

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Tuesday, November 7, 2000 at 6:00 pm
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

MINUTES (SC 2000-13)

Faculty/Position	Name	Present/absent
President	Leslie Church	Present
VP Academic	Christopher Samuel	Present
VP External	Naomi Agard	Absent
VP Finance	Gregory Harlow	Present
VP Student Life	Jennifer Wanke	Present
BoG Undergrad Rep.	Mark Cormier	Present
Agric/Forest/HomeEc	Patricia Kozack	Present
Agric/Forest/HomeEc		
Arts	Jamie Speer	Absent
Arts	Brendan Darling	Absent
Arts	Kirsten Odynski	Absent
Arts	Kory Zwack	Alexandra Taylor(p)
Arts	Christine Rogerson	Present
Business	Erika Hoffman	Present
Business	Paul Chaput	Present
Business	Dean Jorgensen	Present
Education	Morine Bolding	Present
Education	Janna Roesch	Present
Education	Dan Coles	Present
Education	Robert Hartery	Present
Education	Justin Klaassen	Present
Engineering	Joe Brindle	Present
Engineering	Wayne Poon	Kristie Papsdaf(p)
Engineering	David Wepler	Jenny Hong(p)

Engineering	Justin Lee	Present
Engineering	Kevin Partridge	Present
Law	Chris Veale	Present
Residence Halls Association	Shannon Moore	Present
Medicine/Dentistry	Andrew Schell	Present
Medicine/Dentistry	Karen Cheng	Nicole Martin-Iverson(p)
Native Studies (School of		
Nursing	Jennifer Read	Present
Pharmacy	Chelsey Cabaj	Tardy
Rehabilitation Medicine	Leah Ganes	Present
Faculté Saint-Jean	Wendy Gall	Present
Science	Matt Brechtel	Present
Science	Tim Van Aerde	Present
Science	Zaki Taher	Present
Science	Helen McGraw	Present
Science	Chamila Adhietty	Present
President Athletics	Tashie Macapagal	Present
Gateway / Editor in Chief	Dan Lazin	Tardy
Recreation Action Committee		
General Manager	Bill Smith	Absent
Speaker	Stella Varvis	Present
Recording Secretary	Sarah Kelly	Present

2000-13/1

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m.

2000-13/2

NATIONAL ANTHEM "O Canada"

Church led Council in the singing of the national anthem.

2000-13/3

University of Alberta CHEER SONG

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

2000-13/4

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Taylor/Van Aerde moved that the SC2000-13 agenda be approved.

Late Additions

SC2000-13/9b – Bylaw 9210

SC2000-13/9c – Bylaws 1020, 1030, 1050

Consensus

2000-13/5

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

**2000-13/5a
BUDGET CYCLE
AND TUITION**

Dr. Doug Ooram, Vice-President (Academic) & Provost gave a presentation on Budget Cycle and Tuition.

Dr. Ooram introduced this presentation as part of an annual process in conjunction with the Students' Union and the Graduate Students' Association. He began by showing Council a chart of the tuition increases between 1990 and 2000.

The proposed tuition increase for students at the University of Alberta is five point seven per cent (5.7%) this year, with no differential between faculties. University Administration has taken the public standpoint that they are reluctant to increase tuition beyond the inflationary increase in the cost of living, but there are two (2) important reasons that this increase is necessary. First, students should be able to contribute when the university system is experiencing this kind of fiscal difficulty; and second, there is an urgent need for resources.

University Administration does believe that the 'user pay' principle should no longer be a resort for lack of proper funding. Administration is committed to reducing tuition increases year by year until the increases are inflationary. The cumulative impact of tuition increases has been reduced over the course of the past decade, though the University budget continues to be a contention both for Administration and for students.

The late 1980s saw a peak in government funding; this funding has been decreasing steadily since that point. The government is starting to return these monies, but not as quickly as is necessary. The entire North American market is suffering in the same way: on one hand, no one wants tuition increases; but on the other hand, revenue is still low, despite what students have borne. Administration wants students to understand that they know that students are paying too much for their education.

At this point, Dr. Ooram showed Council the University's 2001-2002 budget. The University is facing a shortfall. Last year, there was a \$1.4 million deficit that the University managed to eliminate, but the estimated deficit this year is \$8 million, and unfortunately the most efficient way to deal with this particular dilemma is to begin eliminating positions.

Given this problem, Administration continues to offer incrementally lower increases in tuition. The increase proposed is currently the lowest that the University can afford to offer, regrettably.

