

Hello Council,

By the time you read this I will likely be off on my vacation. I will try to skype in during council on Tuesday, however this will largely depend on whether or not my family will allow such a thing (I haven't seen them in a little over a year).

## **CAUS Lethbridge Meeting**

On Friday June 17<sup>th</sup> the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) met in Lethbridge. We had a meeting scheduled with the Alberta Chief Electoral Officer, as well as Raj Sherman, MLA and currently running for the Liberal Party leadership. We also conducted a regular council meeting (CAUS council, not an SU one).

### **Chief Electoral Officer (CEO):**

The CEO is not an elected representative, and hence does not have the ability to change legislation, so it was more of informational meeting than a lobby one. We asked if he would entertain our recommendations to the Election Act in his post-election report. His response was that recommendations are not a necessary part of the report, the purpose of the report was more of a description of what happened in the election. However he didn't oppose the idea. He informed us about the Enumeration process which you could read all about in policy committee report (attached below), or in my blog post:

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/governance/council/executives/blog/vpexternal/entry/34/voting-101/>

### **Raj Sherman, Lobby meeting:**

We lobbied Raj on our vision document for PSE. Let me remind you with our priorities:

- Increase Alberta's participation rate
- Increase Alberta's retention rate
- Increase grants and debt relief

While Raj was hesitant to commit to most of our points, he was certainly interested. He did promise that he would try to make the necessary changes to the Election Act that we are asking for. For more details, please see the attached Policy Committee report.

## **CAUS**

At the Council meeting we passed important motions, including our 2011-2012 budget. Some of the important highlights are:

- Spending \$22,000 on GOTV, with \$15,000 coming from CAUS' election campaign reserve
- Purchasing a new phone in 2011
- Reducing the promotions budget by 24%

We are budgeting for a \$3,878 surplus. We also discussed the GOTV marketing ideas that were presented by myself that day, which leads me to my next paragraph.

## **GOTV Marketing**

I presented the initial ideas that the marketing department has come up with up until Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup> to CAUS. The reception of those ideas was not as best as they could have been, mainly because of my poor skill to transfer what other people have in mind. So, on Wednesday June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Duncan Wojtaszek and I had a

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meeting with the marketing department to better communicate what we had in mind for the campaign, as well as better understand what marketing had in mind. After explaining that, we have found common grounds, on which we can both stand on. The following is the initial themes/ideas that GOTV campaign might look like. The campaign is going to be unique for the 4-dimensional space-time continuum that we live in. Meaning it is campaign for *Alberta* (space) and for *2011-2012* (time):

- The campaign will ask people to vote not to be “a part of something bigger”, but because in Alberta, for the first time in 40 years we have an election where you can be “a part of something interesting”
- It's okay if you never voted in previous elections, they didn't really matter. This time however, everything matters: *New Parties, New Leader, New Premium*. This is the by the best time to cast a ballot in Alberta. Things are suddenly getting interesting.

### **Vacation**

As you can see, I'm taking the week off to visit my family. I'll be back on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hope I can skype in during council.

Cheers,  
Farid

*“The reasonable man adapts himself to the world. The unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man.” - George Bernard Shaw*

June 20, 2011

To: Policy Committee

Re: Report to Policy Committee

## Meeting with O. Brian Fjeldheim, the Alberta Chief Electoral Officer:

On Friday June 17<sup>th</sup> CAUS met with the Alberta Chief Electoral Officer (CEO). Here are some of the topics discussed in the meeting:

### *Enumeration*

Enumeration is a process whereby employees of Elections Alberta go knock on all the doors of Alberta's residencies in order to count the number of eligible voters. It is not done before every election. However this year Elections Alberta is conducting enumeration from **August 26 to September 19, 2011.**

Why does this matter?

It is of extreme importance since **Advanced Polls are set up depending on the concentration of the population in a certain area.**

Why does this matter?

Lister. **Because of Lister.** Lister has about 3000 residences. The Elections Act §14 states that each subdivision should contain no more than 450 electors, if possible. However, when talking to the CEO, he said that he aims to have an advanced poll every 250-300 Albertans. Meaning that we should at least have one advanced poll close to campus. This is the proverbial "boom".

We expressed worry regarding the fact that Enumeration will start late August when not many Lister Students are going to be settled in. The CEO promised that he would not start the Enumeration process in Student Residence until after they have all moved in.

I have already contacted Michael McPhillips, President of Lister Hall Students' Association, to notify him about the process of enumeration. It is important the FCs and RAs are aware of this, and to make the residence on their floor aware with this. The Enumerator, will ask three questions: 1) Are you a Canadian Citizen? 2) Are you 18 or older? Where do you consider yourself to be a resident? The first two questions are easy. The last one is tricky. If you answer with your parents place, then you would have to go vote there. If you answer here, then you vote on campus.

### *Flyers and Posters on Campus*

The CEO showed us the different flyers and Posters Elections Alberta is planning to target Post Secondary Students with. We suggested some edits to both the posters and flyers, in hopes of better attracting Student Attention. For example one poster had the following message in huge font size "PROVINCIAL ENUMERATORS ON CAMPUS", which needless to say would be completely meaningless to a first year student. The flyers will be sent out in all the Lister mailboxes, as well as other residences on campus.

### *Vouching*

Here's another interesting bit we learned at the meeting. In Alberta you don't have to register in order to vote. According to §95:

- (2) An elector may instead prove his or her identity and residence by signing a declaration if he or she is accompanied by an elector whose name appears on the list of electors for the same polling subdivision and that elector*
- (a) provides to the registration officer or deputy returning officer the piece or pieces of identification referred to in subsection (1)(a), and*
  - (b) vouches for him or her by signing a declaration.*
- (3) The registration officer or deputy returning officer shall indicate on the declaration referred to in subsections (1) and (2) the nature of the identification accepted.*
- (4) An elector who has been vouched for at an election may not vouch for another elector at that election.*

So hypothetically speaking, one person in Lister can vouch for an unlimited number of unregistered voters if that person is registered themselves. Just a thought.

### *Vote Mobs*

Last worthy of note bit out of that meeting was that the CEO is concerned about Vote Mobs of 100-200 people coming to vote at advanced polls at the same time. It would be extremely hard on the returning officers to handle groups of 200 people coming to vote at the same time.

On a completely unrelated note, I think we should encourage vote mobs to go vote in groups of 200 people.

## **Lobby Meeting with Raj Sherman, Candidate for ALP Leadership**

On the same day, following the meeting with the CEO, we met Raj Sherman (candidate for the Alberta Liberal Party) to lobby him on our Post Secondary Vision for Alberta. Raj was interested in our asks, but only committed to one. When asked about the Modernization of the Elections Act to include On-Campus Polling Stations for multiple constituencies, Raj responded with one word "Done!" Raj also wanted to increase student representation on the Board of Governors to become between 25% and 33%. While this is not one of CAUS' priorities it is something we would support as long as Undergraduates are treated proportionally.

There is one last striking point about that meeting. We were introduced to the two people who will help Raj write his PSE Platform. The first is a gentleman by the name Keith McLaughlin. Keith was the Vice President Academic at the University of Lethbridge Students' Union. He also happens to be last year's Vice Chair of CAUS (the position I currently occupy). The other gentleman who is helping Raj with his PSE platform goes by the name Hardave Birk. Hardave held the post of Vice President External last year at the University of Calgary. Oddly enough, he also happens to be last year's Chair of CAUS