

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Tuesday November 19, 2002 - 6:00 PM
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

MINUTES (SC 2002-16)

Faculty/Position	Name	6:00	9:00
President	Mike Hudema	✓	✓
VP Academic	Mat Brechtel	x	✓
VP External	Anand Sharma	✓	✓
VP Finance	Steve Smith	✓	✓
VP Student Life	Kail Ross	✓	✓
BoG Undergrad Rep.	Mike Reid	✓	✓
Residence Halls Association	George Slomp	✓	✓
President Athletics			
Agric/Forest/HomeEc	Paul Reikie	✓	✓
Agric/Forest/HomeEc	Teodora Alampi (Locke Girvan)	✓	✓
Arts	Chris Bolivar (Alex Taylor)	✓	✓
Arts	Kyle Kawanami	✓	✓
Arts	James Knull	✓	✓
Arts	Matt Oberhoffner		
Arts	Alexis Pepin	✓	✓
Arts	Laura Roberts	✓	✓
Arts	Vivek Sharma	✓	✓
Arts	Paul Welke	✓	✓

Business	Jamie Kidston	✓	✓
Business	Meena Rajulu	✓	✓
Business	Holly Tomte	✓	✓
Education	Charles Beamish	✓	✓
Education	Daljeet Chhina	✓	✓
Education	Allison Ekdahl	✓	✓
Education	Mandeep Gill	✓	✓
Education	Janet Lo	✓	✓
Engineering	Chris Jones	✓	✓
Engineering	Margaret Laffin	✓	✓
Engineering	Paige Smith	✓	✓
Engineering	Michelle Vigeant	✓	✓
Engineering	David Wepler	✓	✓
Law	Paul Varga	✓	✓
Medicine/Dentistry	Miranda Richardson (Tara Chykolsky)	✓	✓
Medicine/Dentistry	Jeffrey Cao	x	✓
Native Studies	Valerie Knaga	✓	✓
Nursing	Leita Fuhrman	✓	✓
Open Studies			
Open Studies			
Pharmacy	Kurt Greene	✓	✓
Rehabilitation Medicine	Adelaine Wong	✓	✓
Faculté Saint-Jean	Lisa Clyburn	✓	✓
Science	Chamila Adhietty	✓	✓
Science	Kimberly Dary	✓	✓
Science	Katie Grant	✓	✓
Science	Aisha Khatib (Roman Kotovych)	✓	✓
Science			

Science	Chris Samuel	✓	✓
Science	Steven Schendel (Tereza Elyas)	✓	✓
Science	Kimmy Williams	✓	✓
General Manager	Bill Smith	✗	✗
Speaker	Gregory Harlow	✓	✓
Recording Secretary	Helen McGraw	✗	✓

Observers

Nathan Mison (President, Students' Association of Grant McEwan College)

Brett Bergie (VP University Affairs, Brock University Students' Union; Ontario Regional Director, CASA)

Erin Stevenson (Communications Coordinator, CASA)

Josh Morgan (VP Education, University of Western Ontario)

James Kussie (VP Education, University of Manitoba; Chair of Board and Prairie Regional Director, CASA)

Jerred Kubic (VP External, University of Lethbridge; Northwestern Regional Director, CASA)

Melanie Thomas (President, University of Lethbridge)

Shannon Philips (Researcher)

Red Deer College President

Sara Katz (Student-at-Large, External Affairs and Academic Affairs Boards)

Mustafa Hirji

2002-16/1 CALL TO ORDER (6:15)

2002-16/4 SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

Leita Fuhrman was appointed the nursing Councilor for the duration of the 2002-2003 academic term

SMITH/BEAMISH MOVED TO appoint all those present guests of council

2002-16/6 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Standing Order 1 was suspended

JONES/BEAMISH MOVED TO strike items 7a and 7b and create a new item, 14a, to rescind Political Policy National Representation: National Organization of Students.

Sharma: This is dirty politics. We have our national director here today to make a presentation on the matter.

Beamish: We have representatives from CASA here tonight and it is important that we hear from both sides. Councilors have had adequate information before them for a month and tonight is the proper time to debate this.