Dr. Ooram presented a chart of current annual tuition costs at a national level, based on the full-time fees of undergraduate Arts and Sciences students.

University of Alberta: \$3,770.00
University of British Columbia: \$2,295.00
University of Calgary: \$3,834.00
Laval University: \$3,708.00
McGill University: \$3,438.00
McMaster University: \$3,830.00
Queen's University: \$3,951.00
University of Toronto: \$3,951.00

Ontario has recently publicly granted a tuition cap of two per cent (2%), which means that Alberta's reputation will begin worsening, especially considering the province's current surplus. Dr. Owram and the rest of University Administration have been supporting the student campaign, publicly stating that tuition, ideally, should not increase by any more than the cost of living on a per-year basis. Because of Alberta's aforementioned surplus, Alberta students should profit from bringing their business to Alberta schools.

The federal government has established health care and education as its main priorities, and federal transfer payments are aimed in these directions. Two point four (\$2.4) billion dollars is being poured into these causes, but education is suffering because health care is such an omnipresent issue, and could easily command all of this funding. Unfortunately, the view is that universities are both fewer and cheaper to run than hospitals. The enormous concern over health care is understandable given national poll results, but it is not unreasonable that education should demand its share of funding.

The answer to education's problem lies in convincing the federal government that although health care is a worthy issue, funding for education would be money well spent, and that it would pay for itself in the long run.

The tuition proposal was tabled in hopes of getting an indication from the federal government regarding funding, but unfortunately no word came, and the issue can no longer be postponed. But there is still hope that the government will respond, and that the increase currently proposed can be lowered. As matters stand, however, the University must act assuming that no further funding will be forthcoming.

At this point, Dr. Owram concluded his presentation, and the Chair opened the floor for questions.

Church: Thanks were offered to Dr. Owram. It is a simple matter to offer percentages as proof that the University is trying to reduce the burden of students, but the actual dollar figures show that the University is saving students only a few dollars from a continual annual increase. How can Administration justify this?

Owram: Administration concedes this point, but the reality is that lower the increase at all is taking a good deal of work. Administration is striving to widen the gap between tuition increases, decreasing until the increase is nothing more than inflationary.

Samuel: There seem to be two primary competing issues in the tuition debate: proper salaries for faculties, and reasonable tuition for students. Can these concerns be reconciled? Does Administration recognize one over the other? Can a compromise be struck?

Owram: Eventually, the tuition increase will level off: this is the inevitable conclusion of the University's current campaign to increase tuition by a smaller amount every year. On the other hand, faculties did not consider Administration's salary offers generous enough to retain and attract the best instructors. Keeping both faculties and students happy is a fine balance.

Van Aerde: What can students do themselves to improve this situation?

Owram: There are many competing pressures on the federal government, and surely all efforts are being made to please everyone. Universities are trying to convince the government that investing in students is worthwhile, but in order to give credence to our argument, students must vote, and recognize politics' impact on education by making their voices heard. Competing against health care is very difficult, and students and universities must cooperate to have a proper impact. Students are right to keep pressure on University Administration, but they must keep a focus on the government as well.

Samuel: It appears to be the University's simple solution to increase tuition when there is a shortfall: has any effort been made with the University's own internal budget? Could more efficient spending help to eliminate this problem? A two percent (2%) savings could raise more money than the proposed tuition increase.

Owram: As an example, the Faculty of Arts has a budget of \$40,000 million every year. Two per cent (2%) of that budget is eight hundred thousand dollars (\$800,000), which accounts for twelve (12) to fourteen (14) positions. Cutting that amount would mean cutting those positions. Such a move would not only decrease the quality of the faculty, but also tarnish the University's reputation, and its bargaining power with quality instructors and administrators. With the University's current deficit, it may have to resort to such measures either way, but there will be no eliminating of positions unless it is absolutely necessary.

Harlow: Although the University is urging students to pressure the government for more funding, Administration does not seem especially active in opposing funding cuts. Does Administration truly oppose what the government is doing – or failing to do – and if so, what is it doing to keep pressure up?

Owram: The University must be judicious in its means of procuring support from the government. Unfortunately, education is not the main concern while health care continues to suffer. Kindergarten to grade twelve (12) also needs attention. It is most effective to sit down peacefully with the government to achieve our ends.

Roesch identified that double-siding the pamphlets distributed to Council would have saved the University fifteen (\$15) dollars. Perhaps such thought in future would help to alleviate this problem. **Owram** took this under advisement.

