

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

August 21, 2001 – 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

MINUTES (SC 2001-08)

Faculty/Position	Name	Present/absent	Proxy Name
President	Christopher Samuel	Present	
VP Academic	Amy Salyzyn	Present	
VP External	Kory Zwack	Present	
VP Finance	Jamie Speer	Present	
VP Student Life	Jennifer Wanke	Present	
BoG Undergrad Rep.	Chris Burrows	Present	
Agric/Forest/HomeEc			
Agric/Forest/HomeEc			
Arts	Anand Sharma	Present	
Arts	Brendan Darling	Present	
Arts	Colin Agur	Present	
Arts	Jill Tackaberry	Present	
Arts	Joshua Fraese	Present	
Arts	Kara Deringer	Present	

Arts	Kyle Kawanami	Present	
Arts	Maureen Melnyk	Present	
Business	Erika Hoffman	Present	
Business	John Watkins	Present	
Business	Jon Sharun	Present	
Education	Charlene Davidson	Present	
Education	Dan Coles	Present	
Education	Jason Baxter	Present	
Education	Krista Blankley	Proxy	Janna Roesch
Education	Stephanie Mendoza	Present	
Engineering	Chris Jones	Proxy	Joe Brindle
Engineering	Cole Nychka	Proxy	Emily Jarrett
Engineering	David Wepler	Present	
Engineering	Jason Tobias	Proxy	Margaret Laffin
Engineering	Mark Jess	Absent	
Law	Brian Loewen	Absent	
Residence Halls Association	Don Welsh	Present	
Medicine/Dentistry	Karen Cheng	Present	

Medicine/Dentistry	Reyhan Chaudhary	Absent	
Native Studies (School of			
Nursing	Edmund Ledi	Present	
Pharmacy	Lanette Prediger	Proxy	Darren Yesmanisk
Rehabilitation Medicine	Carla Webb	Proxy	Leah Ganes
Faculté Saint-Jean	Lisa Clyburn	Present	
Science	Chamila Adhihetty	Proxy	Kimberly Dary
Science	Constantina Renzi	Present	
Science	Helen McGraw	Proxy	Candace Rypien
Science	Mat Brechtel	Present	
Science	Roman Kotovych	Present	
Science	Rupesh Kumar	Present	
Science	Samuel Hillier	Present	
Science	Zaki Taher	Present	
President Athletics	Ryan Schula	Absent	
<i>Gateway</i> / Editor in Chief	Dave Alexander	Present	

Recreation Action Committee			
General Manager	Bill Smith	Absent	
Speaker	Gregory Harlow	Present	
Recording Secretary	Sarah Kelly	Present	

Observers

Graham Bakay

Dan Lazin

Mark Bentz

David Zieben

Oliver Bladek

Martin Levenson

Kirsten Odynski

2001-08/1

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

2001-08/2

NATIONAL ANTHEM "O Canada!"

Samuel led Council in the singing of the national anthem.

2001-08/3

University of Alberta CHEER SONG "Ring Out a Cheer"

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

2001-08/4

ROLL CALL

Agur/Brindle moved to appoint **Hillier** to Students' Council, as he has not been properly appointed *as per* the Students' Council Constitution.

Consensus

At this point, **Fraese** and **Blankley**, who have both been suspended due to delinquent attendance, appealed to be restored to Council.

Fraese explained that due to his being in Quebec for five interesting weeks, he has been unable to attend Council. In his stead, he has arranged to have proxies at each meeting, but to his dismay, serendipity at each point prevented them from attending. **Fraese** asked Council to take his foiled attempts to serve the Students' Union into consideration, and vote to have him reinstated.

Wanke: Why were the weeks in Quebec interesting?

Fraese: No comment.

At this point, **Fraese** left Council Chambers to let Council deliberate on his bid for reinstatement.

Brindle/Wanke moved that Joshua Fraese be reinstated to Students' Council.

34/1/4 **Carried**

Blankley explained that she was a full-time Intersession student, taking three classes, which started at 6:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. In that event she was unable to attend Council. Due to the slow traffic through campus during the summer, she was also unable to find proxies, despite help from **Mendoza**. While she explained that she is dedicated to her studies, she is similarly dedicated to her responsibility to Council, and wishes to prove this throughout the remaining months of her term.

Baxter/Melnyk moved to reinstate Krista Blankley to Students' Council.

38/1/0 **Carried**

2001-08/5

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Rypien/Kawanami moved that the agenda of the SC2001/08 meeting be approved.

Zwack asked that the presentation by Mark Sollis be struck from the agenda.

Consensus

2001-08/6

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

2001-08/6a

At this point, Kirsten Odynski, Director of Communications, gave a brief presentation on outreach.