Smith: A debate on this political policy is not equivalent to a debate on remaining in CASA.

Kawanami: There was an expectation that we would have the debate today as it was published in the Gateway and a good portion of EAB has shown up for the meeting.

Zwack: We already know Mr. Sharma's opinion on CASA; it is important that we take this opportunity to hear both sides of the issue.

Carried

Roll Call

Carried (20/19/4)

SMITH MOVED TO place New Business immediately before Legislation

Carried

HUDEMA MOVED TO add Late Additions 12i and 12j. These are both overdue political policies dealing with tuition.

Carried

OBERHOFFNER MOVED TO strike 14d as there is no time to discuss it.

Carried

HUDEMA MOVED TO MAKE (old) 14abc and 12i, j Special Orders

Carried

Carried

2002-16/14a
Memorandum of
Understanding with
Red Deer College

HUDEMA/SMITH MOVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Students' Union and the Red Deer College Students' Association.

Please see document SC 02-16.11.

RDC President: This is a 7-year-old issue. U of A students at RDC have no representation at that school. As well, they reap the benefits of being RDC students without paying RDC SU fees. We'd like to see the U of A SU enter into a fee-sharing agreement that would address this inequity.

Carried (35/0/4)

**2002-16/14b
Tuition Freeze**

SAMUEL/REIKIE MOVED THAT, upon the recommendation of the Tuition Task Force, recommend to Students' Council to lobby the provincial government and the University of Alberta administration for a funded tuition freeze.

Samuel: These are the recommendations of the tuition task force.

Reikie: A funded tuition freeze means a rollback in real dollars, due to inflation.

Reid: Is this a political policy or just a call for all members to lobby the government?

Withdrawn

**2002-16/14c
Alberta's Tuition
Policy**

SAMUEL/REIKIE MOVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Tuition Task Force, rescinds the Political Policy "Alberta's Tuition Policy".

Please see document SC 02-16.12.

Carried (29/2/5)

**2002-16/12i
Political Policy -
Tuition**

HUDEMA/SAMUEL MOVED THAT Students' Council adopt the proposed Political Policy regarding Tuition, which the Executive Committee considers to be representative of the recommendations of the Tuition Task Force.

Please see document LA 02-16-01

Oberhoffner: Does the quoted \$7.798M cost of the tuition freeze refer only to the U of A or to the total cost of universities in Alberta?

Sharma: This policy addresses only UofA tuition.

Phillips: A tuition freeze at Calgary would also cost about

\$7M

Oberhoffner: We need to consider how much effect this will actually have at the provincial level; the current government will not be receptive to this.

Clyburn: We have been shooting for the same thing for a number of years; why not try something new?

Rajulu: Since the 2003-2004 school year is specifically referred to, will this expire after the tuition decision?

Smith: Next year's executive can amend or rescind the policy as they see fit. Otherwise it will expire in 3 years.

Reikie: I urge council to support this. A tuition freeze is an important goal.

Carried: (34/4/1) (Abstaining: Reid)

2002-16/12j
Political Policy –
Differential Tuition

SHARMA/SLOMP MOVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the External Affairs Board and the Academic Affairs Board, adopt the proposed Political Policy – Differential Tuition.

Please see document LA 02-16.02

Sharma: This has gone through the committee process. AAB and EAB met together for the first time this year and made a number of changes to the policy. It is important for us to have a strong position on differential tuition.

Smith: This policy would leave us with multiple policies on differential tuition. They're consistent and thus not out of order, just redundant.

SAMUEL/WILLIMAS MOVED TO AMEND the third whereas to read "Whereas differential tuition has the potential to alter the balance of fields of occupation within a discipline by directing graduates to pursue well-paid specializations and away from socially necessary though ill-remunerated occupations

Samuel: As far as I know this is the only multi-sentenced whereas in any of our policies; this just puts it all into one coherent sentence.

Carried (28/3/8)

PHILLIPS MOVED TO correct the 7th whereas to read the average debt of Alberta students, rather than University of

Alberta students, as this is a factual error.

