingering questions and concerns now instead of at the next meeting when it comes back to Council for Second Reading to be approved.

#### **Presentation Slides Upload**



## **Written Questions**

Is there anything else that you would like to include?

No.



# Bill 1: Simplifying and Clarifying Governance Documents

Levi Flaman Chair - Bylaw Committee

## Who (was involved in this)?

- Bylaw Committee
  - Jayden Brooks Engineering Councillor
  - Simran Dhillon Science Councillor
  - Daniela Carbajal Velez Science Councillor
  - David Lee Science Councillor
  - Abner Monteiro President
  - Adrian Wattamaniuk Engineering Councillor
- Marc Dumouchel General Manager
- Governance Staff
  - Courtney Graham Governance Support Specialist
  - Jetro (Sun) Dano Minute Taker



## When (did this start)? When (will this be finished)?

- June 14th Abner & Marc pitched the idea
- June 21 Brought to Bylaw who liked the proposal; delegated tasks and got to work
- August 9 First Principles approved in Council
- October 18 Second Reading comes to Council

## Why (Did we need this)?

- 1. Make bylaws more accessible and easier to read
- **22** Bylaws
- 347 Sections
  - Bylaw 100 largest with **~15%**
  - Top 5 largest approximately **60%**
  - Lengthy sections
- Duplicate information

Bylaw #	Bylaw Description	# of Sections	% of sections
100	Students' Council, its Committees and Code of Conduct	52	14.99%
200	FNMI Consultation and Engagement	5	1.44%
500	Access to Students' Union Information	6	1.73%
600	UASU Bilingualism	3	0.86%
1100	Executive Committee	5	1.44%
1500	Judiciary	34	9.80%
2100	CRO and Elections Staff	11	3.17%
2200	Executive and BoG Election	42	12.10%
2250	Plebiscites and Referenda	39	11.24%
2300	Students' Council & GFC Election	40	11.53%
2400	Balloting and Counting	15	4.32%
2500	Plebicites for MNIFs	6	1.73%
3000	UASU Finances	10	2.88%
4000	UASU Strategic Plan	11	3.17%
5100	Student Group Conduct	10	2.88%
6100	Dedicated Fee Units	6	1.73%
6200	Operational Dedicated Fee Units	5	1.44%
6300	Granting Dedicated Fee Units	4	1.15%
8100	Student Representative Associations	12	3.46%
8200	SRA Finances	12	3.46%
8400	Faculty Membership Fees	10	2.88%
9000	Emergency Procedures	9	2.59%
Total		347	100.00%

## Why (Did we need this)?

- 2. Provide more or easier ways to update procedural content while maintaining Council oversight
- Bylaws can be too rigid and inflexible
  - Bylaw 8200 Student Representative Association fee collection
- 3. Separate the principles from the procedure
- Some sections of bylaw get too specific unnecessarily
  - Bylaw 100 Prescribes the allotment of council seats



## What (Did we do)?

Before

- Post-Secondary Learning Act (s.93 & s.95)
- UASU Bylaws

#### After

- PSLA
- Bylaws
  - $\circ$  Regulations
    - Appendices

# What (Did we do)?

#### Section I - Governance

- Bylaw 100: Governance
  - Regulation 110: Students Council
    - Regulation 110A: Students' Council Standing Orders
    - Regulation 110B: Legislative Processes
  - **Regulation 120**: Committees of Students' Council
    - Regulation 120A: Committee Standing Orders
    - **Regulation 120B**: Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee
    - **Regulation 120C**: Audit Committee
    - Regulation 120D: Bylaw Committee
    - Regulation 120E: Council Administration Committee
    - **Regulation 120F**: Executive Committee
    - Regulation 120G: Finance Committee
    - Regulation 120H: Nominating Committee
    - Regulation 120I: Policy Committee
    - Regulation 120J: Student Group Committee
    - Regulation 120K: Sustainability Committee
    - Regulation 120L: Translation Committee
  - **Regulation 130**: Student Governance Code of Conduct
  - **Regulation 140**: Student Judiciary
  - **Regulation 150**: Student Representative Associations
    - Regulation 150A: List of SRAs
  - Regulation 160: Definitions



