

Meeting of the Students' Union Executive Committee
Thursday, September 30, 2002 12:00 pm

1. Call to Order

Executive Vice President Anand SHARMA called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm.

Attendance at Call to Order:

- Anand SHARMA, Vice President (External)
- Mat BRECHTEL, Vice President (Academic)
- Steve SMITH, Vice President (Operations and Finance), Acting Recording Secretary
- Kail ROSS, Vice President (Student Life)

Absent:

- Mike HUDEMA, President
- Bill SMITH, General Manager
- Catherine VAN DE BRAAK, Executive Assistant, Recording Secretary

Observers:

- Christine OSINCHUK, Executive Communications Officer

At this point, ROSS left the meeting.

OSINCHUK: BRECHTEL is wearing nice pants.

SHARMA: I want the same pants, but ten sizes larger.

BRECHTEL: These were only \$40 at Club Monaco, and they're wool. I wear them a minimum of once per week; this could be excessive.

SHARMA: I wear my imitation BRECHTEL pants at least twice a week.

SMITH: I never change out of my pants.

SHARMA: Are BRECHTEL'S pants warm?

BRECHTEL: They're wool.

OSINCHUK: What time is SHARMA leaving for Lethbridge this afternoon?

SHARMA: This has not yet been firmly established.

At this point ROSS returned to the meeting with B. SMITH.

At this point, HUDEMA got off the phone and entered the meeting.

HUDEMA: I call the meeting to order.

SHARMA: I already did.

HUDEMA: What? SHARMA can't call the meeting to order!

S. SMITH: Yes he can. We had quorum and he is the Executive Vice President.

SHARMA: I hear HUDEMA was in an accident.

HUDEMA: I'm fine.

ROSS: It sounds like HUDEMA wants to talk about this.

HUDEMA: Is somebody taking minutes?

ROSS: S. SMITH is.

HUDEMA: What? We banned S. SMITH from ever taking minutes again!

S. SMITH: No formal resolution was ever carried.

2. Approval of the Agenda

ROSS/SHARMA moved to approve the following agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda

3. Approval of the Minutes of the September 26, 2002 meeting
4. Reports
5. Items of Business
 - a) CASA/CFS (Discussion Item)
 - b) Car Pool Registry (Discussion Item)
 - c) CAUS (Discussion Item)
 - d) Green and Gold Conference Budget (Discussion Item)
 - e) Forest Society (Action Item)
 - f) Letter of Clarification (Action Item)
 - g) Corporate Influence (Discussion)
6. Announcements
7. Adjournment

At this point, Executive Policy and Information Officer Shannon PHILLIPS entered the meeting.

B. SMITH: I don't believe we've met.

PHILLIPS: My name is Shannon PHILLIPS and I'm the new E.P.I.O.

S. SMITH: E.P.I.A., E.P.I.O., ghost researchers in Exec. . .

ROSS/SMITH moved to amend the agenda to insert "Kail's rebuttal" as item g, and to renumber appropriately.

SHARMA: It should read "ROSS's over the top rebuttal."

ROSS: "ROSS's justice-seeking rebuttal" would be more appropriate.

Vote on the motion to amend the agenda:

- SHARMA: For
- BRECHTEL: For
- S. SMITH: For
- ROSS: For

Carried: 4/0/0

Vote on the motion to approve the agenda, as amended:

- SHARMA: For
- BRECHTEL: Abstain
- S. SMITH: For
- ROSS: Abstain

Carried: 2/0/2

3. Approval of the Minutes of the September 26, 2002 meeting

S. SMITH/ROSS moved that the minutes of the September 26, 2002 meeting be approved.

ROSS/S.SMITH move to add a comma to "\$20,000."

- SHARMA: For
- BRECHTEL: For
- S. SMITH: For
- ROSS: For

Carried: 4/0/0

S. SMITH/ROSS move to correct the spelling of Kris Fowler's name.

- SHARMA: For
- BRECHTEL: For

- S. SMITH: For
- ROSS: For

Carried: 4/0/0

Vote on the main motion:

- SHARMA: For
- BRECHTEL: Abstain
- S. SMITH: For
- ROSS: Abstain

Carried: 2/0/2

4. Reports

Mike HUDEMA, President

HUDEMA: I have returned from the Sustainable Campus Conference, which was quite good. We're setting up a resource database to allow schools to interact on these matters. The next conference may be in Edmonton. Harvard University was present, and was jealous of our programs, and also jealous of the way we beat them at Foosball.