Friendly

HUDEMA MOVED TO replace “and” in the BIRT with “any”

Friendly

Carried (36/1/2) (Abstaining: Reid)

2002-16/8

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

SMITH MOVED TO approve the minutes of the 29 October Council meeting

Carried

2002-16/9

REPORTS

2002-16/9a

Mike Hudema, President

Congrats to **Sharma** for his external media campaign. We're forming a group called “Friends of Post-Secondary Education.”

2002-16/9b

Anand Sharma, Vice-President (External)

External media campaign is moving along. Thanks to those councilors who attended. GMCC has recently decided to withdraw from CASA. EAB has been meeting regularly, particularly to discuss CASA issues. A decision on CASA will be made December 3.

2002-16/9c

Steve Smith, Vice-President (Operations and Finance)

The fact that I have no written report for council is possibly the worst thing I've done all year. I promise I'll bring two next time. I've spent much more time than I'd like on tuition and national lobby organizations.

2002-16/9d

Kail Ross, Vice-President (Student Life)

Report provided. Upcoming committee meeting to discuss whether apolitical events on campus should be politicized.

2002-16/9e

Mat Brechtel, Vice President (Academic)

Written report provided. Selection committee for Vice-President Academic and Provost coming up. This is a very important position and councilor input would be appreciated.

- 2002-16/9f **Mike Reid, Undergraduate Board of Governor's Representative**
Parking rate increase passed; I voted against it. Approved construction of new sports facility and Engineering and Natural Resources building.
- 2002-16/9g **Valerie Knaga, School of Native Studies**
The NSA has been non-functional for a while and is just beginning to get back on its feet. White Elephant sale on the 25th and 26th.
- 2002-16/9h **Leita Fuhrman, Nursing**
Food drive on right now
- 2002-16/9i **Paul Reikie, Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics**
I've sent out our faculty's policy on paper wastage. We have six student groups representing different disciplines. Christmas tree sale for Forest Society begins Friday just south of Corbett Hall. Human Ecology Students Association will be holding a fundraiser with a speaker on solar energy Nov. 27th at 7PM.
- 2002-16/9j **External Affairs Board Minutes**

Please see document SC 02-16.01.
- 2002-16/9k **Lisa Clyburn, CASA**

Written report provided
- 2002-16/10 **QUESTION PERIOD**

Kawanami: EAB had recommended that the ads in the External Media Campaign speak to people an individual level; was this recommendation followed? The ads do not seem to appeal to why lay people should care about PSE but instead refer to winning a Pulitzer and becoming a supreme court justice.
Sharma: The campaign has been successful so far and we hope to continue.

Samuel: Has the promised orientation apology letter been sent out?

Ross: Unfortunately, it slipped my mind. I'll send it tomorrow.

Jones: The coordinators are supposed to submit quarterly reports; when can we expect them?

Ross: Next council meeting! (Why not?)

Hirji: the ECOS office recently applied to APIRG for funding; why did we create an office that we can't fund properly?

Hudema: the ECOS office will be submitting a report in January. We fund the director and assistant director but a number of APIRG working groups are funding projects, as are some external groups.

Gill: Did **Sharma** submit a CASA report after the June meeting?

Sharma: I submitted the "Winds are Changing" document but I did not submit a report, as I was preparing a CASA/CFS report for submission to council.

Clyburn: Why has the SU commissioned a survey to Marketing 312 students regarding the creation of an SU magazine?

Ross: We never commissioned such a survey and they misspelled Students' Union (we're not quite that incompetent). I will be speaking to that 312 prof.

Kotovych: When will construction in the basement of SUB be completed?

Smith: Construction will be completed this month and the computer lab will likely open in January.

2002-16/11

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Please see document SC 02-16.02.

2002-16/14

NEW BUSINESS

2002-16/14d

Political Policy –
National
Representation:
National
Organization of
Students

JONES/BEAMISH MOVED TO rescind Political Policy National Representation: National Organization of Students.

Smith: This is a profoundly dumb policy and should be rescinded regardless of ones position on CASA, CFS, Anarchy, etc.

Reid: Our national lobby organization is of a political nature

Students

and it is thus important that we have a policy on it. We should keep this policy until we take a vote on whether to leave CASA.