Taylor: What does the University propose to do to make the public more aware of the problems facing education?

Owram: Dr. Rod Fraser (University President) has been in the community speaking on behalf of the University. Public relations work includes surveys, and helping the public to understand that the University does indeed have a financial problem. People are wondering why they should care, given that universities are more narrowly focussed than health care in their eyes. The University is trying to send the message that excellent institutions will benefit all communities in the long run.

Taher: Given that this is the first of a three-year budget cycle, how can the University say with confidence that the budget will be met?

Owram: There are three (3) options facing the University at the moment. The first is to make the current numbers static, and stop trying to decrease the tuition increases; the second is to simply make operational cuts to make ends meet. The third is what the University is proposing, which is to try to lower increases while maintaining the quality of the institution. We have to remain competitive, on both financial and quality fronts. The government is beginning to recognize this.

Samuel: The University's current level of efficiency is not convincing. What were the findings of the task force?

Owram: It is impossible to gauge absolute efficiency in an institution as large as the University of Alberta, but we can continue to find different ways of saving money. Over a recent three-year period, the University lost twenty per cent (20%) of its support staff.

Harlow: The Access Fund, which is student-run and student-funded, has enormous pressure on its monies, and there is never enough to help all the students who need it. Is there a widespread awareness that students are being forced to drop out of their programs for need of funding?

Owram: Yes, there is. That is the reason that Administration is so reluctant to present students with this tuition increase. The other side, the faculties, is suffering as well: chairs and deans are claiming that the best instructors cannot be retained with the salaries the University offers. Fundraising helps, but Administration cannot dictate where these monies are directed.

Church: Why is the University concerned about rising tuition?

Owram: The danger of rising tuition that it becomes a barrier for students applying to and attending the University of Alberta. Tuition has been raised by two hundred eighty percent (280%) since the increases began, and these numbers discourage students from applying. The debt levels accrued by such increases are also a concern: the default rates are debilitating the economy and adding to the problem.

Coles: Would a public awareness campaign help this problem?

Owram: The trouble with a campaign is that health care can mount a counter-campaign stating that if hospitals don't get enough funding, people will die. Universities can make no such claim. There can be no certainty that a campaign would make a profit. The major issue is how the government sees universities: it's a circular problem, because if universities are worthy, they need no funding; and if they are not, they aren't worth funding.

Taylor: Where does the money left over from Student Finance go on a per year basis?

Owram: There is rarely any money left over, but if there is, it is given to the next year's budget.

Lee: How can we reduce scholarships and raise bursaries?

Owram: It is important to retain good scholarships in order to retain and recruit the best students. However, need is an issue as well as excellence, and the two concerns are reaching a more favorable balance. Unfortunately the bulk of scholarship money comes from donors, who dictate specifically how it is to be allocated.

Odynski: Tuition is rising at the University of Alberta at one of the highest rates in the country, and there has been no corresponding rise in enrolment. How does the University plan to remain competitive?

Owram: Losing students due to rising tuition is a grave concern. This is a good sort of pressure, however, because it allows Administration to place greater pressure on its transfer partners: the University has to sell its community, which is unique.

Church thanked Dr. Owram for presenting to Council and answering its questions. Dr. Owram expressed his anticipation of presenting Council with something more amenable to students.

Church/Samuel requested a ten (10) minute recess.

2000-13/6

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Samuel/Hoffman moved that the SC2000-12 minutes be approved.

- **Dunbar:** the Gateway's Circulation Manager is named Ray, not Amy.
- **Brindle:** the Engineering councillor's name is Mustafa, not Mustala.

Consensus

2000-13/7

REPORTS

a. **Leslie Church**, President

- A written report was provided at the meeting.
- The most recent CASA conference in Ontario was productive. The report on party platforms was assembled, and a press conference was convened to release this information. Policy was worked on, and will be compiled with Real Solutions III, which will be assembled at the next conference. Tax structures were also examined according to how it affects education, and research is being done on students' finance at a national level.
- Congratulations to **Samuel** for the Teaching & Learning Workshop, which is a first-time endeavor – it was great fun, and very effective.
- There have been two (2) meetings of the Budget Advisory Committee, looking at measures to examine the proposed tuition increase. The strategy for the next month is to focus on the government's responsibility for education. None of the governments are clear on their strategies for education, and pressure must be applied for the next while.