B. SMITH: Which programs specifically was Harvard jealous of?

SHARMA: B. SMITH talks funny.

B. SMITH rises on a point of personal privilege.

HUDEMA: B. SMITH *does* talk funny. B. SMITH's point is not well-taken. Harvard was jealous of pretty well all of our programs. We'll let University of Alberta President Rod FRASER know about this.

B. SMITH: HUDEMA should use the phrase "internationally and indisputably recognized in the field of environmental sustainability."

HUDEMA: And foosball.

Anand, SHARMA, Vice President (External)

SHARMA: CASA/CFS will be discussed under items of business. CAUS is meeting about a number of issues, which should be productive and yield interesting results. October 15th's Council meeting should be busy from an external standpoint; if at all possible, other members of the Executive Committee should avoid bringing business to this meeting.

S. SMITH: The bylaw recommendations to reflect the Committee for the FARCE's recommendations should be coming then.

SHARMA: Crap.

B. SMITH: SHARMA just gave a remarkably boring report.

SHARMA: Will B. SMITH be giving a report?

B. SMITH: No. I have no desire to bore people.

5. Items of Business

a) CASA/CFS

SHARMA: Seven points of either nine or eleven have been written. S. SMITH will proof read these while I am in Lethbridge for the CAUS meeting. I worked all weekend on this, and have a large amount of extraneous documentation to bring to Council as well.

S. SMITH: Could SHARMA mean “backup documentation,” rather than “extraneous documentation”?

SHARMA: This is likely. Two more points that I will definitely be addressing are policy development and the role of staff in each organization. There has been quite a bit of coverage of this issue by campus media across the country. Erin STEVENSON, CASA Communications Director, has been quoted frequently. I have found her comments unhelpful, as she has been focusing on a few isolated incidents of lobby tactics by CFS, such as throwing macaroni at parliamentarians, and indeed throwing things in general, rather than on the larger picture. I have been sounding out a number of Councilors on this issue, notably Kyle KAWANAMI and Chris JONES.

HUDEMA: But this document will go to Council as an information item at the October 1st meeting?

SHARMA: Potentially.

ROSS: Could SHARMA e-mail it to Council if it’s not ready to go in time for the meeting?

SHARMA: Yes, but S. SMITH would have to edit it first.

PHILLIPS: I could edit it.

HUDEMA: This document must go to Council October 1st.

ROSS: E-mail would work just as well, really, especially since SHARMA will not be at the October 1st meeting.

SHARMA: I would like to see the Executive Committee bring forward a recommendation to Council with the release of this document, making October 1st entirely impractical.

HUDEMA: This should be discussed by Council in advance of the Executive Committee bringing forward a recommendation. SHARMA assured Council that it would be out by the October 1st meeting. It needs to go to Council.

PHILLIPS: The document itself should not be adopted as policy. This paper should be accompanied by a policy. The paper should go to Council as soon as possible, preferably October 1st, to prepare Council for the coming policy. The policy should be in place prior to the CASA lobbying conference which occurs at the end of October; that way, if the recommendation comes forward to pull out, there will be no need to waste money going to the lobby conference.

B. SMITH: It is advisable for us to err on the side of over-communication with Council rather than under-communication.

SHARMA: In fact, the promise was to e-mail the document out prior to the October 1st Council meeting. Councilors want the recommendation to come forward after the lobby conference, and this document will not be ready for the October 1st meeting. Any policy change would need to be brought through the External Affairs Board.

S. SMITH: Bring the document forward as soon as possible without compromising its quality. If this will need to be after October 1st, so be it. Any recommendation should come forward after the lobby conference. As this is a document that we will likely be asking Council to act on rather than adopt as official policy, there should be no need for a change to political policy, except insofar as we may need to rescind the current policy on National Lobbying Organizations, which is a dumb political policy regardless of what position one takes on the issue.

HUDEMA: SHARMA initially planned on having this document done by the September 15th Council meeting, now it's still not done. It needs to go to Council at the October 1st meeting, at which point we can solicit input from Councilors prior to formulating a recommendation.

SHARMA: HUDEMA has been pushing hard to have this document completed, and I appreciate his position. However, it is absolutely crucial that every single fact and statement be entirely accurate and substantiated, and this takes time.

HUDEMA: SHARMA has had four months to do this. The need for time is no longer a valid excuse.

SHARMA: There is a need to think the entire document through very carefully. HUDEMA is welcome to look at the document as it stands now and make recommendations on it. I have not been able to dedicate all of my time to this document, because there are many other issues in the external portfolio that require my attention.