 $\bullet$ 

## What (Did we do)?

- Section II: Operations
  - Bylaw 200: Operations
    - Regulation 210: Operating Policy
    - Regulation 220: Strategic Plan
    - Regulation 230: Access to Students' Union Information
    - Regulation 240: Students' Union Bilingualism
    - Regulation 250: Student Group Conduct
    - Regulation 260: Emergency Measures
    - Regulation 270: FNMI Consultation & Engagement



# What (Did we do)?

- Section III: Elections
  - Bylaw 300: Elections
    - Regulation 310: Chief Returning Officer and Elections Staff
    - Regulation 320: Executive Committee and Board of Governors Representative Elections
    - Regulation 330: Students' Council and General Faculties Council Elections
    - Regulation 340: Plebiscites and Referenda
    - Regulation 350: Balloting and Counting



## What (Did we do)?

- Section IV: Finances
  - Bylaw 400: Finances
    - Bylaw 410: Students' Union Finances
    - Bylaw 420: Student Representative Association Finances
    - Bylaw 430: Dedicated Fee Units
    - Bylaw 440: Faculty Membership Fees
    - Appendix 400A: Collected Fees

## Where (do we go from here)?

- Bylaw & Regulation review will begin after Bill 1 passes second reading
- Will be conducted in the same manner as Council's Standing Order Reviews
- All bylaws and regulations being reviewed
- Section III Elections to be completed first
  - First Principles on November 29
  - Second Reading on December 13
- Regulation 110 Students Council to be reviewed concurrently
  - Rest of Section 1 Governance can be completed in early Winter term
- Section IV Finances will be next
- Section II Operations will be done by the end of the year



# Questions?



## UASU Students' Council Agenda Submission Form

Council Meeting Date	Tuesday, October 4, 2022
Meeting Schedule	
Submitter	Fotang
Email Address	christian.fotang@su.ualberta.ca
Type of Item Submission	Presentation
Is this a Consent Agenda item?	No

## **Approval/Discussion Items**

Strategic Plan

### **Calls for Nominations**

Council Committees and Boards

### **Written Nominations**

### **Information Items**

### **Presentations**

Motion	Fotang moves to allow Juan Vargas to present on the Climate Emergency Unit
Mover	FOTANG
Seconder	Villoso
Presenter	Juan Vargas
Should this Presentation Occur in a Closed Session?	Νο
Office/Committee Responsible	Policy

#### Abstract

Juan Vargas (Arts Councillor 2019-2020) will share opportunities for Council to be involved in the Alberta campaign for a Climate Corps: a massive government program to bring thousands of people



into climate mitigation and adaptation work.

## **Written Questions**





### UASU Students' Council Agenda Submission Form

Council Meeting Date	Tuesday, September 20, 2022
Meeting Schedule	
Submitter	Adrian Wattamaniuk
Email Address	wattaman@ualberta.ca
Type of Item Submission	Approval
Is this a Consent Agenda item?	No

### **Approval/Discussion Items**

#### Motion

MOVES THAT the Tuesday, October 18, meeting of Council instead occur on Saturday, October 15, at the Augustana Campus, with the bus departing from North Campus at approximately noon.

Mover	WATTAMANIUK
Seconder	FLAMAN
Presenter (If Not the Mover)	N/A
Does this item require a closed session discussion?	Νο
Office/Committee Responsible	Office of the Speaker of Council; Council Administration Committee

#### Purpose

This motion is to change the Council meeting schedule to allow us to meet at Augustana Campus.

#### **Executive Summary**

It was a pre-pandemic convention that Council hold meetings at both Augustana Campus and Campus Saint Jean during each term. The purpose of this motion is to change our meeting schedule in order to hold a Council meeting at Augustana Campus.

