

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 20, 2004 – 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

ATTENDANCE (SC 2003-20)

Faculty/Position	Name	Present/ absent	Vote 1	Vote 2	Vote 3	Vote 4
President	Mat Brechtel	√	x	x		√
VP Academic	Janet Lo	√	√	√		x
VP External	Chris Samuel	√	x	x		√
VP Finance	Tyler Botten	√	√	x		x
VP Student Life	Jadene Mah	√	x	x		√
BoG Undergrad Rep.	Roman Kotovych	√	x	√		x
Residence Halls Association	Kyla Rice	√	-	x		√
U of A Athletics Board Executive Officer	Kevin Petterson	√	√	√		
Agric/Forest/HomeEc	Paul Reike	√	√	x	√	√
Arts	Alex Abboud	√	x		√	x
Arts	Chris Bolivar	√	x		x	√
Arts	Erin Kelly	√	x		x	√
Arts	James Knull	√	x	√	√	√
Arts	Chris Laver	√	√	√	√	
Arts	Terra Melnyk	√	x	√	x	x
Arts	Vivek Sharma	√	√	x	x	√

Arts	Heather Wallace	√	x	x	x	√
Arts	Paul Welke	√	√	x	√	x
Business	Adam Cook	√	x	√	x	x
Business	Steve Smith	√	√	x	x	√
Education	Allison Ekdahl	√	x	√	x	√
Education	Christine Wudarck	√	x	x	x	
Engineering	Josh Bazin	√	√	√		x
Engineering	James Crossman	x				
Engineering	Cole Nychka	x				
Engineering	Paige Smith	√	x	x		
Engineering	David Wepler	√	√	√	√	x
Law	Dean Hutchison	√	√	√	√	x
Medicine/Dentistry	Tony Kwong	x				
Native Studies (School of)	Matthew Wildcat	√	x	x		
Pharmacy	Erica Skopac	√	x	x	√	
Physical Education	Holly Higgins	√	√	√	√	
Rehabilitation Medicine	Sarah Booth	√	√	x	√	
Faculté Saint-Jean	Zita Dube	√	x	x	√	
Science	Matthew Eaton	√	√	x	x	
Science	Tereza Elyas	√	√	x		
Science	Justin Kehoe	√	√	x	√	
Science	Shawna Pandya	√	√		√	
Science	Elaine Poon	√	√			
Science	Duncan Taylor	√	√		√	
General Manager	Bill Smith	x				

Speaker	Gregory Harlow	√				
Recording Secretary	Sarah Kelly	√				

MINUTES (SC 2003-20)

2003-20/1

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m.

2003-20/2

University of Alberta CHEER SONG "Ring Out a Cheer"

Christopher Samuel (Vice-President Academic 2000-2001, President 2001-2002) led Council in the singing of the University of Alberta Cheer Song.

2003-20/3

SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

Abbott has resigned from Council citing scheduling restraints; a Nursing seat is now vacant.

The Speaker congratulated Council on the diversity and richness of the agenda for this meeting; however, owing to its length and the number of motions to be dispatched, he reasserted his right to impose debate restrictions over the course of the meeting.

Samuel moved that **Crossman** be removed from Council. The motion was deemed out of order.

2003-20/3a

Approval of the January 6, 2004 Students' Council minutes.

Bazin/Taylor moved that the minutes of the SC 2003-19 meeting be approved.

Dube, Ekdahl, Taylor and **Brechtel** alerted the Secretary to grammatical errors in the minutes.

In his question to **Brechtel, Welke** noted the Greek community as well as Lister Hall.

Pandya wished to add the following highlighted words to her comments found on p. 5: "I respect **these** individuals"; "Do we want to set **another one** tonight."

Consensus

2003-20/3b

Non Com Chart

Councilors were requested to volunteer their time to the following selection committees:

Information Services: **Sharma**
Student Distress Centre: **Ektahl**

Ombudservice: **Abboud**
 Safewalk: **Taylor**
 Student Group Services: **Bazin**
 Chief Returning Officer: **Eaton**
 Academic Affairs Coordinator: **Pandya**
 Community Relations Coordinator: **Woodark**
 Student Activities Coordinator: **Dube**
 Athletics Campus Promotions Coordinator: **Melnyk**
 ECOS: **Kehoe**
 Speaker/Recording Secretary: **Skopak**
 President's Boards and Committees: **Smith**
 Vice-President Academic's Boards and Committees: **Abboud**
 Vice-President External's Boards and Committees: **Pandya**
 Vice-President Operations and Finance's Boards and Committees:
Higgins
 Vice-President Student Life's Boards and Committees: **Rice**

Dube: Can those councilors running in the upcoming Students' Union general elections serve on nominating committees?