Hudema: Entering or leaving CASA requires Council approval and entering or leaving CFS requires a campus-wide referendum; a political policy on this issue is entirely unnecessary.

JONES/WELKE MOVED TO amend the motion to read
“JONES/BEAMISH MOVED TO rescind whereas 4 through 7 and the final Be It Further Resolved from Political Policy National representation: National Organization of Students.”
[i.e. the sections dealing with CASA, leaving only the sections dealing with CFS]

SMITH/HUDEMA MOVED TO postpone until DIE board can decide whether this motion is in fact legal.

Smith: This policy is in contravention of our bylaws.

Sharma: I would like to hear DIE board's opinion of the matter.

Hudema: Regardless of DIE board's decision, our membership status in CASA remains the same.

Clyburn: We have people here who have flown in from across the country to be here tonight and it is unfair not to allow them to speak.

Welke: Let's address this issue now!

Hudema: We gave CASA members an opportunity to make a presentation at the beginning of the meeting, but they instead preferred this motion. They were given an opportunity to make their opinions known.

Kawanami: There has been ample time to rescind this Political Policy if it is truly so terrible.

OBERHOFFNER/KNULL MOVED the previous question
Carried

Defeated

Jones: The effect of this motion would be to remove all portions of the document dealing with CASA and retain those dealing with CFS. There are no demonstrable benefits to our membership in CASA and we are not currently satisfied with the representation that the organization provides us; as such, these sections should be removed from the policy.

Reid: I would like to hear some facts from the CASA representatives present about what benefits we may obtain from being in the organization.

Morgan: There are a number of recent CASA successes that have directly benefited U of A students. Lots of efforts to fund indirect costs of research; UofA received significant funds for this last year. Lots of lobbying on Canada student loans. Many UofA students borrow at the maximum allowed. At the lobby conference, key federal policymakers were receptive to our concerns and agreed that CASA has had an important impact on federal policy. CASA helped increase tax-free allowance on scholarship and tax credit for repaying student loans. CASA was instrumental in changing the way in which millennium scholarships were handed out, targeting students in need rather than the 50/50 split between need and academic requirements originally proposed.

Smith: Regardless of one's opinion on CASA, this political policy is garbage and should be rescinded. Nonetheless, a few questions about CASA. How much money was spent by CASA and individual member schools to bring CASA reps here today? If this was an unbudgeted expense, how was it approved? Could this money have been better spent on an external review? 20 minutes of the CASA presentation at GMC last night was spent reading a document that had already given to attendees; is this indicative of CASA's lobbying prowess? The assembly went *in camera* to conduct the debate, so I can't comment on the content of the debate itself.

Clyburn: After my experience at the Lobby Conference, I am not satisfied that the member-driven and pragmatic approach has been working; the statement should thus be removed from the policy.

Kussie: UofA representatives were directly involved in the development of the policies that they now claim to abhor.

Wepler: Has there been a change in the views of UofA reps towards CASA?

Kussie: Yes. Zwack and Samuel were very involved in CASA but this year we felt a profound change in the perspective from UofA. We have dealt with many of the issues brought up by U of A. In my opinion last year's executives extremely out-performed this year's.

Sharma (point of personal privilege): I take offense at the insinuation that I have not done an adequate job in my position. This claim is slanderous and unsubstantiated.

Kuze: Retracts remarks and apologizes.

Kidston: Why did CASA reject the idea of an external review?

Kussie: We have debated and defeated the motion on a number of occasions. Questions included who would pay for the review (possibly costing \$20,0000). There was also a lack of direction for the focus of the review. The motion was only narrowly defeated and can still be returned to the table.

Kotovych: We are abusing POIs as a means of Q and A when a more appropriate course would be to go into informal consideration.

Oberhoffner: How can lobbyists be expected to do their jobs effectively when MPs received documents only on the morning of the conference?

Kussie: All members were well briefed and this wasn't an issue.

SMITH/OBERHOFFNER MOVED TO table the current motion until the next meeting of Council and to allow the members of CASA present the opportunity to give a 15-minute presentation on CASA followed by a 30-minute question-and-answer period and that this presentation be made a special order.