Communications activities are part of the councilor's responsibility to Students' Council and his/her constituents. The outreach portion of the councilor's job description ideally requires, at minimum, four hours per month of extra-Council activity. These activities can include sitting on Students' Union boards and committees, speaking in classrooms, or volunteering to help at Students' Union functions. This portion of the Students' Council bylaw governing councilors was created to enhance the Students' Union, and to move further towards enhancing quality of life for students.

This outreach, Odynski explained, can be defined as "the bridges that are built when the community and the University are engaged in activities together."

That each councilor carry out his/her responsibility in this respect is essential to every function of the Students' Union. Both students and the community have to learn about the activities, businesses and services that the Students' Union offers. Councilors also need to show their constituents that they are in the community, performing their function.

In order for the Students' Union to fulfill its mission statement, "Serving Students in ways that Meet Students' Needs," councilors are needed to help convey its message. Councilors are the first point of contact for the organization.

To make this responsibility slightly simpler for Council members, Odynski outlined four basic ways of getting involved and reaching out to constituents.

1. Provide and publish contact information.
2. Work at the Gripe Tables, which are set up periodically by the Students' Union at focal points throughout campus. These tables work both to provide information to and collect information from students, in the form of questions, comments, and complaint.
3. Write for the Students' Union newsletter, which is a new initiative. Contributions, although they must be short, can take any form one wishes. The first submission deadline is September 13.
4. Speak in classrooms, individually or in an organized format. Specific topics and assigned dates for organized classroom speaking will be provided.

At this point, the floor was opened to questions from Council.

Kotovych: How will contributing to the SU newsletter be any different from making a submission to *The Gateway*?

Odynski: The newsletter provides another opportunity to express opinions, and it will be entirely SU-focused as well.

Weppler: Can councilors speak to classrooms that are not part of their faculty?

Odynski: There is no reason that this should occur.

Kawanami: What will the distribution of classrooms be?

Odynski: Provisions have not yet been made, but there will be a better idea once classes have begun.

Laffin: What would be an example of the kind of presentation that would be given?

Odynski: Presentations regarding SUB expansion, the universal bus pass proposal, and other relevant issues would be appropriate.

Ganes: How can the SU ensure that such presentations would not be biased?

Odynski: Once armed with the facts, councilors can present them any way they like.

Sharma: When will councilors be able to begin presenting on the tuition campaign?

Odynski: In the first week of October.

2001-08/6b

At this point, Martin Levenson, a guest to Council, gave a brief presentation on CJSR.

Mr. Levenson presented himself as a member of the First Alberta Campus Radio Association (FACRA), and began by asking Council to name one DJ on a CJSR radio program.

Wanke: Marky Moose, Clockwork Orange Juice.

Levenson presented **Wanke** with a t-shirt.

Levenson explained that his presentation would cover the following: the history of CJSR, its organizational structure, the historical role of the SU with CJSR, the services provided by CJSR, and its cost to students.

History of CJSR

The University of Alberta has a long tradition of radio, beginning with CKUA (U.A. – University of Alberta). Approximately 50 years ago, when CKUA left the University circuit, a radio club was founded for the radio that was close-circuit at the University until 1984, when CJSR got its FM license. Because licenses were not given to student organizations *per se*, the First Alberta Campus Radio Association (FACRA) was founded, and a successful partnership developed between CJSR's funding body, the Friends of CJSR, and the SU.

CJSR is envied throughout the campus community, because of its depoliticized representation and stable funding due to a dedicated student levy decided by referendum. Responsible business decisions are serving both CJSR and the SU very well, and financial campaigning has not been necessary.

Organizational Structure

The composition of the FACRA board allows seven of the ten voting positions to be open to students, and four to be held exclusively by students. Two community at large members also sit on the board, serving a two-year term, as well as two student at large members. The Vice-President Operations & Finance of the Students' Union is an *ex officio* member. Finally, one councilor is annually nominated by Council to sit on the board.

The Friends of CJSR is CJSR's fundraising board, and owns the capital assets of CJSR. Since the inception of the dedicated fee, CJSR has not had to ask for capital expenditure. Fundraising includes selling memberships to Friends of CJSR, as well as organizing casinos, bingos, and other fundraising initiatives. Levenson notified Council that any member of Friends of CJSR will get discounts from certain merchants.

The role of the SU in the organization of CJSR includes representation on FACRA through the *ex officio* status of the Vice-President Operations & Finance. The SU also provides CJSR with facilities, and administers the use of the CJSR dedicated fee.

Services

CJSR provides students with an opportunity to learn about radio on a practical level, developing production skills through recording, mixing, editing, presentation, organization, public speaking, interviewing, news, culture, features, management skills, long-range planning, marketing, promotion, and fundraising. CJSR is available as an object of study for students as well.

