

Discovering Students in Governance

*Presented by the Discover Governance Team
April 3, 2012*



Presentation Overview

- What is 'Discover Governance?'
- Discovering Students in Governance:
the Data
- Discovering Students in Governance:
the Recommendations



What is Discover Governance?

We exist to "...improve the quality and effectiveness of all levels of student governance at the University of Alberta...through the provision of orientation, advisory, and support services to individuals and groups involved in all levels of governance."



Who does Discover Governance Support?

We work with...

- The Council of Faculty Associations (COFA)
 - Individual Faculty Associations
 - GFC Student Caucus
 - Students on GFC standing committees
 - University Governance
 - Office of the Dean of Students
 - The Discovering Governance Resource Group
 - The SU Elections Office & Speaker
 - Council. Sometimes. Sort of.
- Many, many of the wonderful members of the SU Staff



Ongoing Goals of the Program

- Develop an effective program that will help students better understand and participate in University Governance
- Provide specialized support to faculty associations
- Work with student representatives at all levels to support their representative activities



Discovering Students in Governance: Three Goals

1. To get an accurate snapshot of where students participate in University Governance
1. To create a living document that will help us track participation from year to year
2. To improve the SU's ability to specifically target the support we're providing



What it took to get here

- This report represents 2 years of painstaking research.
- What do we mean by painstaking? Well...
 - Reviewing provincial, University, and Students' Union legislation
 - Scouring ualberta.ca for committee information
 - Contacting departments, faculties, University administrators and FAs
 - Interviews, phone calls, etc.



Representation by the Numbers

Summary of Undergraduate Representation on University Boards & Committees		
Name of Body	Ex-officio positions held by members of the Students' Union Executive Committee	Number of Undergraduate Representatives
Students' Union Students' Council	5	33
University Board of Governors	1	1
University General Faculties Council (GFC)	3	41
GFC Standing Committees & the Council on Student Affairs	10	18
University Senate	1	3
Students' Union Student Faculty Association Executives	0	85
Student Residence Association Executives	1	53
Faculty Councils	0	93
Department Councils & Program Advisory Councils	0	53
Miscellaneous Advisory & Administrative Committees	19	18

TOTAL SEAT COUNT	40 positions held by 5 students	398*
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*Estimate/data incomplete

Figure 2-1 Estimated number of seats accorded to undergraduates in the University of Alberta and University of Alberta Students' Union governance systems

2012 Recommendations

- Adopt Evidence-based Approaches
- Make Governance More Accessible
- Connect Representatives with Discover Governance
- Target Active Outreach



Adopt Evidence-Based Approaches



- A.k.a. do our homework and use it to improve recruitment and professional development activities.

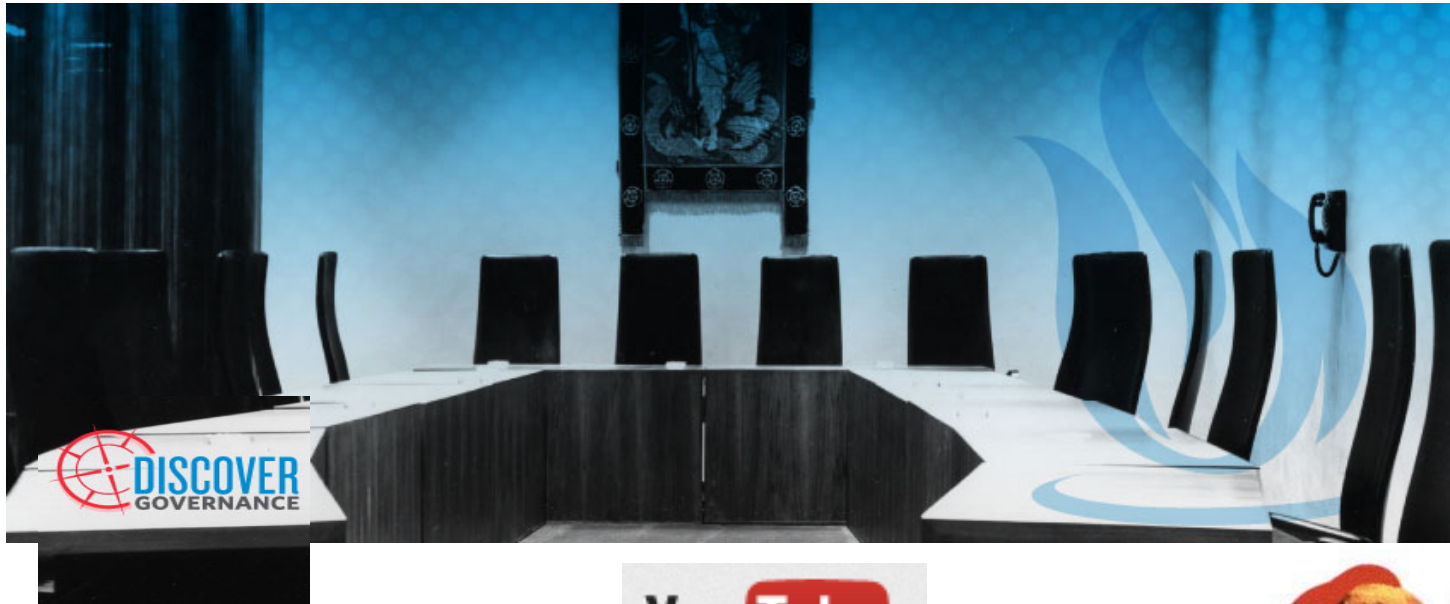


Make Governance More Accessible

- Enhancing Coordination
- Supporting student-to-student outreach, training, recruitment
- Integrating governance professional development with pre-existing events and programs
- Exploring and, where possible, mitigating barriers to involvement, especially intimidation.



Connect Representatives with Discover Governance



We're Not
Gossiping.
We're Networking.



Target Active Outreach



- Recruitment, with a focus on diversity, inclusivity, and student-to-student engagement
- Data suggests mixed social media/in-person strategies.



Plans for Next Year

- Department and Faculty Council data will be completed
- Data on undergraduate participation in the University judiciary (e.g. service on Appeals Boards) will be collected
- We hope to include information on vacancy tracking and demographic trends, either as an appendix or a separate report
- Report will include a new 'status update' section to monitor progress on recommendations
- Pending a budgetary request, we may have the report re-designed to make it more aesthetically appealing and easier to use as a reference.



Fin.

Questions?

