



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
**STUDENTS'  
UNION**

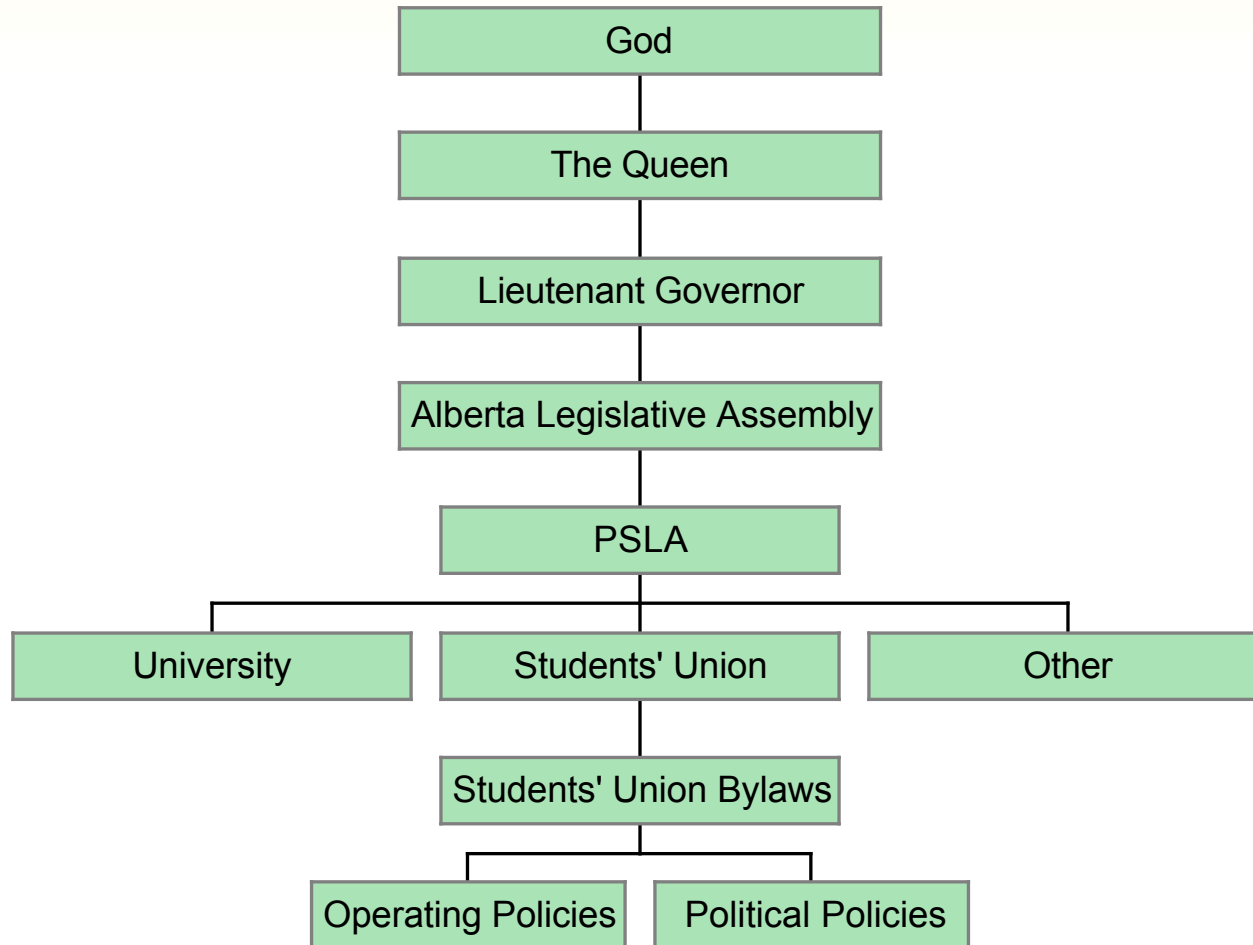
# Political Policies

# By the end of the presentation you should be able to



- Understand what is a political policy
- Understand Students' Council role
- Understand the execs' role
- List at least 3 political policies