The date and time of this meeting were chosen in consultation with members of Council, committee chairs, and representatives from the Augustana Campus. Holding the meeting on a Saturday and departing from North Campus at around noon was chosen to allow Council to properly connect with student representatives while at Augustana. However, please note that the time and date presented today only provide the basic structure of the meeting and additional details will be filled in consultation with Council and the Augustana Students' Association.



#### **Relevant Bylaws/Policies/Standing Orders**

- Standing Orders s. 2(2)(b): Approval of Meeting Schedule
- General Order 2022-01/9b: Council Meeting Schedule

#### **Engagement and Routing**

- August 17, 2022: Abdul Abbasi (Councillor for Augustana)
- August 26, 2022: Students' Council (via Google Form)

- September 9, 2022: Abdul Abbasi (Councillor for Augustana) and Jewel Naicker (Augustana Students' Association President)

#### **Approval Routing**

- September 14, 2022: Committee Chairs Recommendation

#### **Strategic Alignment**

- "Deepen our relationships with representative associations in order to increase connections with students."
  - This proposal provides Council with the groundwork to build relationships and collaboration between the SU and ASA.
- "Support initiatives that build a unified student voice."
  - The proposal to Augustana Campus provides the SU with the ability to collaborate on shared interests with the ASA.
- "Strengthen our collective voice by engaging students in advocacy."
  - This proposal enables the Students' Union to have a stronger presence on Augustana Campus and engage and consult with students there on advocacy efforts.

Strategic Plan

### **Calls for Nominations**

Council Committees and Boards

### Written Nominations

### **Information Items**

#### Attachments



### **Presentations**

### **Written Questions**





### UASU Students' Council Agenda Submission Form

Council Meeting Date	Tuesday, August 2, 2022
Meeting Schedule	
Submitter	Chanpreet
Email Address	ch12@ualberta.ca
Type of Item Submission	Discussion
Is this a Consent Agenda item?	No

### **Approval/Discussion Items**

#### Motion

Singh moves to discuss the remuneration/honorarium report as prepared by General Manager.

Mover	Singh
Seconder	NA
Presenter (If Not the Mover)	Marc
Does this item require a closed session discussion?	No
Office/Committee Responsible	General Manager/Executive Committee

#### Purpose

The purpose of this report is for the council to have a better understanding of the background, implications, and comprehensive research on providing council members with a remuneration/honorarium.

#### **Executive Summary**

A few meetings back, it was decided in the Council to give some time to the General Manager to prepare a comprehensive remuneration/honorarium report for the council, so we could have a full discussion and decide if the council wants to implement a remuneration/honorarium for upcoming/current council year.

Based on the discussion, a motion shall be presented in the next council meeting to formally instruct the committees of the council to work on implementing remuneration/honorarium for the upcoming/current council.

#### **Relevant Bylaws/Policies/Standing Orders**



#### **Engagement and Routing**

Students Council General Manager Executive Committee (Maybe) Governance Restructuring Task Force Recommendation.

#### **Approval Routing**

Governance Restructuring Task Force Recommendation.

#### **Strategic Alignment**

Learn from the past to improve tomorrow. Always keep Moving.

#### Strategic Plan

### **Calls for Nominations**

**Council Committees and Boards** 

### **Written Nominations**

### **Information Items**

### **Presentations**

### **Written Questions**

#### Is there anything else that you would like to include?

The General Manager will share report over weekend.





### UASU Students' Council Agenda Submission Form

Tuesday, October 4, 2022
Christian Fotang
christian.fotang@su.ualberta.ca
Information Item
No

## **Approval/Discussion Items**

Strategic Plan

### **Calls for Nominations**

Council Committees and Boards

### **Written Nominations**

### **Information Items**

Agenda Title

**CAUS** Value

#### **Description of the Information Item**

report on our membership value within caus

#### Attachments



### Presentations

## **Written Questions**



### Does CAUS Membership Create a Net Benefit for UAlberta Students?

Prepared for UASU Students' Council



#### Overview and operating realities

This report explores whether the UASU's membership in the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) creates a net benefit for students. This is not a position paper; staff involved in the creation of this report have engaged with CAUS both collaboratively and critically. This report is intended as a clear-eyed look at actual, not just hypothetical, value to students.

