Meeting of the Students’ Union Executive Committee  
March 28, 2003

Attendance  
Mike HUDEMA, President, Chair  
Mat BRECHTEL, Vice President (Academic)  
Steve SMITH, Vice President (Operations and Finance), Acting Recording Secretary  
Kail ROSS, Vice President (Student Life)  
Bill SMITH, General Manager

Absent  
Anand SHARMA, Vice President (External)  
Catherine VAN DE BRAAK, Executive Assistant to the President

1. Call to Order  
The meeting was called to order by HUDEMA at 11:41

2. Approval of the Agenda  
HUDEMA/BRECHTEL MOVED THAT an Agenda consisting of a single discussion item, “ECOS Associate Director,” be approved.  
   - HUDEMA: For  
   - BRECHTEL: For  
   - S. SMITH: For  
   - ROSS: Opposed  
Carried: 3/1/0

3. Approval of the Minutes  
There were no minutes to approve at the time of this meeting.

4. Reports  
   (a) Report of the President  
HUDEMA: Nothing to report.  
   (b) Report of the Vice President (External)  
SHARMA is absent.  
   (c) Report of the Vice President (Academic)  
BRECHTEL: Pharmacy will be proposing differential tuition for the 2004-2005 year. Woohoo!  
   (d) Report of the Vice President (Operations and Finance)  
SMITH: A conference call among the plaintiff schools in the Travel CUTS lawsuit will be taking place within a week.  
   (e) Report of the Vice President (Student Life)  
ROSS: The Student Activities Co-ordinator section of the Nominating Committee has selected whose name will go forward to fill the position of Student Activities Co-ordinator in the coming year.  
   (f) Report of the General Manager  
B.SMITH: S. SMITH stole my report.
5. Discussion Period

(a) ECOS Associate Director

HUDEMA: The Environmental Co-ordination Office of Students needs an Associate Director, and the proposal being brought forward to Students’ Council to eliminate it is a bad idea. Current ECOS Director Geneva RAE agrees with this sentiment, since most of her time is spent setting up of the service and performing administrative functions, leaving little time for actual administration of programs.

ROSS: The service is almost a year old – what remains to be set up?

HUDEMA: New projects are being created all of the time. RAE sent me a letter expressing her concerns with the proposal.

B. SMITH: To whom is this letter addressed?

HUDEMA: It is not addressed to anybody, but it was sent to me. I believe that RAE’s intent was for me to share it with the Executive Committee and with Students’ Council.

BRECHTEL: What are the sentiments of Senior Manager of Student Service Dale COFFIN on this proposal?

HUDEMA: That due to the newness of the service and budget constraints, and Associate Director is not justifiable. I disagree with this line of reasoning, since if ECOS is going to even survive at its present level, it will require an Associate Director.

S. SMITH: COFFIN’s position is that in an ideal world, an Associate Director would be desirable, but that since ECOS is an unproven service it shouldn’t be requesting a lot of new money for the coming year. Given that this is a decision to be made by Students’ Council, what is the point of this meeting?

HUDEMA: I wish to see how other members of the Executive Committee. I think that the money can be found, and I think that it’s important that it be found so that ECOS doesn’t grind to a halt in the coming year.

B. SMITH: The appropriate mechanism by which this should come forward is as an additional request in the budget process.

S. SMITH: I disagree; Students’ Council’s purpose in including Director positions and salaries in bylaw is to ensure that these expenditures are made regardless of how the budget process goes; they are meant to supersede the budget process.

BRECHTEL: The best approach would be to remove it from the bylaws, then conduct the budget process, and then, if money exists, put it back in the bylaw.

S. SMITH: I disagree; budgets are meant to be driven by bylaws, not the other way around. We should see if Council genuinely views this as a priority; if it does, we will find money for it in the budget.

ROSS: We should view this as a “baby-step” process; ECOS has become established, it will become more established next year, and will eventually reach a point at which it can request more funding.

HUDEMA: When we set up ECOS, it was to one staff member working 20 hours per week and another working 10 hours per week. It has worked out so that it has actually been one staff member working 30 hours per week and one working 20 hours per week, though they were still only paid to work 20 hours and 10 hours respectively. This arrangement has worked and must be maintained. Much of what ECOS Associate
Director Dwayne WOHGLEMUTH does is project-oriented, while RAE’s work is mostly administrative. To eliminate the Associate Director position would cut a leg off of the service.
ROSS: Much of what WOHGLEMUTH does is the sort of work that would interest volunteers anyway.
HUDEMA: ROSS is correct. Unfortunately, while volunteers have a great deal of enthusiasm, they lack the time and resources of paid staff. The office simply would not work without an Associate Director.
B. SMITH: When we first started ECOS, we wanted to ensure two things: that volunteers were an integral part of the process, and that we recognized that this was not a good year during which to be taking on a lot of ongoing costs.

6. Old Business
There was no old business.

7. New Business
There was no new business.

8. Announcements
There were no announcements.

9. Adjournment
SMITH/ROSS MOVED THAT the Executive Committee adjourn at 11:58.
   - HUDEMA: For
   - BRECHTEL: For
   - S. SMITH: For
   - ROSS: For
Carried: 4/0/0