

University of Alberta Students' Union
STUDENTS'
COUNCIL

Tuesday, August 29, 2000 at 6:00 pm
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

MINUTES (SC 2000-08)

Faculty/Position	Name	Present/absent
President	Leslie Church	Present
VP Academic	Christopher Samuel	Present
VP External	Naomi Agard	Present
VP Finance	Gregory Harlow	Present
VP Student Life	Jennifer Wanke	Present
BoG Undergrad Rep.	Mark Cormier	Present
Agric/Forest/HomeEc		
Agric/Forest/HomeEc		
Arts	Jamie Speer	Present (6:40)
Arts	Brendan Darling	Present
Arts	Kirsten Odynski	Present (6:43)
Arts	Kory Zwack	Present
Arts	Christine Rogerson	Present
Business	Erika Hoffman	Present
Business	Paul Chaput	Present
Business	Dean Jorgensen	Jason Tusor(p)
Education	Morine Bolding	Present (6:30)
Education	Janna Roesch	Present
Education	Dan Coles	Absent
Education	Robert Hartery	Absent
Education	Justin Klaassen	Present
Engineering	Jordan Harris	Present
Engineering	Wayne Poon	Present
Engineering	David Weppler	Present
Engineering	Justin Lee	Dave Smith(p)
Engineering	Kevin Partridge	Present
Law	Chris Veale	Present (6:45)
Residence Halls Association	Shannon Moore	Absent

Medicine/Dentistry	Andrew Schell	Present
Medicine/Dentistry	Karen Cheng	Shailla Kherani(p)
Native Studies (School of		
Nursing	Jennifer Read	Present
Pharmacy	Chelsey Cabaj	Rick Chow(p)
Rehabilitation Medicine	Leah Ganes	Absent
Faculté Saint-Jean	Wendy Gall	Absent
Science		
Science		
Science	Zaki Taher	Present
Science	Helen McGraw	Absent
Science	Chamila Adhihetty	Present
President Athletics	Tashie Macapagal	Present
Gateway / Editor in Chief	Dan Lazin	Present
Recreation Action Committee		
General Manager	Bill Smith	Absent
Speaker	Stella Varvis, (Mike Chalk, Speaker for August 29/00 SC meeting)	Present
Recording Secretary	Sarah Kelly	Present

Observers

Heather Clark, CRO
Sarah Davis, Nursing
Jon Dunbar, The Gateway
Chul-Ahn Jeong, The Gateway

2000-08/1

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

2000-08/2

NATIONAL ANTHEM "O Canada"

Church led Council in the singing of the national anthem.

2000-08/3

University of Alberta CHEER SONG

Kelly led Council in the singing of the University of Alberta Cheer Song.

2000-08/4

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Zwack/Rogerson moved that the agenda for the SC2000-08 meeting be approved.

Consensus

2000-08/5

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Amy Salyzyn and Aleem Rajani, Access Fund Administrators gave a presentation on the Access Fund and upcoming changes to it.

The Access Fund was created based on a referendum posed as part of the Students' Union elections in 1995. It was stipulated to be a student-funded bursary program targeting students in financial need. A portion of Students' Union fees collected each year goes towards filling this mandate. The Access Fund has an opt-out clause available to all Students' Union members. Monies can be returned to students through the Information Booths in SUB, HUB and CAB, or via the Access Fund page on the Students' Union website.

The Access Fund is governed by Bylaw 2650. The Vice-President Operations & Finance chairs the Access Fund Board, which is responsible for deciding where monies are directed. The President also sits on the Board, as well as the Access Fund Administrators and several students-at-large.

Access Fund Administrators oversee the day-to-day operations of the Access Fund, and report to the Vice-President Operations & Finance.

The Access Fund is dedicated to several principles, chief amongst them being: accountability to students; thorough education of those who represent the University; fair and equitable treatment of students; and accurately identifying those students in greatest need.

Eligibility for an Access Fund bursary is determined by specific criteria, any one of which can be expanded upon by the applicant according to individual circumstance. These criteria are as follows.

The applicant must:

- be a current undergraduate student who has paid Students' Union fees in full;
- demonstrate financial need;
- have borrowed the maximum allowable amount in student loans, OR have been denied a student loan;
- have explored student credit line options;
- have satisfactory academic standing;
- be employed, unless level of study or course quantity prohibits employment; and
- have been granted less than the \$5,000 maximum allowed per student by the Access Fund Board.

Each applicant is free to submit a letter with his or her application that expands on individual circumstances and could serve to put his or her situation in better perspective for the Access Fund Board.

Some changes to the Access Fund have been made recently. Some of them are:

- There will be more money available to individual students in need: the maximum Access Fund bursary is now two thousand, five hundred (\$2,500) dollars instead of the former one thousand, five hundred (\$1,500).
- There will be six (6) annual disbursements of Access Fund bursaries instead of four (4).