HUDEMA: SHARMA appears to be addressing all of his comments towards me; however, there are a great many people besides me who feel that this document is past due.

SHARMA: It has to be of exceptional quality.

HUDEMA: We have been able to submit documents to the Ministry of Learning in less time than this document has taken. Were these not of top quality?

SHARMA: This is a politically heated issue.

HUDEMA: So were the topics on which we submitted documents to the Ministry of Learning.

b) Carpool registry

HUDEMA: This committee requested that I obtain usage statistics from other schools with online carpool registries, and I have done so. At the University of Waterloo, approximately 10% of the student body uses this service. At the University of British Columbia, the figure is approximately 12%.

B. SMITH: Has there been any word from Students' Union technology consultant Marc DUMOUCHEL on this issue?

HUDEMA: Yes, he made a presentation at a recent meeting of the Executive Committee.

S. SMITH: Did HUDEMA get any information on liability issues, as per my request?

HUDEMA: Not as yet.

BRECHTEL: Is HUDEMA leaning towards using www.carpool.ca, or towards having DUMOUCHEL build our own service?

HUDEMA: The latter, as this way the ongoing cost is minimal, though the startup cost is higher.

B. SMITH: And in addition that would open the door to collaboration with the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology Student Association and the Grant MacEwan College Student Association, which could further reduce costs.

c) CAUS

SHARMA: Nothing to discuss here. This should probably not have been on the agenda.

d) Green and Gold Conference Budget

SHARMA: What is going on with this? Councilors are becoming concerned.

HUDEMA: Senior Manager of Student Services Dale COFFIN is compiling the budget, and we will have it to Councilors as soon as possible.

e) Forest Society

S. SMITH: Are there any thoughts on the proposed Memorandum of Understanding?

BRECHTEL: Looks good.

ROSS: Agreed. S. SMITH is a god.

HUDEMA: Is there any record of a "soft agreement" existing?

OSINCHUK: Does B. SMITH remember anything about this?

B. SMITH: No, but it may not have gone through the Executive Committee.

S. SMITH: Former Vice President (Operations and Finance) Gregory HARLOW recalls telling representatives from the Forest Society that he was comfortable giving them the loan provided that they took steps towards becoming self-sufficient within the decade.

S. SMITH/ROSS moved that the Executive Committee recommend to Students' Council that it approve the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Students' Union and the Forest Society.

ROSS: The Memorandum should be amended to specify that they must put the money in a GIC rather than a Mutual Fund, where it could (and has) lose money.

BRECHTEL: This is not our place. As long as they are cut off at the end of the decade, we don't need to tell them how to become self-sufficient.

- SHARMA: For
- BRECHTEL: For
- S. SMITH: For
- ROSS: For

Carried: 4/0/0

f) Letter of clarification

S. SMITH: What changes, specifically, did HUDEMA make to my draft?

HUDEMA: Lots.

ROSS: I like HUDEMA's version.

BRECHTEL: I prefer S. SMITH's.

S. SMITH: I'm fairly indifferent. However, something needs to go to Council, since Council required this of us.

SHARMA: Oh crap!

HUDEMA: My version reads: "Dear Orientation staff and volunteers, We assume that you are all familiar with the events that transpired at the President's Address on September 3rd, 2002. We would like to take this opportunity to clarify with you our reasons for doing what we did. First of all, Kail and Mike do wish that they had included more of a welcome to students. However, the core of our message was that there are a great many things about which students should be concerned about the way their University is operating, and we do not regret delivering this message. To those who say that this was not the appropriate venue for such a message, we question who determines the appropriateness of the venue. We would also like to say that

tuition increases are a reality to students before they come to campus, and talking about them and the fact tuition is students' number one concern (undergraduate fall survey) is not inappropriate. In fact, we would argue that it would be inappropriate not to. The speech is also an introduction to students' new Executive Committee; whether they like it or not their new Executive Committee is political, and will not take a passive role while students are turned away. To those who would accuse us of taking advantage of a captive audience to convey our concerns, we respond by saying expressing our belief that University students are intelligent enough to draw their own opinions from facts presented to them, and that by pretending that all was well we would have been insulting this intelligence. We appreciate that Orientation can only come about with the insanely hard work of a few dedicated staff and an army of enthusiastic volunteers, and we thank you for being those people. If any of you felt that our actions devalued your Orientation experience, we do apologize for that. But we do not apologize for telling new students what we did or the way in which we did it."

SHARMA: It's fine, except that it has to go to Council. Council won't like it, and will rip it apart.

OSINCHUK: It really can't get much softer while still getting our message across.