- b. Christopher Samuel, Vice-President Academic
A written report was provided at the meeting.
- Thanks to everyone who participated in the Teaching & Learning Workshop. This is the first real collaboration between the Association of Academic Staff: University of Alberta (AASUA) and the SU. A report will be compiled and will be available to Council. Dr. Carmichael from the AASUA will examine the report and decide what the next move is. This will likely result in a roundtable.
 - A major publisher will be presenting at the Bookstore Task Force.
 - The registration problem continues to be examined.
 - Students want to host a session about 'what it means to be a good professor,' because instructors seem to have the wrong idea. Students also want to have a voice in selecting instructors, department chairs and deans. Policies are being drafted to put students on these selection committees. **Samuel** is talking to GFC councillors and faculty administrations.
 - The library hours problem is also being looked at.
 - The nomination forms for the Rutherford Teaching Award are in the agenda package.
 - **Samuel** thanked the ESA (Education Students' Society) for a great Halloween party, and UASUS (University of Alberta Science Undergraduate Society) for a great event at the Faculty Club.
 - **Samuel** offered his regrets that due to the invoice for cleaning his window, his budget has been emptied and his position is being dissolved.
- c. Naomi Agard, Vice-President External
Agard was absent due to a CASA regional conference in Vancouver.
- **Church** handed out the summary of SU involvement during the federal campaigns, as requested by **Agard**. A forum is being held on November 16.
- d. Gregory Harlow, Vice-President Operations & Finance
A written report was provided at the meeting.
- e. Jennifer Wanke, Vice-President Student Life
A written report was provided at the meeting.
- **Wanke** is very busy with Student Life programming, particularly with parking and housing.
 - The Backpack to Briefcase program is going to be great this year.
 - This Wednesday and Thursday, a Penny Carnival will be held in SUB. Proceeds go to the United Way.
 - New Orientation managers have been hired.
 - Campus Security met with the SU. Council will be kept informed.
 - The Power Plant hosted a great Halloween party.
 - Work continues on Antifreeze.
- f. Mark Cormier, Undergrad BoG Representative
A written report was provided at the meeting.
- The Board office will be submitting a report on its past activities.
 - The Board Award of Distinction selection committee has convened: there have been a few obstacles, but solutions have been reached and hopefully things will go more smoothly.

- g. Nursing Faculty Report
 - An oral report was provided by **Read**.
 - Nursing is working with its faculty regarding curriculum. There have been some complaints from students.
 - Nursing is planning a rally, planning events and keeping the faculty informed about events on campus.
- h. Pharmacy Faculty Report
 - An oral report was provided by **Cabaj**.
 - The faculty is taking in entries for a student literary challenge.
 - A career fair is taking place on Wednesday at the Delta Hotel. Many companies will be in attendance, including some from the United States.
 - The faculty has completed a telephone book for members, and it is being distributed.

2000-13/8

QUESTION PERIOD

Samuel: The University refused the offer of a donation from the tobacco company previously discussed.

Rogerson: What was the reference to casino money and fraternities in the Executive Committee minutes of October 20?

Harlow: The ALGC has some concerns regarding the use for which some of the monies are intended – specifically fraternities, and the value of the institutions.

Coles: Has the Executive Committee decided what three (3) focus areas they will be acting on from the results of the Gripe Tables?

Church: This is a question for **Agard**, who is absent. The Executive Committee is waiting for a full semester report to come in. Each member has chosen individual areas to work on.

Samuel has chosen the Bookstore, professors, and registration.

Wanke has delegated the results to committees, who will decide which are the most important issues.

Hoffman: Besides advertising in The Gateway, how does the Executive Committee propose to promote awareness about the federal election?

Church: Again, this is a question best directed at **Agard**. Reports on this question have been distributed to Council, both from the SU and from CASA. Tables will be set up, and a forum is upcoming. There will be a full-fledged awareness campaign.

Hoffman: Will one day be enough for registering?

Church: Voter registration has been ongoing. Faculte Saint-Jean will also host an all-candidates forum.

Van Aerde: Why was the donation from the tobacco company refused?

Cormier: Concerns were expressed to the Board – from **Cormier** and **Samuel** – about the University's image.

Van Aerde: Was this justified, in light of other universities accepting similar donations?

Samuel: Personal observation shows that the greatest objection is with the moral argument. If post-secondary education were properly funded, perhaps we could afford to make such objections, but the university needs this money, and the Board must be convinced that the University, and students, need this consideration.

Lazin: Regarding the placement of stories in the Sports section – which was a concern raised by **Roesch** and **Macapagal** at the last meeting – Sports Editor Barrie Tanner explained that the Athlete of the Week for that issue was a Bears hockey player, and he wanted to keep these stories together.