- The deadlines for application submissions are September 29 and November 10 (Fall) at twelve noon.
- Applications are available at the Students' Union Executive Offices and the Student Financial Aid & Information Centre (SFAIC).
- No student can apply for an Access Fund bursary more than once per term unless his or her circumstances change, and the change can be documented.

At this point, the floor was opened for questions.

The Access Fund's fiscal year runs from September to August. Currently, the Fund's balance is still being compiled. At the next meeting of the Access Fund Board, the totals will be ratified, and subsequently made available to members of Council and other concerned parties. **(Jeong)**

The University manages the endowment fund, so any monies seen to be given to the University are not for Administration's use. A portion of the Access Fund's surplus goes into administrative costs. **(Jeong)**

Satisfactory academic standing is faculty-specific. The Access Fund Board looks to individual faculties for assurance of an applicant's standing. Applicants can frame substandard academic standing as due to an exceptional circumstance. If the Board is convinced of the weight of given circumstances, applicants with less than satisfactory standing may still be considered. **(Zwack)**

Ms. Salyzyn and Mr. Rajani were thanked for taking time to present to Council.

2000-08/6

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Harlow/Roesch moved that the minutes of the SC2000-07 (August 15, 2000) meeting be approved.

Consensus

2000-08/7

REPORTS

- a. Leslie Church, President
A written report was provided with the agenda package.
 - The Tuition Planning Committee meeting at the Sugarbowl Café was very successful, and opened up a wide range of discussion. Many insights were offered to the Executive regarding how to approach the upcoming tuition debate. There will be a similar meeting Thursday, August 31, 2000 at the Second Cup on 112 Street and 86 Avenue. **Church** extended her gratitude to everyone who responded to the questions sent out concerning the tuition debate.
 - Regarding the MLA Funding Review Committee, members of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) participated in discussions about this past summer's events. Tuition recommendations will be forthcoming, as well as concerns that should be dealt with by the provincial government. ACTISEC also participated. For the first time in recent memory, most of the student organizations in Alberta have taken a similar stance on the matter of tuition, which is a mighty advantage because it gives Albertan students a united and more effective front from which to assert their concerns.

- b. Christopher Samuel, Vice-President Academic
A written report was provided with the agenda package.
- This past weekend, the very **FUN**(!!!) and INFORMATIVE retreat for the Council of Faculty Associations (COFA) took place in SUB. **Samuel** thought it a *thundering* success, and wished to thank: **Church; Harlow; Wanke;** Heather Clark, Chief Returning Officer; Kathryn Veeman, Student Groups Director; Thea Varvis, Associate Director of Exams; and Zoe Kolbuc, Academic Affairs Coordinator.
 - GPU e-mail accounts are now available *via* the Internet, at www.ualberta.ca/WEBMAIL/. The structure is very much like Hotmail, *sans* the advertisements.
 - Textbooks can also be ordered online, through the Bookstore's link from the University's web page, provided instructors have listed the texts necessary for their courses.
 - The University has transferred some of its offices relating to the International Centre from University Hall to HUB Mall, possibly eliminating the study space closest to the Tory-Business Atrium called The Cove. Students continuing to lose space to the University's non-academic facilities is becoming problematic.
- c. Naomi Agard, Vice-President External
A written report was provided at the meeting.
- Statistics Canada recently released its results on national tuition rates, which told that Alberta tuition is currently the third highest in the country. As well, tuition has been increasing by the highest increments of any province in Canada. Media coverage of this will be an advantage to students, as the tuition concerns will be given a wider audience.
 - **Agard** met with the Edmonton Transit Advisory Board.
- d. Gregory Harlow, Vice-President Operations & Finance
A written report was provided with the agenda package.
- **Harlow** wished to note to Council that while the University is taking space from students, the Students' Union continues to help the University by leasing out substantial space in SUB to them. This generosity is obviously not mutual, and must be explored further.
- e. Jennifer Wanke, Vice-President Student Life
A written report was provided with the agenda package.
- **Wanke** presented posters and displays that have been prepared for the Week of Welcome. WOW coordination is going well, but **Wanke** articulated that more volunteers are essential to the event's success.
- f. Mark Cormier, Undergrad BoG Representative
- A written report was provided at the meeting.
 - **Cormier** has been spending much of his time preparing for the tuition debate, in concert with **Church** and the Tuition Planning Committee.
 - More outreach activities are planned, and all councillors should attend the scheduled meetings, as well as inform their constituents of them.
- g. Faculte Saint-Jean Report
- No representative was present to provide a report.