BRECHTEL: The last sentence should be deleted, to end on a positive note.

SHARMA: I agree with the whole thing, but it won't get through Council. Council wanted something more conciliatory.

ROSS: Before we judge what Council wanted, we should remember that had the question been called at the right time in Council, the motion moved by Councilor Chris BOLIVAR and seconded by Councilor Kyle KAWANAMI would have been resoundingly defeated.

S. SMITH/ROSS moved that Executive Committee recommend to Students' Council that it accept the letter of clarification drafted by the Executive Committee and that it direct the Executive Committee to send it to the appropriate recipients.

BRECHTEL/SHARMA moved to strike the last sentence of the letter.

BRECHTEL: This is a stylistic change that does not change the core of the message.

HUDEMA: This amendment is a bad one; it's important that we make it clear that this letter is not an apology for what we said or how we said it.

B. SMITH: What about a reversal of the last two sentences?

S. SMITH/BRECHTEL: moved to amend the proposed amendment to reverse the last two sentences instead of striking the last one.

- SHARMA: For
- BRECHTEL: For
- S. SMITH: For
- ROSS: For

Carried: 4/0/0

B. SMITH: The Executive Committee can do this if it feels that Council will be more receptive to this.

S. SMITH: If Council doesn't like the letter, it is free to refrain from directing us to send it. By submitting this to Council, we would be in compliance with the original motion.

HUDEMA: This amendment waters down the letter unnecessarily.

Vote on the amendment:

- SHARMA: For
- BRECHTEL: For
- S. SMITH: For
- ROSS: Opposed

Carried: 3/1/0

ROSS: This amendment was just carried by a bunch of stupid goddamned people with nothing to do with Orientation.

Vote on the main motion, as amended:

- SHARMA: For
- BRECHTEL: Abstain
- S. SMITH: For
- ROSS: For

Carried: 3/0/1

S. SMITH: Why did BRECHTEL abstain?

BRECHTEL: Because I still don't like the letter, even as amended.

S. SMITH: BRECHTEL should see a proctologist about that fence post in his ass.

g) Kail's rebuttal

ROSS: Unlike BRECHTEL, I am not a yes man. Unlike BRECHTEL, I will not water down the core of my message to make it more palatable to outside parties. Unlike BRECHTEL, I hold true to what I believe is right.

HUDEMA: What opinion piece is this being written in response to.

ROSS: The piece by Ron GRAHAM about the residential property tax levy on University residences.

B. SMITH: Is this the Ron GRAHAM who was on the University of Alberta Board of Governors last year?

ROSS: No, GRAHAM is a two bit mediast with the Edmonton Sun.

S. SMITH: While ROSS is free to be as vitriolic as he pleases in his personal correspondence with GRAHAM, a freedom which I know he has exercised to its maximum extent, this letter should be gentler since it is directed more towards the public than towards GRAHAM.

OSINCHUK: ROSS and I should sit down and edit this.

ROSS: As long as "tripe," "rhetoric," "aplomb," and "gumshoeing" remain.

SHARMA: From an external relations standpoint, this is disastrous, even though it's accurate.

OSINCHUK: I am prepared to make the editions, or we could leave these to ROSS.

ROSS: "Gust of bravado" and "care to reconsider your argument now, Ron?" must also stay.

B. SMITH: A very wise man once created the ultimate rebuttal: "Dear Sir, F*** you. Nasty letter to follow."

S. SMITH: That was the general thrust of my letter to the Graduate Students' Association regarding Dewey's.

h) Corporations

HUDEMA: We need a policy on corporate influence on education. BRECHTEL was supposed to write this.

BRECHTEL: I have done so. The Academic Affairs Board will examine it.

HUDEMA: Also, we need one on research.

PHILLIPS: We do have a policy reading “WHEREAS the business community is an important component of the community, and; WHEREAS the contributions that the business community makes to post-secondary education are greatly appreciated; WHEREAS the business community benefits from what the University has to offer, such as research, post-secondary graduates, university facilities and resources and on-going activities that would not be otherwise provided by private enterprise; WHEREAS the quality of education at the University of Alberta is suffering due to a lack of financial resources, and; WHEREAS contributions from the private sector help alleviate the financial strains being experienced at the University of Alberta; BE IT RESOLVED that the Students’ Union actively pursue funds and support for the benefit of students of the University of Alberta from members of the business community, and encourage the University to do the same; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Students’ Union emphasize the importance that grants and capital donations be received from the business community in the form of unrestricted funding; AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these grants and capital donations are to be used to supplement, and not replace, funding from provincial and federal governments.” The Executive Committee should have a look at this.