CJSR also provides the widest range of music programming to be found anywhere. The musical selection is very diverse. Programming provides free advertising to new student groups, employment possibilities, and internship positions.

CJSR is an important independent media voice for the Students' Union and the University of Alberta off-campus, and outreach is important for both of these bodies. It provides a connection between the Students' Union, students, and the community at large. Radio has enormous public relations value.

Cost to Students

While the Friends of CJSR does fundraising, the student fee levied is approximately \$2.93 per student per year. Its overall budget is governed by FACRA, and SU funding provides approximately 40% of its operational budget. Overall, the budget is roughly \$75,000. Advertising garners approximately \$40,000 per year. Promotions are currently being put together, including a Fun Drive that brings funding directly from the community. At this point, \$85,000 has been pledged.

The Graduate Students' Association has voted to provide dedicated funding as well, at a rate of \$1 per student per term. Studio rentals, encouraging new bands, also provide funding. Employment grants are also available to CJSR, through STEP and other programs.

At this point, Levenson invited questions from Council, and encouraged them to listen to CJSR, visit its booth at the Week of Welcome, talk with CJSR volunteers, and to become involved.

Samuel (councilor): How does one become a member of the Friends of CJSR?

Levenson: The fee is \$10 for students, and \$20 for others. Membership soon pays for itself.

Baxter: Who should one refer to with subsequent questions?

Levenson: Direct questions to **Speer**, who is an *ex-officio* member of FACRA, or Mendoza, who is a councilor on FACRA, or to contact the station directly.

2001-08/6c

At this point, Oliver Bladek, Vice President External for the University of Calgary Students' Union, gave a brief presentation on the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS).

The Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) provides student representation to the provincial government, and deals solely with provincial issues. Currently, CAUS represents approximately 80,000 university students in Alberta. CAUS was founded in 1986 for the purpose of information sharing, and has evolved to the point that it now lobbies government on behalf of students as well.

The CAUS budget is \$6,500, which is less than one cent per student. It provides no services because of its small budget, but its focus has shifted to government relations.

Upcoming, there is a lobby tour in November, which will involve meeting with 60 MLAs. In 1999, CAUS began to show real energy with two MLA tours, meeting with high-level bureaucrats and Ministry officials.

The Tories have been in power in Alberta since 1993, and the Premier has not met with students since 1998. However, universities and CAUS in general have adequate access to Learning Minister Lyle Oberg, and CAUS has learned that goals are met by 'playing by their rules,' because they do not operate with students otherwise.

CAUS has identified that the student loan system needs adjustment, because student debt is an enormous problem. The government maintains that students should save for post-secondary education, but CAUS believes that the debt problem *is* the tuition problem. For example, the University of Calgary is currently over its tuition cap.

CAUS priorities include tuition, student loan reform, managing the indirect costs of research, the Universities Act, and fostering provincial-federal understanding of post-secondary education.

There are three provincial lobby groups: college, graduate and university, and the changes they wish to make are common and universal. Possibly, students today will not see these accomplishments, but it is important to focus on the future and value it highly.

CAUS has representation on virtually every committee currently dealing with post-secondary education, and student access to this level of government is unprecedented. Through postcard campaigns, newsletters, lobby tours and other member-driven ideas, CAUS is making its mark at the provincial level.

The CAUS mandate is “Always, always, always ask for what students want, not what CAUS can achieve.” Policies are membership-driven, and CAUS is not allied at all with either the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) or the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

Bledak concluded his presentation by inviting questions from Council, and urging members to write to him with subsequent questions or comments at suvpext@ucalgary.ca.

Sharma: Is CAUS working on the DeVry privatization issue?

Bladek: CAUS has asked Oberg for a seat, and he has given his word that one will be provided. CAUS is not sure at this point if it is quantitative or qualitative analysis.

2001-08/7

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Melnyk/Baxter moved that the minutes of the SC2001-07 meeting be approved.

Harlow: Jones and **Ledi** had proxies.

Harlow: The CUP motion was to postpone, rather than table.

Salyzyn: Point #3 of **Salyzyn's** report should read 'new professor orientation' rather than 'parent orientation.'

Consensus

2001-08/8

REPORTS

a. Christopher Samuel, President – Written Report.

A written report was provided at the meeting.

- Time has been spent on three main areas: tuition, the SU organizational review, and SUB expansion.
- There is currently a federal Liberal Caucus retreat in Edmonton, and the Executive Committee has a lobbying strategy in place.

b. Amy Salyzyn, Vice-President Academic – Written Report.

A written report was provided with the agenda package.