# In the beginning...



# Bylaw Definition



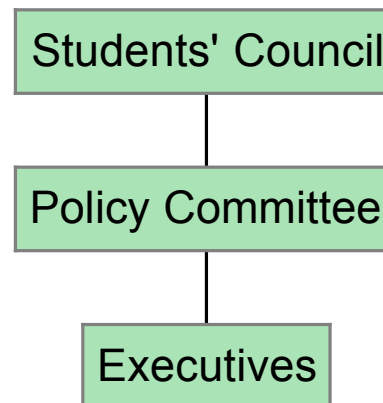
- **Bylaw 100: §11 (2)**
- A Students' Union political policy
- (a) is a directive to the Executive Committee dictating on what issues Students' Union advocacy efforts should be directed;
- (b) shall be explicitly tied to a standing committee;
- (c) requires the Executive Committee to submit an implementation plan to the standing committee to which it is tied;
- (d) prohibits any person from representing any opinion divergent from Students' Union political policy as being the opinion of the Students' Union;
- (e) is not binding on the Students' Union except as noted;
- (f) is adopted, amended, or rescinded on two simple majority votes of Students' Council held not less than seven days apart; and
- (g) shall expire, but may be renewed by a simple majority vote of Students' Council.

# Simple Definition



- A political policy is a collection of statements outlining the UASU attitude towards an external issue (non-operating)
- Usually advocacy efforts towards the Government or the University

## Structure



# Format



- “Whereas” clauses are facts or arguments that logically justify “BIRT” clauses
- “BIRT” (Be It Resolved That) clauses are the actual direction that Students’ Council wishes to direct the Executive Committee

# Example



- WHEREAS Rory Tighe has the biggest office in 2-900
- WHEREAS Rory Tighe is evil
- WHEREAS Farid Iskandar is the coolest person in 2-900
- BE IT RESOLVED THAT Students' Council will lobby Andy Cheema to switch the Vice President (External)'s office with the President's

# Theory



- Action
- Vision
- Constraint



# Action



- Simply directing the executive to take a course of action, not necessarily advocating
- i.e. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union will educate instructors about the costs of textbooks and about alternatives available to them (Academic Materials Policy)
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union negotiate a new, long-term U-Pass contract to be implemented upon the expiry of the current contract (Public Transit Policy)

# Vision



- Broader Statements that establish what the SU sees as positive and beneficial for students
- They are policies worked towards not necessarily fulfilled
- i.e. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall endeavor, through all possible avenues, to ensure that research at the University of Alberta is appropriately contextualized within the larger framework of the institution's structure (Research Policy)

# Constraint



- Political Policies can restrict the actions of the executives and others (BoG Rep)
- If council believes that a certain course of action is detrimental to students, it is empowered to say that: “This course of action is forbidden”
- Constraint Policies are usually unnecessary, and are in place only to guard against rogue execs making decisions that are unrepresentative of the larger student body

## Constraints cont'd



- i.e. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union will not support the Board of Governors of the University of Alberta increasing tuition (Tuition Policy)

# Implementation



- **First Reading of Political Policy 17(1)** The procedural requirements for passage of political policy on first reading are the same as those for the passage of bylaw on first reading except that the political policy will then be referred to the Policy Committee.
- **Committee Stage (Political Policy) 17(2)** When a political policy is in the Committee stage:
  - (a) the Committee selects and assigns an Executive Officer to draft a new policy on the basis of the principles passed in first reading, with the assistance of the Department of Research and Political Affairs; and
  - (b) the Committee will not recommend to Students' Council draft legislation that is outside the scope of the principles approved in first reading.

# Implementation cont'd



- **Second Reading of Political Policy 17(3)** When a political policy is being read a second time:
  - (a) the motion will be presented in the following format:
    - (i) the entire political policy will be shown,
    - (ii) deletions to existing political policy will be shown by using a strike-through font, and
    - (iii) additions to existing policy will be shown by using an underline font; and Last Approved by the Council Administration Committee
  - (b) debate is confined to the technical merits of whether the Committee properly interpreted the principles passed in first reading.



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**Questions?**