

September 11, 2015

To: University of Alberta's Students' Council 2015/2016

From: Azhar R. Khan

Re: Board of Governor Undergraduate Representative Report (For September 15 Meeting)

Board of Governor Meetings/Orientation

There have been no meetings since my last report, however, we did have an orientation on September 11. The orientation covered an overview of the different University positions which include the University President, Provost, and the Vice-Presidents. For anyone curious to know more about these positions here are some details:

University President (David Turpin):

- Creates and implements a vision that will build and advance UofA
- Exercises oversight over the operational and fiscal management of the University. Delegates the internal operation to the Provost and VP Academic
- Further the reputation of the University as a leader in teaching, research, and community service
- Encourage, lead and nurture the development in areas of research excellence, innovation, and student experience

Provost and VP Academic (Steven Dew)

- Create an atmosphere which contributes to excellence
- Develop and maintain strong working relationships with University's two staff associations (the Academic Staff and Non-Academic Staff) and two student associations (Students' Union and the Graduate Students' Association)
- Oversees all matters with respect to academic excellence, lead development of Academic Plan
- Leads the continuing dialogue on fees and tuition for the University. Proposes changes to fees and tuition based on present and future University requirements. Maintains the authority to waive fees and tuition where appropriate

VP Advancement (Heather McCaw)

- Provides vision and direction to a full-scale institutional advancement program including the development and execution of programs that produce measurable results and visibility for the University
- Advancement includes: alumni relations; annual major gift and planned giving, corporate and foundation giving, research, gift processing, acknowledgement and other fund-raising support operation; and communications and donor relations
- Inspire an expansion of philanthropic support for the University and manages important donor relationships to drive transformational funding initiatives
- Works with the Board of Governors, Alumni Council, volunteers, faculty, students and staff to develop a sustained model for growth

VP Facilities and Operations (Don Hickey)

- Develops strategic long-term vision for the University space which encompasses all real property, base building systems and equipment owned and/or leased by the University of Alberta, as well as utility and ancillary services

VP Finance and Administration (Phyllis Clark)

- Chief Financial Officer for the University
- Ensures the current and long-term effectiveness of all financial functions of the organization including: accounting, accountability framework, asset and debt management, financial statements, insurance, risk and safety, resource planning, staff and student payments, administrative information systems, supply management chain, and audit

VP Research (Lorne Babiuk)

- Plays a vital role in the achievement of the University's vision by providing leadership and direction to research activities and initiatives on campus

VP University Relations (Debra Osburn)

- Advances the relationships, reputation, and public resources of the UofA through relationship building, strategic communications, and value-added service
- Provides strategic counsel to the President on all issues related to government and corporate relations, marketing, communication, stakeholder relationships, and institutional reputation

This was also my first time in the new Council Chambers which looked absolutely incredible!

The next meeting I have will be for the subcommittee of Safety, Health, and Environment on September 30, the Learning and Discovery subcommittee on October 1, and a General Board Meeting on October 15.

Student Legal Services and Graduate Student Association Partnership

Through my appointment as the SU Rep on the Student Legal Services Board of Directors, I have developed a proposal I intend to show at a meeting with the Graduate Student Association.

I have shown the proposal to the Board of Directors and they have conditionally approved it.

They want to review the proposal for a few more days in order for any members to make adjustments. The proposal, if accepted by the GSA, would increase the budget of SLS by roughly \$12, 000 a year and increase SLS coverage to include graduate students. Overall, this will improve a student service for all students with the extra funding. As a reminder, all SLS services are currently FREE for undergraduate students. A copy of the proposal draft is on the next page:

AGENDA TITLE: GSA and Student Legal Services Partnership

Item

Action Requested	\$0.73 per Fall Term; \$0.73 per Winter Term; per GSA member
Proposed by	Azhar Khan (Board of Governor Undergraduate Rep)
Presenters	Azhar Khan; Robert LaValley (Executive Coordinator of Student Legal Services); Nicholas Smith (Pro Bono Students Canada Coordinator)
Subject	Request for GSA Funding

Details

Purpose of the Proposal	To allow GSA members free access to all services provided and secure additional funding for Student Legal Services
Services of SLS	<p>Student Legal Services of Edmonton (SLS) is a student-managed, non-profit organization dedicated to helping low income individuals with legal issues in the Edmonton area. Each year, over 250 students from the University of Alberta Faculty of Law volunteer with SLS.</p> <p>SLS is divided into four different projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Civil and Family Law Project. This project offers assistance with landlord/tenant matters, contracts, WCB/AISH/CPP/EI hearings, family law matters, uncontested divorces, and more. 2. The Criminal Law Project. This project provides basic criminal law information and represents individuals charged with relatively minor criminal and quasi-criminal offences. 3. The Legal Education and Reform Project. This project offers community lectures and outreach programs, and researches poverty-related law reform issues. 4. Pro Bono Students Canada. The local chapter of this Canada-wide student group conducts legal research for non-profit organizations. Also oversees the <u>Human Rights</u> and <u>Tax Projects</u>. <p>Student Legal Services has a long and distinguished history, and has been helping low-income individuals since 1969. We are governed by a Board of Directors made up of students and volunteers from the Edmonton legal community. Our projects are managed by a Management Committee made up of law students.</p> <p>Last year, our projects directly represented approximately 900 people in court or at tribunal hearings. We offered information over the phone or in person to over 5,000 people. However, the Criminal Project does not track statistics of phone calls/walk-ins, thus the number of individuals who received information from us is likely much higher.</p> <p>The Legal Education and Reform project also offers presentations on a number of different legal matters and is constantly updating informational pamphlets. These pamphlets are approved by a lawyer and are sent to</p>

	<p>numerous organizations that request them. In the past year, we have reached an agreement to offer these pamphlets in French as well as English.</p>
Supervision of SLS	<p>The regulations surrounding the legal profession in Alberta require that only lawyers can give advice. However, any individual can give legal information such as how the law functions and the steps/procedure of the courts. In order to ensure that Student Legal Services is able to offer a wide variety of assistance, all of our projects receive direction from a qualified lawyer. Our partnering advising lawyer firms are as follows:</p> <p>Criminal Project: Dawson, Duckett, Shaigec & Garcia Barristers Civil Project: Bryan & Company Family Project: Family Law Office (FLO) Human Rights Project: Chivers & Carpenter; Field Law Tax Project: Dentons</p> <p>We operate under these firms' insurance, and they often handle appeals.</p>
Impact of the Proposal	<p>Allow all Graduate Students access any service that Student Legal Services provides without needing to provide income documents including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance with Criminal/Regulatory Offences; • Assistance with Contract/Civil Disputes; • Assistance with Family Issues; • Assistance with Tax/Human Rights Issues; • Assistance with Landlord and Tenant Issues • Assistance with Student Appeals at the University • Access to all pamphlets; and, • Presentations and/or Outreaches if feasible; <p>As Student Legal Services is a non-profit organization, we screen and only offer assistance based on those who meet our income criteria. Due to the volume of people that we assist, we are strict in abiding by these guidelines. Many Graduate Students would be over our income guidelines due to scholarships, loans and employment income they receive.</p> <p>Handling disputes in the settings that we offer assistance to are often very costly. A criminal lawyer in Edmonton can require a retainer of between \$2,500–\$10,000. A civil or family law lawyer often charges by the hour at a rate of between \$200–\$400 per hour.</p> <p>The amount of funding requested would match the University of Alberta Students' Union's Funding.</p>
Use of Funds	<p>The funds requested would be used to hire an additional caseworker on the projects in order to expand our services to include Graduate Students.</p>