SHARMA MOVED FOR a 5minute recess

Defeated

Carried

KAWANAMI/SAMUEL MOVED TO suspend Standing Order 30

Carried

2002-16/14e

Presentation - CASA

**Presentation -
CASA**

Morgan: We're here to give you the information you want. CASA's board of directors approved a \$3000 expense for us to come here. Many of us are also incurring personal costs and our home schools are absorbing opportunity costs for us to be here. Be aware that the document **Sharma** has provided about CASA and CFS represents one person's opinions about our organizations and is most definitely not an unbiased assessment. CASA, in fact, has been very prominent in national media, in all major newspapers, and on Canada AM. Our press release on the Canadian Newswire was in the top 10 of all press releases in terms of the number of times it was picked up. We have coalitions with a number of

organizations; this information could have been obtained with a simple phone call that your VP External didn't make. The document makes a number of factual errors, including the fact that Ontario schools are opposed to differential tuition. We wish that your VP External had consulted us earlier to allow us to provide you with accurate information, rather than having to deliver it in this manner.

Stevenson: CASA was created specifically to see results at the federal level; we lobby on federal issues exclusively. Tuition freezes are not our jurisdiction, although we do have policies on the issue. Our accomplishments include changing the way millennium scholarship is awarded (now 95% needs based, rather than the 50/50 split between need- and academics-based approach originally proposed). We have helped to extend the interest-relief period and tax relief on student loans. We have also lobbied for Special Opportunities Grants available for people with disabilities, women, etc. whose needs aren't met by the normal student loans system. Increased tax deduction for scholarships (now \$3000 from \$500). Paul Martin has expressed his opposition to including Education in the FTAA as well as a commitment to other PSE issues.

Williams: CASA has a one member, one vote policy. If we have 30,000 students, we pay more but have the same voting power as smaller school, correct? If a small school holds their own vote and a proxy, isn't this wildly disproportionate? How many of your board of directors are bilingual?

Stevenson: One-member-one-vote except for tie votes which are broken by the number of students represented. Size doesn't matter until it **really** matters. Anyone can proxy his or her vote to any other institution. Fees are capped - UofA pays less per student (but more per vote). Two members of the board of directors are bilingual. There are two other staff who are bilingual.

Mison: CASA has been meeting with student councilors over the last few days. Why was no effort made to speak to councilors of GMC? Doesn't this destroy the principle of one-member-one-vote? Does CASA not value large member schools more than smaller ones?

Morgan: A member of UofA set up the meetings.

Zwack: I e-mailed all councilors to try and ensure that individual councilors could meet CASA representatives.

Kussie: This organization has grown very much over recent

years; we won't fall by losing the UofA.

Jones: Given that CASA will continue its lobbying efforts regardless of whether UofA is a member, can't we accrue the same benefits without paying the organization \$50000 per year?

Morgan: I'm sure that a university as prestigious as the UofA would not take a free rider approach to this issue.

Gill: Is it true the UofC and UofS are planning to withdraw from CASA?

Kussie: No.

Ekdahl: What is our annual membership fee?

Morgan: The UofA pays \$26,500 per year, which is the capped membership fee.

Thomas: The membership fee assessment is based upon both number of students and ability to pay.

Sharma (Councilor): We're dealing with the provincial gov't on the tuition debate; would you not recommend us to focus on provincial issues, which unfortunately, CASA can't help us with.

Morgan: CASA works to free up money to be directed to the provinces (earmarked funding) - this is of direct benefit to Alberta students.

Hudema: I asked CASA for letters of support this summer as the U of A was dealing with threats of differential tuition. CFS sent 15 letters of support but no one from CASA responded.

Stevenson: CASA as an organization can't send letters; that's in the hands of individual member schools for whom I can't answer.

Beamish: We've been given the impression that CASA's membership consists largely of smaller schools who tend to vote as a block; is this true?

Stevenson: CASA doesn't have block voting. I can't imagine that this would be an issue if Mr. Sharma had been on the winning side of the vote.