- The SUB Food Court will be wired for the ONECard starting in September.
- The Bookstore will be open on Labour Day Monday, and open late with nine cash registers for the duration of the September rush.
- Regarding the fun! and informative! COFA retreat, **Salyzyn** has yet to hear from the Engineering Students' Society, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and the Faculte Saint-Jean.

c. Kory Zwack, Vice-President External – Written Report.
An oral report was provided at the meeting.

- **Zwack** apologized that he had not provided a written report.
- **Zwack** took scholarship winners from the University of Alberta to the World Track & Field Games, and it was a fantastic opportunity to meet new people.
- Regarding the Budget Advisory Committee, administration will be updating the SU on the budget process.
- All faculties have officers for the recruiter meeting, twice a month. This is coordinated through the Registrar's Office. It was an excellent meeting and some good ideas were aired.
- **Zwack** met with Dr. Bill Connor, Dean of Students, regarding bursaries.
- **Zwack** met with Zoe from Government Relations at the University regarding the breakfast for the Liberal Caucus on Thursday, as well as the barbeque being held in Fort Edmonton Park Wednesday.
- **Zwack** met with Kevin Sorensen.
- CAUS is looking at its provincial campaign for this year.
- Regarding student loans and finance, 120,000 students applied for assistance through student loans this year. The new maximum allocation limit is \$10,700, with 60% from the federal government and 40% from the provincial. The federal government has not increased its portion since 1992, and changing this is being developed as a CASA goal.
- A change has been made to student loan repayment programs, in that there is no longer six months' interest relief on loans for graduating students. The six months to begin repaying it are still in place.

- d. Jamie Speer, Vice-President Operations & Finance – Written Report.

A written report was provided at the meeting.

- A number of open houses will be taking place for SUB stakeholders regarding the expansion.
- SUB expansion plans are being brought before boards and committees regarding the design process.
- The organizational review is underway, and currently SFAIC is being examined.
- **Speer** met with APIRG coordinators, and a composition of the board is being developed.
- The Campus Advantage board decided to hire a national director, and interviews will take place this coming Friday.
- Promotions have been delivered for Cityfone, and it will have a kiosk at WOW.

- e. Jennifer Wanke, Vice-President Student Life – Written Report.

A written report was provided with the agenda package.

- Outreach this year will include SU key ropes, and **Wanke** asked that members of Council wear them throughout the Week of Welcome.
- The Parent Orientation went very well last weekend, and **Wanke** congratulated Christine Rogerson, who coordinated it.
- The Week of Welcome still needs volunteers.
- Katherine Huising, Senior Manager of Entertainment & Programming, will be leaving the SU on September 10. **Wanke** reports this with a heavy heart, although the SU is happy for Katherine as she has accepted a position with the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, which will be an excellent opportunity for her.

- f. Chris Burrows, Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative.

A written report was provided at the meeting.

- Financial analysis of the University budget is underway, and data has been pulled from a variety of sources.
- There are only two Board of Governors meetings before the tuition debate November 2.

g. Law Faculty Report

- There was no representative present from the Faculty of Law to provide a report.

h. Engineering Faculty Report

- An oral report was provided by **Weppler**.
- Two new Engineering buildings are being erected: the ECERF will be ready by the beginning of classes, and the ETLC is expected to be finished in December. The ESS will be moving to the ETLC.
- The ESS retreat was held in May near Alsike, and held excellent sessions in communications, awareness, and the university community.
- A new Engineering-only orientation program, GEER 101, will be taking place this year.
- Thanks to an advertisement bought by the SU, the Engineering handbook will break even this year.
- ESS and the Math and Applied Science Centre (MASC), helping students in math and engineering courses, have developed a partnership.
- Discover-E was a program for 8,000 students between first and twelfth grades fostering an interest in engineering and science-related fields.
- A Natural Resource Engineering Facility is being built for Civil, Mining and Petroleum Engineering.
- God Save the Queen.

i. Executive Committee, Minutes.

Adopted by Consensus.

Kawanami: With reference to the Executive Committee minutes, why is it supposed that VISA is more viable than MasterCard for corporate credit?

Zwack: The MasterCards took two months to arrive this term, so the Executive Committee went without them on conferences, which was disruptive and inconvenient. As well, **Wanke** had certain charges on her card in Toronto that she had not made. VISA is equal in price, and seems to be the better alternative.

Hoffman: How is Katherine Huising's position going to be rehired?

Wanke: The department will be restructure, and the position will not be opened until this process is finished.

Wepler asked if **Sharma** could provide a synopsis of events at the most recent Tuition Philosophers' Café. **Sharma** replied that he was dismayed at not being able to attend.

Kotovych: What advertising strategies are being applied to attract students to the Tuition Philosophers' Café?

Samuel: As many students as can be reached are being contacted *via* e-mail and student groups listservs. As many students as possible is positive at these gatherings, but at the same time, the Executive Committee hopes for a manageable number of attendees. The next meeting will be a Tuition Town Hall, and more active advertising will be implemented for that.