Brechtel: Yes, barring those selecting one's own coordinators. Those seeking seats on committees can also participate in the nominating committees.

2003-20/3c

SMITH/BAZIN MOVED THAT Students' Council adopt the attached ruling on Paul Reikie's appeal of the decision of the Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement Board on the matter of Jones v. Reikie, Harlow, and Students' Council.

Smith introduced the motion.

SCAAB deliberated on this motion for some time, and both **Reikie** and **Jones** are satisfied that the correct legal interpretation was reached, viz the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board has no authority over Students' Council.

Jones moved that the ruling should be amended to strike the second half of the last sentence: *and reinstates the appellant to the position of student councilor for the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics.* (friendly)

SCAAB deliberated for a long time – both Reikie and Jones are satisfied that

Consensus

Welke's and **Jones's** abstentions were noted.

Some debate ensued at this point over whether or not **Reikie** was indeed a councilor. **Jones** noted that the motion which originally reinstated him was out of order.

2003-20/4

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Smith/Brechtel moved that the agenda for the SC 2003-20 meeting be approved.

Smith/Jones moved to add the Late Additions distributed to Council.

Welke requested that item SC 2003-20/11a be made a Special Order.

Lo/Abboud moved that item SC 2003-20/10n be withdrawn.

Samuel/Jones moved that Board and Committee Reports be added to the agenda.

Carried

2003-20/5

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

2003-20/5a

Presentation by the Chief Returning Officer – Chad Moore.

Given all the changes to the general election that will come into effect this year, the Chief Returning Officer had a report prepared detailing the process for voting and balloting. This report was prepared by Marc Dumouchel.

Dumouchel presented the report. One major issue is the integrity of the process; as such, changes made to the counting process were as open as possible to ensure that the risk of fraud is minimized.

The concern of the non-anonymity of the ballots has been raised: at the moment, guaranteeing total anonymity is impossible, but the elections process is moving in that direction. Authentication is necessary to ensure that voters are who they claim to be, and that they are students who are eligible to vote. This process has been very clunky in the past, but ballots must be correct this year *prior* to being counted, owing to the nature of the preferential ballot.

This year there will be a central voters' master list, detailing the name and student identification number of each student eligible to vote. A copy of this list will be kept at every polling station. This will ensure that students cannot vote more than once, online or otherwise. Unfortunately, the process necessarily involves taking identification numbers in order to check multiple votes daily.

When the ballots have all been checked against this list, they will be securely transported to Computing and Network Services (hereafter CNS) so that their data can be scanned. This data in turn goes into a counting program, which will take two to three minutes, after which point victors will be declared.

Moore made Council aware that by this process, it would be impossible for anyone to vote anonymously more than once.

Dumouchel: The reason that the election is not held entirely online is that it remains, as yet, impossible to entirely secure a global online election. The elections staff continues to do its best to avoid unexpected problems.

At this point, the floor was opened for questions.

Smith: Is there a backup plan if this motion is not carried?

Dumouchel: All stations will remain offline and duplicates will be flagged on an ongoing basis.

McLachlan (on behalf of **Bolivar**): Were alternative vendors to CNS explored?

Dumouchel: Two solutions were studied: the first is McGill University's online system, which the elections staff did not feel comfortable with; and Dominion Voting Systems, which was a more expensive version of what CNS offered: the Students' Union was still expected to develop its own system, with limited access to raw data.

Reikie: How accessible is online voting?

Dumouchel: Online voting is available only to those students who are designated by the University as "off-campus", including students on co-op terms and practica. If it were available to everyone, the system would be too open to fraud, creating doubt in particular in the event of a close election. The relatively small group of off-campus students is more manageable.

Eaton: What student password is online voting tied into?

Dumouchel: A custom Personal Identification Number (hereafter PIN) is mailed to those students who are eligible to vote online. This a security feature: smaller number patterns make patterns of abuse more readily apparent.

Cook: How confident will the elections staff be in the numbers generated by this new system?

Dumouchel: There is a 16-point ranking scale used to gauge what will be accepted by the scanners in terms of light and dark marks, and other aberrations. All rejected ballots will be examined, as well as all raw data. This is far more information than was made available by the previous scanning system. The rejected ballots will be considered by hand. This is a far more accurate system than any used before.