Taylor: The all-candidates forum will have a broad format and an extended Question Period, and all students are encouraged to attend.

2000-13/9

LEGISLATION

2000-13/9a
BYLAW 700 -
CONDUCT OF
STUDENTS' UNION
BUSINESS

HARLOW / CHURCH MOVED THAT (SECOND READING) Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Financial Affairs Board, approve the changes to Bylaw 700 respecting the Conduct of Students' Union Business

32/0 Carried

2000-13/9b BYLAW
9210 – EXECUTIVE
COORDINATORS

HARLOW / CHURCH MOVED THAT (FIRST READING) Students' Council approve the proposed Bylaw 9210 Respecting the Executive Coordinators of the Students' Union.

Harlow introduced the motion. This legislation is part of the ongoing legal review of the Students' Union. This proposes to condense the coordinator bylaws into one all-inclusive bylaw. Nothing has been omitted, and nothing new is being introduced.

Partridge: Who writes the bylaws? Was there input from the coordinators themselves?

Harlow consulted with three (3) of the four (4) coordinators (the fourth was absent), and **Harlow** wrote it himself.

31/1 Carried

2000-13/9c BYLAWS
1020, 1030, & 1050

HARLOW / CHURCH MOVED THAT (FIRST READING) Students' Council rescind Bylaws

- **1020, respecting the Academic Affairs Coordinator of the Students' Union;**
- **1030, respecting the Students' Union Community Relations Coordinator;**
- **1050, respecting the Student Activities Coordinator.**

Harlow introduced the motion. The reason for the proposal is that now that there is a bylaw covering all coordinators, there is no need to keep the individual bylaws. Legislation must be rationalized as much as possible, and this is the best way to make all legislation meaningful.

32/0 Carried

2000-13/10

NEW BUSINESS

**2000-13/10a
DIE BOARD**

CHURCH / WANKE MOVED THAT Students' Council ratify Heather Smillie, Vincent Tong, Nadine Arendt, Sean Doherty, Chris Liobing as Regular Members and Kara Deringer, Julien McNulty, Ning Ramos, Julius Wanyonyi and Rebecca Cuthbertson as Alternate Members of the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board for the 2000/2001 school year

33/1 Carried

**2000-13/10b
DIE BOARD
CHAIR AND
ALTERNATE
CHAIR.**

CHURCH / WANKE MOVED THAT Students' Council ratify Heather Smillie as Chair and Vincent Tong as Alternate Chair of the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board for the 2000/2001 school year

Church introduced the motion, clarifying the need for two (2) DIE Board chairs by explaining that chairs must be on twenty-four (24)- hour call.

32/1 Carried

2000-13/11**INFORMATION ITEM****2000-13/11a
REPORT OF THE
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

Report of the Advisory Committee for the Portfolio of Finance and Administration was included in the agenda as an information item only

2000-13/12**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **Chaput:** The Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity is being chartered on Saturday, November 11 at the Hotel Macdonald. Cocktails at 6:00, dinner at 7:00, and a dance at 9:30.
- **Lazin:** The Gateway's 90th Anniversary party is being held at the Faculty Club. The ticket price is \$20.00 for students.
- **Brechtel:** The Delta Chi and Alpha Gamma Delta fraternities are hosting the One Night Stand this coming Thursday. Tickets are available for \$3.00.
- **Rogerson:** As the new Orientation Programs Coordinator, **Rogerson** is forced to resign from Council, and her last wish was to have the motion to adjourn.
- **Jorgensen:** The Western Business Games competed against nine (9) teams, and won many events, including the Spirit Cup. The BSA is also hosting Dressed for Success at the Faculty Club, to teach students how to network and eat properly in mixed company. Tickets are \$22.00.
- **Church:** Council photos are available. Thanks to Jimmy Jeong for a great photograph.
- **Wanke:** Antifreeze material is being prepared, and some of it is ready.
- **Church:** The Fall 2000 Edition of CAUS and Effect has been released. CAUS, in connection with the Postcard Campaign, will be holding a press conference on the steps of the Legislature in conjunction with the Graduate Students' Association and other schools. The first forty (40) postcards collected will go straight to Ralph Klein.
- **Harlow:** The University is holding a Remembrance Day ceremony in the Butterdome on Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

2000-13/13**ADJOURNMENT**

Rogerson/Hartery moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:11p.m.