Our assessment, detailed below, is that CAUS has produced a monetary and non-monetary net benefit to students over the past year. The largest benefit is certainly the system-wide improvement of mechanisms for preventing and responding to sexual violence, but there are other examples.

We chose the one-year time frame for two reasons. Though CAUS has had notable successes in recent years (detailed near the end of the report), we focused on current, rather than past, benefit or value. Also, the past year has seen significant internal discussion over reform and effectiveness (including the departure of the University of Calgary Students' Union (UCSU)) and the hiring of a new Executive Director.

Like many advocacy organizations that engage with the Government of Alberta, CAUS operates within a complex and shifting political landscape. Realistic success can often look like harm-reduced or incremental change. This is particularly true when looking at student financial aid, where much-needed reforms could cost hundreds of millions of dollars. Convincing the Government of Alberta to allocate even \$5–10 million to an initiative is a significant achievement. For a sense of scale, the CAUS budget is less than \$200,000.

#### How much does it cost the UASU to be part of CAUS?

Currently, the UASU's CAUS fees are \$55,510 per year. After including average conference costs (with accommodation and transportation) in pre-pandemic years, the UASU spends around \$61,000 on CAUS membership annually. This estimate does not include the value of staff and Executive time, as they would be spending comparable time on provincial government relations with or without CAUS.

Hypothetically, if CAUS membership and participation were a dedicated fee, it would cost each student around \$0.87 per term. For comparison, the smallest dedicated fees at UAlberta are the Aboriginal Students' Council at \$1.08 per term and the Campus Food Bank at \$1.12 per term. CAUS sets its fees much lower than comparator provincial advocacy organizations (around 1/10th the rates of the BC Federation of Students or CFS-Ontario, for example).

# What if the UASU left CAUS and spent that money on an additional mid-senior government/public relations staff member instead?

This hypothetical situation has a cornucopia of possible pros and cons. Key points:

- Improved oversight over the quality of advocacy documents.
- Increased flexibility and reduced turnaround time on provincial advocacy initiatives, except when other student unions are involved.

We assessed several other 'pro' points (e.g. around ownership of our message to the government), but, for most of those points, we found that our current situation is acceptable and leaving CAUS would not meaningfully improve it.

#### CON:

- Decreased relationships and coordination with other universities, e.g. stepping on each other's toes with unaligned or incompatible asks.
- Reduced access to other CAUS members' perspectives, connections, and institutional knowledge.
- Lost opportunities to make collective asks with a cohesive voice, e.g. on major issues or budget submissions.
- Drastically reduced ability to credibly speak for the needs of Alberta's university students on collective issues like financial aid.
- Loss of a major additional voice that can reinforces UASU's public arguments.
- Being one voice among many competing voices.
- Constant need to reinvent the wheel. Stakeholders would consistently require a simple venue for systematic communication and collaboration between student unions on provincial government relations matters i.e. something much like CAUS. This makes CAUS almost the 'bare minimum' configuration for a government relations organization.
- Ceding the role of 'organized' student voice to ab-GPAC (graduate students) and ASEC (college students), organizations which have different priorities and often have less reason to criticize government decisions.
- Persistent increased burden on the UASU's Marketing and Communications department in ways that probably could not be solved even if the entire \$61,000 was allocated to MarComms staffing.

Note that compensating for most of the 'con' list would disproportionately fall on the VP External and President, as relationships between student unions are appropriately handled at the Exec-to-Exec level. Despite the time commitments bound up in CAUS membership, we estimate that participating in CAUS likely saves time for Execs.

### In the past year, has CAUS made a difference for students?

#### Sexual violence prevention and response

By far the largest example of recent benefit, and one of CAUS's most significant victories ever, was the February 2022 letter from the Ministers of Advanced Education and Status of Women

PRO:

to the UAlberta Board of Governors (and other institutions' governing boards) regarding sexual violence prevention and response.