Botten: Has Watson Aberant Arnold [the accounting firm previously employed to sort and count ballots for the election] been given notice of the new system? What impact will this have on the Students' Union's relationship to this firm?

Moore: They were informed in December 2003; they wished the Students' Union well with the new system and gave thanks for the notice.

Cook: Is there anyone appointed to audit the result of the election, a service previously provided by these accountants?

Dumouchel: Auditing is done by scrutineers, to whom more information will be made available by this new process. They will be shown sampled of rejected ballots, and generally be more involved in the process.

Moore concluded the presentation by informing Council that the accountants, in previous years, charged twelve thousand (\$12,000) dollars for their services; as well, a Brinks truck was employed to securely transport the ballots. The proposed system will be more efficient, more cost-effective, more accurate, and give the Students' Union and appointed scrutineers a greater measure of control in ensuring the accuracy of the process.

Moore and **Dumouchel** encouraged members of Council to contact them with any further questions they may have.

2003-20/6

QUESTION PERIOD

Cook: The most recent tuition campaign focused more on the University administration and less on outreach. Why was this?

Brechtel: This issue was discussed immediately preceding the failure of the multiyear tuition deal proposal, and a firm line between the internal and the external focus was established.

Kotovych: What is the status of the Internal Review Board's bylaw review?

Brechtel: The IRB began voting on Executive Committee bylaws yesterday. There is another meeting upcoming, and progress is positive.

Rice: There is a large group of students who attend field school during Intersession; University Health Services and the libraries have waived the fees required of these students, but the Students' Union has not. Why is this?

Botten: It seems mightily strange that those students attending field school were not designated as Off-Campus students when the debate regarding off-campus fees took place. The matter will be explored and returned to Council.

2003-20/7

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT (MINUTES)

Brechtel introduced the Executive Committee Report, assuring Council that less money is being spent than the report would have it seem.

Kotovych: What does ACUI stand for?

Brechtel: As of the present day, the answer to this question has not been ascertained. However, ACUI are service providers for students across Canada, the United States, Australia, and English-speaking Europe. This conference would be attended by Students' Union General Manager Bill Smith, to discuss related issues with other managers of student services.

Consensus

2003-20/8

APPROVAL OF STUDENTS' UNION BOARDS AND COMMITTEES REPORTS

2003-20/8a

External Affairs Board Report – the Universal Bus Pass

Samuel made the presentation.

The Universal Bus Pass has been an issue since 1998; many schemes have been considered, and many providers spoken with. The constant problem was coming to an agreement with these providers over what constituted a reasonable price for both sides. The University of British Columbia, the University of Calgary, St. Mary's University, McMaster University, the University of Victoria, the University of Western Ontario, the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT), Dalhousie University, the University of Washington, Guelph University and Trent University (this list is not exhaustive) have universal bus passes, with prices ranging from ninety five (\$95.00) dollars *per* year to eighty (\$80.00) dollars per semester.

Students' Council saw fit to refer this question back to the External Affairs Board (hereafter EAB), and EAB in turn came up with five principles to govern the establishment of the universal bus pass, in the event of an affirmative referendum vote:

1. The vote should be a referendum, rather than a plebiscite, in order for it to be binding, and to take effect as early as September 2004;
2. The fee for the Universal Bus Pass should be approximately sixty (\$60.00) dollars *per* semester;
3. It would be appropriate for an affirmative referendum vote to expire for re-examination after two years;
4. There should be no inclusion of Spring and Summer term fees; and
5. There should be no opt-out clause.

Samuel/Pandya moved that the reports of the Students' Union Boards and Committees be approved.

The penultimate motion, provided for Council's perusal in SC 2003-20's Late Additions package, should read 501, not 500.

Consensus

2003-20/9

OLD BUSINESS

2003-20/9a

BOTTEN/BAZIN MOVED THAT Students' Council approve the Audited Financial Statements for the Students' Union Fiscal Year ending April 20, 2003.

Botten introduced the motion, apologizing for any confusion the motion may have caused, and welcoming questions from Council.

Carried

Smith's abstention was noted.