Tackaberry: Is the Liberal Caucus barbeque a fundraiser?

Zwack: The proceeds from the tickets will be given to Fort Edmonton Park.

Taher: What is happening with the stickers for ONECards?

Salyzyn: The stickers come at a high price, and currently there are deliberations going on for a total redesign of the ONECard. Bus pass sellers are being contacted with respect to this issue, and **Salyzyn** asked that anyone concerned contact her.

Agur: Will there be any sort of transaction fee for purchasing items in the Food Court with the ONECard?

Salyzyn: The SU pays a reasonable fee for the privilege, and there will be no transaction fee to individual students.

Sharma: Students seem to be opposed to the VIDS redevelopment project, and are wondering why their fees are being wasted on a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Canadian University Press which is a constitutional violation.

Wanke: The process of gathering monies to redevelop fees went through every stage that Council requested, and Council approved the project. Council was consulted at the outset of this process. Regarding the Memorandum of Understanding, no money has yet been spent, and will not be spent on legal fees or a CUP membership without Council's prior approval. The Executive Committee is doing its best to be accountable to Council.

Tackaberry: Is it reasonable to expect Council to fully understand what it is doing when approving a \$9 million budget all at once?

Samuel: The presentation accompanying the budget was comprehensive and excruciatingly detailed, and the Executive Committee tried to structure the agenda so that issues were not 'pushed through'. Council's questions and concerns were given the air they needed at the time, and the budget in its entirety was approved beforehand by the Financial Affairs Board.

Roesch: Responsible councilors will also scrutinize the preliminary budget, which is available at the outset of their term.

Zwack: Copies of the Final Budget were available a week prior to the meeting, and could have been examined at that point.

Brindle: How much of the monies allocated by the Final Budget have already been spent? Is it worth it to continue this debate?

Wanke: The equipment and software for the VIDS redevelopment project have already been purchased.

Renzi: When is the next Tuition Philosophers' Café?

Samuel: A Tuition Town Hall is upcoming, in late September or early October.

Kawanami: Is there a minimum consumption clause in the Coke agreement?

Speer: That is an *excellent* question.

Kotovych: Given the real lack of knowledge concerning the Cheer Song, how will the presence of such a song be increased by changing it?

Wanke: Confirmation has been given by Doug Ogram, University Vice President Academic. It is believed that students would be more enthusiastic about a 'fight song' – something that can be sung at athletic events, *etcetera*. That is what is being worked on.

Weppler: The Mixed Chorus sings the Cheer Song at the Presidents' Address, and we should all attend.

Sharma: Aside from the Tuition Philosophers' Café, will there be student consultation prior to the tuition debate?

Samuel: The tuition decision has been accelerated, which makes this a unique situation. The SU is mobilizing earlier, and the Executive Committee has convened to ensure that it would be properly prepared for the debate. The Executive Committee itself is comprised of students, and consultation has taken place with the Director of Communications, the Research Officer, the Financial Affairs Coordinator, and the Communications Advisory Committee – these are all students as well. There has been an extensive consultation process, culminating with the Tuition Philosophers' Café and the upcoming Tuition Town Hall.

Sharma: When will Council learn about the strategy?

Samuel: In the near future, when firm numbers have been provided from the University.

2001-08/10

LEGISLATION

2001-08/10a

ZWACK/SPEER MOVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve the proposed changes to Bylaw 100 (First Reading) Students' Council.

Samuel introduced the motion and outlined changes, available in the agenda package.

Brindle: Can an expelled member of Council be a proxy during that term?

Samuel: What would you prefer?

Brindle: They should not be allowed to sit as a proxy.

Harlow: An amendment should be written and presented to Council.

Brindle/Tackaberry moved that *nor may they sit as a proxy* be added to Section 11e of Bylaw 100 governing Students' Council.

Vote on Amendment: 30/4/1 **Carried**

Kawanami: Should it be stipulated that proxies should be from the same faculty as the councilor they are representing?

Harlow: There is no formal provision for this.

Samuel: If changes are allowed, the bylaw can be reviewed post-approval for recommendations to Council.

Brindle: It is stated that to be eligible, students must be members of faculty associations, not necessarily the faculty proper.

Kotovych: What is the rationale behind two-hour time limits for proxy notice? This does not allow for last-minute emergencies.

Zwack: At that late time, the Speaker may not be in his office – the deadline has been set so that the Speaker can be properly apprised of proxy appointments.

Wanke: Could a proxy bring in carbon-copied e-mail notice as verification of his or her appointment?

Harlow: In that case, either the signature provision or the signature provision would have to be deleted.