SHARMA moved to go *in camera*. There was no second.

SHARMA: The External Affairs Board expressed some support for this policy, which surprised me. Any change would have to come from the Executive Committee, as the External Affairs Board seemed satisfied with it as is.

S. SMITH: Is SHARMA undercutting his own board?

SHARMA: The External Affairs Board doesn’t read minutes from Executive Committee meetings, so I feel comfortable saying this.

ROSS moved to adjourn. There was no second.

HUDEMA: Does PHILLIPS have any thoughts on tied research funding?

PHILLIPS: This appears to be dealt with in the present policy.

B. SMITH: Are there any differences on tied research indirect costs vs. indirect costs of research in general in our political policies. I rather suspect not.

HUDEMA: B. SMITH is correct.

BRECHTEL: Not entirely; there are some distinctions made, but not enough.

SHARMA/SMITH moved to add two discussion items of business to the agenda, Chief Returning Officer and Revolutionary Speakers Series.

- SHARMA: For
- BRECHTEL: For
- S. SMITH: For
- ROSS: For

Carried: 4/0/0

i) Chief Returning Officer

SHARMA: It’s September 30th. Why do we still have no Chief Returning Officer?

HUDEMA: Former Students' Union President Chris SAMUEL has not been helpful and has only provided one date on which he is available. Former Chief Returning Officer Alex RAGEN is not returning most correspondence. This leaves only myself and former Student Councilor Helen MCGRAW, when Council mandated a quorum of three.

SHARMA: RAGEN has been in the office. How is this possible if he has been difficult to get hold of?

HUDEMA: Yes, but neither MCGRAW nor SAMUEL was available when RAGEN was, and RAGEN has not responded to subsequent attempts to contact him.

SHARMA: This is very problematic.

HUDEMA: It is, and I would like some guidance on how to deal with the situation.

ROSS: It has been no lack of effort on our part that has caused this problem. Council has told us what to do, and all we can do is continue trying our hardest to comply with this.

HUDEMA: Even on the committee, opinions seem to be fairly evenly split. I'm not certain that the committee will even be able to generate a majority recommendation.

S. SMITH: Are we comfortable bringing forth a motion that would take a different course of action, superseding Council's original directive?

ROSS/SHARMA moved that the Executive Committee move *in camera*.

ROSS: This is a personnel matter of a sensitive nature.

- SHARMA: For
- BRECHTEL: For
- S. SMITH: For
- ROSS: For

Carried: 4/0/0

In camera business

ROSS/S. SMITH moved that the Executive Committee move *ex camera*.

- SHARMA: For
- BRECHTEL: For
- S. SMITH: For
- ROSS: For

Carried: 4/0/0

j) Revolutionary Speakers Series

SHARMA: How is this being financed?

HUDEMA: Among other things, we're approaching the Grant MacEwan College Students' Association with a request for \$10,000.

S. SMITH: If they want the treatment afforded to the Alberta Public Interest Research Group during the Green and Gold Conference, they have to put up the same kind of money that APIRG did.

ROSS: Will we have the revenue to offset this donation?

HUDEMA: Likely. Where we don't, it will be covered by already budgeted amounts.

BRECHTEL: Are we bringing in Alan Tupper and Tom Pocklington?

HUDEMA: Hopefully, but this will be part of a debate series, not the Revolutionary Speakers Series.

SHARMA: There may be a motion coming forward in Council to hold a counter-revolution.

HUDEMA: This is hilarious.

SHARMA: Also, just so HUDEMA is advised, I too will be seeking a grant from Grant MacEwan College S.A.

S. SMITH: What is the greatest single honorarium in the series?

HUDEMA: \$10,000 for David Suzuki.

ROSS: By “grant” does SHARMA mean “free money”?

SHARMA: No, as GMCSA will want naming rights if they give us a grant.

BRECHTEL: GMCSA will be hosting some people from the Millennium Scholarship Foundation. Do we want to be represented there?

SHARMA: As upset as we presently are with the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, somebody should be there. It should be BRECHTEL.

BRECHTEL: I will attend if S. SMITH does.

S. SMITH: No.

ROSS: We don't need a buddy system; this isn't Safewalk.

6. Announcements

As usual, there were none.

7. Adjournment

ROSS/S. SMITH moved that the Executive Committee adjourn at 13:26.

- SHARMA: For
- BRECHTEL: For
- S. SMITH: For
- ROSS: For

Carried: 4/0/0