- The letter included an extensive, mandatory list of changes and new elements with a firm timeline. The vast majority of this list came from a CAUS advocacy campaign based on a <u>66-page white paper</u> that CAUS released in January 2020, and an ensuing <u>budget</u> <u>submission</u>.
- At CAUS's request, the government also created a small granting program (\$2.5 million) to support training and awareness on campuses.
- In connection with the February 2022 letter and granting program, CAUS was quoted in the <u>Government of Alberta press release</u>, the <u>Red Deer Advocate</u>, <u>Calgary Herald</u>, <u>Global</u>, and <u>CTV</u>.
- UAlberta has completely overhauled its sexual violence policy suite to comply with the Ministers' letter and required timeline.
- The new policy suite is scheduled for approval and implementation in Fall 2022. It is likely to comprehensively improve how the University community prevents and responds to sexual violence.
- For a variety of reasons, this change likely is *not* something UASU could have produced on its own, or as an ad-hoc arrangement with two or three other student unions.

CAUS has played a leading, central role in convincing Advanced Education to compel post-secondary institutions to overhaul their approach to sexual violence. This success is likely to significantly benefit hundreds of students at UAlberta and throughout Alberta's post-secondary education system every year in perpetuity. Even if CAUS had produced no other value over the past year, this system-wide reform would likely justify its existence.

#### Student financial aid

In June, after extensive CAUS requests for increased student grant funding and criticism of Alberta's grants-to-loans imbalance, Advanced Education pledged \$15 million over three years to create a new \$5000 bursary for 1000 low-income students in specific fields.

- This ostensibly small funding commitment represents, *very* roughly, 8% of Alberta's per-year needs-based grant funding. It is unclear whether the coming year's \$5 million is 'new money' or a reallocation within Budget 2022's government estimates for student grants. Either way, more grants for low-income students are a positive development and in line with consistent CAUS efforts.
- This kind of incremental improvement is probably the best that can be hoped for in provincial student aid advocacy. To the 1000 students per year who will benefit (possibly hundreds of them at UAlberta), the change is extremely significant.

In July and August, a grant eligibility change impacted some semi-low-income students in one-year programs, as well as grad students.

• An unknown but small number of impacted students (those who no longer met the grant's shifted low-income criteria) lost up to \$1000 in funding. The total amount of

funding did not decrease; the intent of the change, it turned out, was to focus more of the available funding on the lowest-income students.

- CAUS and its members, all of whom had been kept in the dark, responded with press releases and statements in the media. Since the change primarily impacted graduate students, CAUS and UASU cooperated with the appropriate representative organizations: ab-GPAC and UAGSA.
- This conflict was certainly an unforced error (a careless and unnecessary mistake) on the government's part, and CAUS and ab-GPAC took proportionate action.
- The option of a protest was raised, but it is vital to understand that CAUS's mandate and capacity are focused on government relations efforts. Virtually all protests and similar actions are initiated and led by individual student unions. In this case, CAUS and its members decided that a last-minute protest during the summer, over a change that affected very few undergraduate students and benefited others, would have drawn little student interest and would have been counterproductive.
- While this specific incident did not particularly sway our assessment of direct net benefit to students, it is a strong example of how CAUS serves as a useful mechanism and venue for student unions to put together mutually agreeable joint efforts quickly, while collectively engaging with Advanced Education, ab-GPAC, and other external parties. For student government relations efforts, this is essential functionality.

### Are CAUS's current priorities likely to benefit students?

A quick summary of CAUS's priority asks to government for the 2022/23 year:

- Student financial aid
  - Shift \$200 million annually toward needs-based student grants
  - Adjust the use of specific reserve funds
- Consistent, improved funding for various measures that help institutions prevent and respond to sexual violence
- Remote learning
  - Follow-through on commitments around rural broadband internet access
  - Institutional funding to increase digital access and capacity to support remote learning (e.g. rural and internationally-located students)
- Institutional funding for Indigenous recruitment and cultural/educational support centres
- Specific targets for per-student mental health funding
- Student employment and workforce preparation
  - Expansion of work-integrated learning pilot programs
  - Standardization of microcredentials across Alberta

• Institutional funding for career centres

By and large, CAUS's 2022/23 priorities are straightforward and build on previous years' work. Plausible progress on even a few of these issues (i.e. even a few million dollars in funding, a minimal government commitment) could tangibly benefit some marginalized student communities. (For example, by UAlberta estimates, an additional \$500,000 would be enough to construct the Maskwa House of Learning.) There may even be some needs-based student grant funding on top of the recent \$15 million commitment, though the full \$200 million ask represents the scope of need, not the scope of likely relief.