Brindle: Sender addresses can be forged, so this would not be a reliable method. However, what would be the motive to arrive at Council with a forged proxy letter? Is there a precedent for this that Bylaw 100 is protecting against?

Vote on main motion: 33/1/2 **Carried**

2001-08/10b

SPEER/SALYZYN MOVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve the proposed changes to Bylaw 200 (First Reading) Changeover of Students' Council.

Samuel introduced the motion. The current Changeover bylaw is confusing, and the Executive Committee is trying to draw simple distinctions between the outgoing and the incoming Councils. He outlined the proposed changes to the bylaw.

Harlow brought forward several formatting changes, which were editorial in nature and therefore friendly.

Kotovych: Changeover meeting dates should be outlined more clearly, and made available to Council members.

Samuel: Contact information for newly elected councilors is gathered by the Chief Returning Officer, in order to inform new councilors of Council Changeover meetings.

31/0/1 **Carried**

2001-08/10c

SALYZYN/WANKE MOVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve the proposed changes to the Standing Orders of Students' Council.

Wanke introduced the motion, stating that it had been brought forward due to the Executive Committee's feeling that electronic voting is very important.

Brindle: Will this prevent the ability to request roll call votes?

Wanke: No.

31/1/0 **Carried**

2001-08/10d

ZWACK/WANKE MOVED THAT the Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, rescind Political Policy 'Written Reports to Council'.

Zwack: This is already in the Coordinator bylaw, and is a Standing Order, and therefore, this Political Policy is redundant.

29/2/1 **Carried**

2001-08/10e

ZWACK/SALYZYN MOVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, rescind Political Policy 'Documents Distributed in Council Chambers'.

Zwack cited the same reasons for rescinding this Political Policy as those for item SC2001-08/10d.

32/0/0 **Carried**

2001-08/11**OLD BUSINESS****2001-08/11a**

WANKE/ZWACK MOVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve an amount not to exceed \$5000.00 to purchase a membership in CUP for the 2001/2002 year, pending a signed Memorandum of Understanding that resolves outstanding issues between the University of Alberta Students' Union and the Canadian University Press (CUP).

Samuel/Tackaberry moved that Standing Orders regarding adjournment be suspended due to time constraints.

25/6/1 **Carried**

Wanke introduced the motion, including the memo, the second draft of the Memorandum of Understanding, and correspondence from Don Iveson, President, Canadian University Press.

At the request of *The Gateway*, the Students' Union is trying to bridge the differences currently existent between the SU and the Canadian University Press (CUP). This is the reason for the Memorandum of Understanding under discussion. Hopefully, everyone's stance can be articulated, and a compromise can be reached.

The Students' Union rejoined CUP provisionally in 1999, and last year, **Wanke** attended a CUP conference where she was denied access to both sessions and information. The Memorandum of Understanding has been composed to ensure the transparency and accountability of CUP to the SU. Because *The Gateway* is not *per se* a legal entity, the Students' Union is the member, and therefore wishes to be provided with the relevant information.

At this point, **Wanke** outlined the Memorandum of Understanding, and opened the floor to questions from Council.

Kotovych: Why is the University of Alberta Students' Union the only SU currently seeking membership in CUP? As a political organization, how could they become affiliated in a non-political organization without politicizing it?

Brindle: This is not Students' Council's question; it is the SU's as a whole.

Brindle/Baxter moved that Students' Council move into Informal Consideration.

27/2/1 **Carried**

Wanke: The Memorandum of Understanding stipulates that CUP not enter into exclusivity contracts. The SU is not looking for a partnership with CUP, but a membership in their organization. It is possible for the SU to be affiliated with apolitical organizations without politicizing them. There is no meaningful, legal distinction to be drawn between the SU and *The Gateway* – meaning that, for example, only the SU can sue or be sued on *The Gateway's* behalf. This is the only way to get a membership.

Kotovych: CUP seems to consider the SU a political body; what is the SU's rationale?

Wanke: The SU is a political body, but it does not politicize other bodies by becoming members.

Taher: Can examples be named of a) CUP withholding documents; b) denying access to delegates; or c) previous exclusivity contracts?

At this point, CUP's constitution was circulated throughout Council Chambers.

Wanke: While registered as a full delegate at last year's CUP conference, membership binders were not available to her, she was barred from sessions, and when a binder was provided to her, the budgetary information had been removed from it. Documents were slow in arriving. CUP calls itself an apolitical body, but its Standing Resolutions call it 'a medium for social justice', and clearly outline several political viewpoints adopted as their own. Finally, Graham Bakay and Chris Boutet attended the conference with SU funds despite the fact that neither are CUP members.