Ross: Time and time again the incompetent lobbying efforts of CASA have reared their ugly head, from the lobbying conference to terrible French translations. AT GMC last night, **Stevenson** admitted that communication is the organization's biggest problem, which is rather problematic for a lobbying group. Should we continue to associate ourselves with an organization that can't get it's shit together?

Stevenson: We hired a professional translator and immediately sent a corrected invitation. We are always

working to improve communication in our organization. Ross's comments are quite exaggerated.

Smith (Councilor): When CASA asks member schools for input to decide its stance and lobbying focus, how does it know that's what member schools truly want?

Thomas: CASA has no way of knowing the feelings of entire student bodies. We can only listen to the representatives you send us and assume that they are adequately representing their constituents and not just expressing their own personal beliefs. The CASA policy committee (on which **Sharma** sits) reviews policies and makes recommendations. I am convinced that many of the policy problems were the result of the individual members present.

Katz: Does CASA claim full credit for the successes claimed in their information package?

Bergie: We don't claim full credit for the policies achieved, but it is inherently difficult to award credit to individual lobby groups. Feedback we've received from government, however, indicates that CASA has had direct effects on federal policy.

Kawanami: Could CASA please speak to the benefits it provides, specifically as opposed to non-affiliation?

Bergie: Lobbying is an important mandate of a Students' Union; as such, CASA allows you to provide fulfill your mandate. I contest the view that individual schools can lobby governments as effectively as a large coalition. Very few schools have a sufficient budget to fund an effective lobbying effort. Elected student leaders are often in power for only one year; an organization like CASA provides permanence and a personal rapport with government officials. CASA staff can also help student politicians acquire lobbying skills necessary for them to do their jobs effectively. CASA also provides research services that simply would not be possible for an individual school to muster.

BEAMISH/GILL MOVED TO extend the Question and Answer period for an additional 10 minutes.

Carried

Samuel: As a 'have' school, we contribute a disproportionate share of our resources to CASA. The UofA is frustrated with its inability to effect change in CASA. Will CASA engage in an external reviews? Will the Winds of Change document be dealt with? How badly will CASA suffer if UofA pulls out?

Thomas: We are greatly confused at the UofA's belief that

their concerns have not been addressed; I personally am of the opinion that the concerns were quite adequately dealt with. The external review was debated extensively and is not a dead issue. I feel that the UofA has a great deal of ability to effect change. As a founding member, UofA's voice and opinions are quite valuable. We would miss the UofA's contributions if they withdrew, but it would not be a lethal blow. A number of policies were passed to address concerns raised in the Winds of Change document.

Sharma: Did OUSA not say at the Le Feuq conference that they did not oppose differential tuition, as it did not necessarily jeopardize accessibility? Do you claim that the ideas of student loan reform and the indirect costs of research were CASA's ideas or would you concede that these items were already on the government's agenda?

Morgan: The individual who made the comments at the Le Feuq conference is no longer with OUSA; in fact these remarks are contrary to our official policy (which is easily found on the OUSA website).

Stevenson: CASA never claimed to have solely accomplished these things but we were an instrumental part of seeing the implementation of these policies.

Phillips: There are many more costs associated with being a CASA member than are reflected in membership fees. For example, the lobby conference has a \$300 registration fee as well as accommodation costs in Ottawa for the week. Researchers in larger member schools usually end up doing much of the research for CASA. Is there any plan to alter the lobbying strategy to make it more cost-effective or to form coalitions with other federal lobby groups?

Kussie: CASA is a member-driven organization; it is up to individual schools to decide how many delegates they send to conferences. Schools have a great deal of discretion in deciding how much money and resources they wish to put into CASA.

Thomas: As a small school, I personally apologize for the research we make you do. Other lobbying groups have told us that they can learn a thing or two from CASA's lobbying strategy.

Kussie: You are a member of CASA; any statement you make about CASA is a statement you make about your organization.

Access Fund Board Fund Board for the remainder of the 2002-2003 year.
Carried (Unanimous)

2002-16/14g BRECHTEL MOVED THAT Students' Council nominate one (1)
Academic Affairs councilor to serve on the Academic Affairs Board for the
Board remainder of the 2002/2003 school year.
Withdrawn

2002-16/17 **ADJOURNMENT** (9:55)