### What about long-term value going back farther than a year?

The nature of government relations work is that many of the major victories take place after years of effort. (For example, the sexual violence prevention reforms detailed above took several years to reach this point.) Outside of the one-year timeframe that we used for the bulk of our assessment, it seems clear that CAUS advocacy has delivered significant value to students in the long term. Some notable examples from recent years:

#### 2015-2020 Tuition Freeze

Although the current government rapidly raised tuition after the freeze, students enjoyed low tuition for five years. Around 100,000 bachelor's degree students were enrolled in each of those years. Comparing more detailed government enrolment numbers with Statistics Canada's tuition rates, we can now <u>estimate</u> that the tuition freeze (driven primarily by CAUS) has saved students approximately \$290 million since 2015.

Institutions were also ordered to freeze mandatory non-instructional fees, which produced additional savings for students.

#### Bill 19 (2018)

Bill 19 was a comprehensive slate of tuition and regulatory reforms heavily influenced by CAUS advocacy. After the 2019 election, many of the Bill 19 reforms largely remained intact, including major improvements to regulating mandatory non-instructional fees, and the cohort model that guarantees the full cost of an international student's degree up front.

#### Alberta 2030 (2020/21)

CAUS had a seat at the table for the Alberta 2030 process: Rowan Ley, then a UASU Exec and CAUS Chair, was a member of the Guiding Coalition. The UASU's participation in Alberta 2030 through CAUS led to harm reduction (e.g. around sector-level governance reform models and poorly chosen targets for performance-based funding, which would have impacted students negatively) and outright successes (e.g. commitments to increase student grants and reduce sexual violence on campus).

### Why does the question of CAUS's value keep recurring?

There is no one reason for this question, though there are consistent themes and factors.

• CAUS has certainly experienced periods of reduced effectiveness and internal conflict. Late last year, UCSU opted to leave for a variety of reasons, though they have made it clear that they would be interested in returning if CAUS improves certain internal processes and becomes more effective.

- CAUS has seen relatively rapid turnover of Executive Directors over the past half-decade, and has shifted the ED's job responsibilities more than once to address some of the related issues.
- While CAUS is designed to facilitate and coordinate government relations efforts, individual members or other stakeholders sometimes feel like CAUS should also have the capacity and mandate to engage in protests and other public direct action, and CAUS has done so on occasion. Competing visions of CAUS's purpose and capacity are a common topic of conversation and have, in the past, taken up more than their share of time and led to perceptions of inefficiency.
- Underlying all of the above, CAUS has a poor track record of keeping its member student unions in the loop by tracking and demonstrating successes.

### Recommendation: Stakeholder Reports

Our assessment is that CAUS does currently produce a net benefit to students, but that benefit is often unclear to stakeholders. As one stakeholder expressed to us recently, they question whether CAUS has *actual* value or *theoretical* value.

Stakeholder reports of one kind or another are common practice throughout the nonprofit and advocacy world. A relatively minimal time commitment could address many of the concerns above. For example, a two-page lightly-marketed semester report to member student unions could track numbers of meetings with elected officials and senior staff, and note the semester's successes and failures related to current goals.

A minimal, regular report like this would give members and stakeholders a clearer understanding of CAUS's work, mandate, and current priorities, so they can make their own judgments about ongoing value. CAUS would no longer need to rely on individual Executives as the main conduit for informing councils and the student body about government relations successes. This kind of report would help CAUS staff and members focus on consistent, meaningful priorities. It would provide easy-reference documents regarding the extent of past CAUS efforts, and help CAUS set benchmark targets for improvement and growth.

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