- h. Science Faculty Report
 - An oral report was provided by **Taher**.
 - UASUS is holding a Week of Welcome BBQ.
 - September 29: Science Pizza Information Night
 - There will be information sessions throughout the year for Science students. The first regular session will be in early-to-mid October.
 - A Graduate Studies Information Session is coming up, but no date has been set.
 - UASUS is currently recruiting for a mentor registry.

2000-08/8

QUESTION PERIOD

Student groups and organizations have always been charged for booths at Week of Welcome. The booths were actually more expensive last year. (**Harris**)

Despite this being a critical time of year for the Housing Registry and other such services, there have been no complaints regarding the suspension of the SU web page during its development. The services have been leaner than usual, but technical staff will be freed up on September 1. (**Rogerson**)

The Gateway's first issue this year was delayed due to technical problems. **Lazin** pointed out to Council that the first issue is rarely out on schedule, due to the editors finding their footing with their roles and the technology provided. (**Zwack**)

The editors of *The Gateway* have all signed their contracts. (**Partridge**)

Cormier will be using his new space in the Students' Union Executive Offices primarily for drafting reports and making use of the computers. He feels that this will help him to carry out his duties more efficiently, thereby making him a better resource to students and the Executive. (**Zwack**)

The representatives appointed by Council to serve on the Tuition Planning Committee explained their absences from the meeting held at the Sugarbowl Café as follows:

Zwack: He sent prior notice of his absence.

Klaassen: He was out of the city, but did not provide notice of this.

Speer: He sent notice, as he had to prepare to write a final examination the following day.

Rogerson: She was extremely busy with WOW and Orientation, but will be present for the meeting on August 31.

Darling: He sent prior notice of his absence.
(**Harlow**)

There is some debate over what the function of Ombudservice should be. While the service continues as an advisor to students and University staff, this is already partially provided by Student Legal Services. (**Speer**)

Unfortunately, none of the Food Court tenants in SUB were convinced that facilitating students using the ONECard as a debit system was worthwhile. Because of their current leases, providing the service cannot be thrust upon them. Aside from RATT, however, the goal is to make ONECards compatible at both the Print Centre and vending machines throughout the building.

The reason that RATT opened late earlier this week was that one of the principal line chefs resigned directly prior to opening. The problem should be rectified by Thursday, August 31. (Speer)

2000-08/9

LEGISLATION

**2000-08/9a
BYLAW 250 -
CHIEF
RETURNING
OFFICER AND
DEPUTY
RETURNING
OFFICERS**

CHURCH / HARLOW MOVED THAT (FIRST READING) Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve the proposed changes to Bylaw 250 Respecting the Chief Returning Officer and the Deputy Returning Officers of the Students' Union

Church and **Harlow** deferred the introduction of the motion to Heather Clark, Chief Returning Officer for the 2000/2001 term.

Clark has been active within the Students' Union for several years, through volunteering, working on campaign teams and serving a one-year term as Vice-President Student Life (1999/2000). She explained that her goals as Chief Returning Officer are primarily to decrease apathy on campus during election time, and to get more students involved to ensure a high voter turnout.

Clark feels that creative campaigning will help to reach both these goals. She will be reporting regularly to Council on her activities, as well as those of two Deputy Returning Officers. It is a great advantage, she continued, that the position of Chief Returning Officer runs a full-year term this year, and this should help to keep production at a maximum and confusion and disorder at a minimum.

The changes to Bylaw 250 are as follows:

- The Chief Returning Officer will cease facilitating classroom speaking schedules for candidates. Aside from providing the main schedules, the onus should be on the candidate to arrange classroom speaking.
- The Chief Returning Officer's reports should be quarterly as opposed to monthly, because while there is much to be done, there are not always interesting developments to report.

The reports will become more frequent as campaigning and election dates approach. (Odynski)

27/0 Carried

**2000-08/9b
BYLAW 300 -
NOMINATIONS
AND ELECTIONS**

CHURCH / HARLOW MOVED THAT (FIRST READING) Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve the proposed changes to Bylaw 300 Respecting the Nominations and Elections of the Students' Union

Clark explained that the major changes to Bylaw 300 are:

- Clarifying the rules surrounding pre-campaigning;
- Allowing student groups and campus organizations to endorse a candidate if they choose;
- Allowing candidates to print an unspecified number of campaign posters, instead of imposing a limit of two hundred (200) per candidate; and
- Allowing individuals to volunteer for multiple campaigns.

At this point, the motion was open to debate.

Collusion consists, essentially, of two or more candidates running as an undeclared slate. Two campaigns having a common volunteer is not, or should not be, collusion. The proposed changes does not impose on any student group's right to remain impartial. **(Speer)**

Allowing candidates to print an unlimited number of posters does not necessarily give any candidate an advantage. Individual buildings on campus have their own regulations regarding how many posters are allowed, and how they are to be displayed. The elections office has no jurisdiction over this. The change is in the interest of facilitating more creative and comprehensive campaigning strategies. **(Veale)**

Roesch asserted that students involved in faculty associations are generally those with the greatest interest and understanding of student politics, and it seems unfair to deprive any candidate of such high-quality support.