Alexander: Messieurs Bakay and Boutet are in the process of paying their own fees, and their attending funded by the SU can be considered a mistake in billing. *The Gateway* withdrew from CUP in 1988 because it was not, at the time, worth the membership fee. Because CUP has changed, *The Gateway* re-evaluated its stance and decided to join again. The arrangements were not a problem. The grievances outlined by **Wanke** were a result of personalities within the SU and CUP, which raised problems, and these personalities have been dissolved. There was assurance that the issues would be taken care of, and this should be considered a fresh start.

Samuel: The question under discussion is not whether or not CUP is valuable to *The Gateway* and the SU, because it has been established that it is. What is trying to be resolved is the current threat that CUP means to the students at the University of Alberta, such as a news agency, while calling itself apolitical, making such charged political statements. All the Executive is seeking is accountability, which is the reason for the Memorandum of Understanding. The SU is not trying to interfere in CUP politically, but rather trying to create a certain level of awareness.

Sharma: This Memorandum of Understanding is not friendly or passive, as was promised at the previous meeting.

Salyzyn: How is 'a medium of social justice' apolitical?

Sharma: This Memorandum goes against the Constitution, and is a crass move. The Executive seems not to want students involved in CUP because they have political motivations, and this seems like a personal stance. The Memorandum is in violation of everything that CUP stands for. Regarding accountability, both Students' Council and the Executive Committee move *in camera* for certain discussions; is the Executive trying to deny CUP the right to deliberate confidentially? Asking them to revise their Constitution for the sake of one member is unrealistic and unfriendly. CUP is a service for newspapers, not student unions. Government should not influence the media, and this is setting a dangerous precedent.

Wanke: The SU's demand for CUP's accountability stems from convictions inherent in the position of the Executive Committee, not from personal feeling. The Memorandum is sound. The SU should not have to make changes to its own Constitution to join CUP – such an action should not be necessary. The Memorandum does not represent or denote any political interference in CUP.

At this point, **Sharma** apologized, stating that he did not mean any offense to **Wanke** regarding her motives. The apology was duly accepted.

Lazin (sponsored by Roesch): Lazin appeared and spoke as a representative of CUP. **Wanke** is correct that the Standing Resolutions under discussion passed in 1988, but the particular inflammatory statement is by no means a principle that CUP stands by at the moment, and CUP has ceased to recognize it. The statement should be rescinded, and this will be done during an overall review in January 2002. The SU can be charged with delaying this sort of housekeeping as well, so it should be understood that the statement could be considered voided. At the moment, CUP's Standing Resolutions include such values as not paying sources, which denotes a more apolitical tenor for the organization.

Lazin (continued): There remains a concern about the SU itself being involved in CUP, as it is felt that a student union presence could make CUP conferences an unsafe venue for certain newspapers. There is the risk that the SU could become increasingly interested in CUP activities, when such an interest is inappropriate.

Wanke: The SU wants a membership in CUP for the sake of *The Gateway*, and for students as well. That is why Council is discussing this – it is a point on which the SU and *The Gateway* are in complete agreement. However, the current situation is not viable. With respect to **Lazin**, the fact remains that there are inflammatory statements still on CUP's Standing Resolutions, and there is no guarantee that they will be removed. Currently, *The Gateway* is not an autonomous body and has no authority to seek a membership *per se*. As *The Gateway's* publisher, the SU decides *Gateway* policies, and Students' Council has jurisdiction over *The Gateway's* budget, as its financial operator. The SU Constitution overrides *The Gateway's* Constitution in the event of a conflict. The Memorandum of Understanding allows *The Gateway* to become a member of CUP, and that is what the SU is trying to negotiate.

Alexander: Students deserve a news source, and there must be a meaningful separation of the media from the governing body. **Wanke** indicated that the SU does not enforce editorial pressures on *The Gateway*, but this is not precisely so.

Brindle: This discussion should be on what is before Council, rather than the level of autonomy currently enjoyed by *The Gateway*. The Memorandum of Understanding allows Council to bridge the gap between the SU and CUP. Council wants this membership, but not on the stipulation that *The Gateway's* publisher will not be supplied with budgetary information.

Alexander: The Memorandum cannot be signed as it currently stands. It violates CUP's Constitution. For example, it states that in violation of the Memorandum, the SU will receive a complete refund of membership fees. How can the SU ask that of CUP when it will already have enjoyed a year's worth of services? The SU is asking for a level of transparency bordering on the ironic, because students, and even Students' Council, are not provided such transparency into the SU itself. Council must be aware that the people running student newspapers are wary of risking being governed in any way by student unions, and giving the impression of furthering that risk would be fuelling the fire of misunderstanding. Provisions will be made for non-autonomous newspapers as to the lines drawn regarding *in camera* deliberations. The current level of transparency is appropriate.

Tackaberry: Council is faced with two choices – approving the Memorandum in principle and joining CUP, or not approving and not joining CUP. That seems to be all that is under discussion.