2003-20/10c

SMITH MOVED THAT Students' Council amend its bylaws consistent with the following principles (first reading/notice of motion):

1. That members of the Executive Committee, the Chief Returning Officer, and Deputy Returning Officers be prohibited from endorsing or volunteering for any candidates or slates;
2. That the C.R.O. be required to announce, at least thirty-five days in advance of any plebiscite or referendum, the date of a meeting for the registration of sides;
3. That the date of the meeting referred to in (2) be not less than seven and not more than twenty-eight days in advance of the plebiscite or referendum in question;
4. That the C.R.O. be required to advertise the meeting and publish the wording of the referendum or plebiscite question in every issue of the Official Student Newspaper between his/her announcement of the meeting and the meeting's occurrence;
5. That candidates designated as joke candidates be given only seventy-two hours to provide a new name to the C.R.O. to avoid being so designated;
6. That regulations regarding the amount and placing campaign materials for referendum sides be made to conform with the regulations regarding campaign materials for candidates; and
7. That slates not be permitted to include more candidates for a given position than can be elected.

Smith introduced the motion.

Smith/Jones moved that this motion be collapsed.

Consensus

Smith moved to add to Principle 1 words to the effect of *Candidates cannot endorse candidates not within their own slates.* (friendly)

Smith moved Principle 8: *If any eligible voter casts more than one ballot, only one ballot will be counted.*

Brechtel moved that this amendment read ... **at most one ballot will be counted.** This was not taken as friendly.

Welke: How is it to be decided which of the ballots would be counted?

Moore: In the case that a student votes both offline and online, the offline ballot will be invalidated. Otherwise, the times of voting will be marked, and the first ballot cast by this student will be counted.

Dube: If a student votes more than once, is it not best to invalidate all of their votes?

Moore: This is quite impossible at the moment.

Samuel: Is it possible to look at penalties for those who vote more than once?

Moore: This would require identifying the students, which would invalidate the integrity of an anonymous election.

Kirkham: Why is it not possible for all students to vote online, rather than only off-campus students?

Moore: What is meant by *online* in this context is that all polling stations will be connected to a network *via* a computer, except for more outlying stations that are more than fifty metres from a network connection, such as those in Medical Sciences or Corbett Hall.

The amendment was adopted as friendly.

Smith moved that Principle 2 be amended to read: *The Chief Returning Officer must hold the meeting for the registration of referendum sides not less than seven and not more than thirty-five days in advance of the referendum.* (friendly)

Smith moved that Principle 3 be amended to read: *that the Chief Returning Officer be required to announce this meeting at least seven days in advance of the meeting.* (friendly)

Smith moved that the word *seventy-two* be struck from Principle 5 and the word *thirty-six* be put in its place. (friendly)

Brechtel/Smith moved that employees of the Students' Union wishing to seek election take a leave of absence for a period beginning with the nomination deadline and ceasing with the conclusion of voting.

Botten/Mah moved to include the words *and all members of Students' Council and its standing committees* to the amendment.

Welke: Is there a mechanism by which members of Students' Council could take a leave of absence for this purpose without adversely affecting their attendance records?

Smith: There is not; however, meetings are traditionally not held during the period from nomination to voting, except in case of emergency. In such a case, the absence of any councilor participating in elections would be noted as a regular absence, counting against his or her record.

Smith spoke against the amendment: in the event of an emergency meeting, the councilors in question would be punished, as well as their constituents.

Dube seconded **Smith's** objection.

Botten: The Executive Committee is elected by the entire student body, and in such an emergency meeting, members of the Executive Committee running in an election would be required to absent themselves as well. Councilors should not be valued above the Executive Committee or any of its members: Council is, *de facto*, rendered impotent by the absence of Executives during election time.

The amendment to the amendment was **carried**.

Dube's and **Welke's** oppositions were noted.

The original amendment was **carried**.

Dube's and **Jones's** oppositions were noted.

Jones/Welke moved that *None of the Above* should be a selection in each round of the preferential ballot.

Brechtel: This particular issue has been discussed before. If the vote on this amendment is different from the other votes that Council has made, a Motion to Reconsider should be leveled. It is foolhardy to tamper with the bylaws in this way when the election itself is so close.

The amendment **failed**.

Jones expressed his agreement with **Brechtel** regarding the bylaws, stating that the entire motion should be opposed, even if it is required for the Chief Returning Officer to ensure the election's functioning properly.

Smith: *... and the motion's success is assured.*

Moore: The irregularities and contradictions in the bylaws that this motion corrects are the reason that the Chief Returning Officer gets taken to the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board with such irritating frequency.

Carried

Jones's opposition was noted.

2003-20/16

ADJOURNMENT

Melnyk/Abboud moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 p.m. with the agenda unfinished.

Carried