Harlow/Speer moved to divide the motion, allowing Students' Council to vote on each Bylaw amendment individually.

Vote on Amendment #1: 11/13 **Failed**

One volunteer publicly endorsing multiple candidates constitutes collusion. Section 45 of the Bylaw clearly outlines the regulations against collusion. **(Zwack)**

The reason that Clark wishes to lift the limit on poster production is that, with no disrespect intended, the role of the Chief Returning Officer has been too controlling in recent years. The student body should be given enough credit to make their own informed decisions about candidates without arbitrary restrictions. **(Partridge)**

Sarah Davis, from the Faculty of Nursing, noted her support of each amendment.

Church reminded Council that each building has its own codes and regulations, over which the Chief Returning Officer has no control. The more important criteria, she continued, were whether or not the current restrictions from the elections office are a) enforceable, or b) effective.

It is true that collusion boundaries are often unclear. However, Clark asserted that most of the collusion that occurs during election time is during conversations on campus that no regulations are empowered to control. **(Speer)**

Veale moved that the words "Each campaign shall have an unlimited amount of posters" be struck from Section 69, and the words "Each campaign shall be limited to a maximum of 500 posters" be put in their stead.

Motion **failed** for want of a seconder.

Partridge/Veale moved that the words "Each campaign shall have an unlimited amount of posters" be struck from Section 69, and the words "Each campaign shall be limited to a maximum of 300 posters" be put in their stead.

Veale argued that unlimited poster production will serve neither the interest in creative campaigning, nor that in decreasing voter apathy.

Church stated that voter turnout is generally lower when restrictions on campaigning are tight. Through the allowance of producing as many posters as they feel they need, candidates will be able to reach the more remote areas of campus.

Speer reminded Council that no matter what the allowances, candidates are still forced to work within a rigid budget.

Samuel moved to call the question.

Call to Question for Amendment #2: 22/4 **Carried**

Vote on Amendment #2: 8/14 **Failed**

Council issued unanimous consent to vote again on both the Call to Question and the amendment itself.

Call to Question: 26/1 **Carried**

Vote on Amendment #2: 6/20 **Failed**

Debate resumed on the main motion.

The spending limits *per* candidate are considered reasonable. (**Zwack**)

At this point, **Speer** surfaced on the Speaker's List for the third time. **Harlow** voiced a Point of Order to the Speaker that no individual may speak more than twice to a given motion, excepting the Council member who introduced it. **Chalk** overruled **Harlow's** Point of Order, giving **Speer** permission to speak.

Harlow issued a Challenge to the Chair. The Challenge on the Point of Order that members may speak twice only to a given motion proceeded to a majority vote.

Vote on the Challenge to the Chair: 12/11 **Carried**

Speer moved that Section 47 of the Bylaw be amended to include the words "or a member of a campaign team."

Motion **failed** for want of a seconder.

Vote on main motion: 21/4 **Carried**

At this point **Chalk**, the Speaker, advised **Harlow** that his former Challenge to the Chair was wrongly issued on the basis of the Standing Order of Students' Council. The Standing Orders state that individual members of Council may speak for a second or *subsequent* time at the discretion of the Chair, provided that those members who wish to speak for the first time are given priority. **Harlow** admitted the fault.

**2000-08/9c
BYLAW 1010 -
UNIVERSITY
AFFAIRS
COORDINATOR**

HARLOW / CHURCH MOVED THAT (FIRST READING) Students' Council rescind Bylaw 1010 Respecting the University Affairs Coordinator of the Students' Union

24/0 Carried

**2000-08/9d
OPERATING
POLICY 7.22**

HARLOW / CHURCH MOVED THAT Students' Council approve the recommended changes to the Operating Policy 7.22 Regarding Student Group Funding

25/1 Carried

**2000-08/9e
OPERATING
POLICY 9.02**

HARLOW / CHURCH MOVED THAT Students' Council approve the recommended changes to the Operating Policy 9.02 Regarding Personnel

26/0 Carried

2000-08/10

NEW BUSINESS

**2000-08/10a
CASA
CONFERENCE**

HARLOW / WANKE MOVED THAT Student' Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve a budgeted expenditure of not to exceed \$2,389.00 for Leslie Church and Naomi Agard to attend the CASA conference in Ottawa, October 30-November 3, 2000

27/0 Carried

2000-08/12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Wanke** needs volunteers for WOW.
- **Church** gave out invitations to Wall of Recognition ceremony.

2000-08/13

ADJOURNMENT

Speer/Harris moved that that meeting be adjourned at 8:29 p.m.