Wanke: The Memorandum is a work in progress. The document provided to Council is the Memorandum as it currently stands, and the SU does hope to reach some sort of agreement with CUP that is amenable to both parties. However, without the Memorandum in some form, there will be no membership.

Samuel (councilor): Why weren't these documents provided to Council before?

Wanke: The Executive Committee hoped that the discussion would take a different direction. More importantly, the Executive had to have confirmation from Don Iveson that the Memorandum as it stands was a public document.

Samuel (councilor): Why were they not available at the beginning of the meeting? Is our relationship to our newspaper unique?

Wanke: There are other non-autonomous student newspapers, but they have varying mandates on editorial autonomy; in this sense, all student newspapers are unique.

Roesch: This is not a deadlocked discussion. There is an agreement that CUP is valuable and will enhance *The Gateway* for students, but Council must carry this motion only if it is apprised of the situation to its complete satisfaction.

Lazin: A mutual agreement would be amenable, but the document as it stands is largely unacceptable, because it violates CUP's Constitution.

Wanke: The SU wants to reach a compromise with CUP. Both parties have to work at this.

Baxter: Can *The Gateway* become a CUP member on its own without being a legal entity *per se*?

Lazin: Likely not. There has been an understanding that *The Gateway* holds the membership, rather than the SU, and that is the assumption that CUP wishes to operate on. Its relationship is to the newspaper, not the government.

Wanke: However, Council is required to be accountable to students, while *The Gateway* is not.

Kotovych: Does *The Gateway* have an official position regarding the acceptability of joining CUP through the SU?

Alexander: *The Gateway* does want to be a CUP member, but the Memorandum cannot stand as it currently exists. The SU membership would be acceptable if the Memorandum were made acceptable. This is Council's decision.

Rypien: Will Council be updated as changes to the Memorandum are made?

Wanke: Yes, updates can be made.

Rypien: Would an SU in a similar situation with CUP be considered an exclusivity?

Wanke: Not if CUP does not ascribe that SU's political policies.

Rypien: When *The Gateway* had a CUP membership before, who held it, legally?

Wanke: Since the inception of *The Gateway*, it has been a Students' Union body. The SU has held the membership in the past.

Watkins: There is agreement that the membership should be purchased, and all parties wish to reach a useful compromise. If such a compromise cannot be reached, the membership will not be bought, and that is what the motion states. Everything discussed here will be taken further and elaborated if the motion is approved.

Weppler/Roesch moved to call the question.

24/4/0 **Carried**

Vote on main motion: 24/4/0 **Carried**

2001-08/12

NEW BUSINESS

2001-08/12a

SHARMA/TACKABERRY MOVE THAT Students' Council approve the Gateway's membership in the Canadian University Press (CUP) for the 2001/02 publishing year, discarding the provisions of the draft Memorandum of Understanding between the Students' Union and CUP.

This motion was rendered void by the approval of the previous motion.

2001-08/12b

SPEER/ZWACK MOVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve a budgeted expenditure not to exceed \$1400.00 for Amy Salzyn to attend C.A.R.T October 24-28, 2001.

Salyzyn introduced the motion. CART is the Canadian Academic Roundtable, and it is the portfolio-specific conference for the Vice President Academic. CART has biannual conferences throughout the country to discuss academic issues in a number of media. The timing of the conference is excellent, because it's late enough to get perspective on issues, and early enough to act on the input we receive.

25/0/1 **Carried**

2001-08/12c

SPEER/WANKE MOVED THAT Students' Council approve the appointment of Jessica Chapman and Kenman Gan as student at large members of the Student Groups' Committee.

28/0/0 **Carried**

2001-08/12d

SPEER/WANKE MOVED THAT Students' Council remove Ryan Ongaro as a student at large member of the Student Groups' Committee.

Speer introduced the motion, stating that Mr. Ongaro has informed the Student Groups Director that he no longer wishes to sit on the committee.

28/0/0 **Carried**

2001-08/14

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Harlow thanked Council for having the patience to think motions through clearly this evening, and provide more than a 'rubber stamp' service to the Students' Union.

- Weppler:** This is **Laffin's** last meeting – she has been a great addition to Students' Council and she will be missed. Jason Tobias will be at the next meeting.
- Harlow:** The next meeting will be September 18.
- Wanke:** WOW volunteers are needed.
- Samuel** wished to notify Council that the day before, his neighbor's water heater broke, destroying his apartment, and big fans have been brought in to dry the wood, and with the big fans going, he couldn't get any sleep, and got into a car accident soon after, and things have been really hard! Duly noted.

2001-08/15

ADJOURNMENT

Brindle/Zwack moved that the meeting be adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Consensus