Policy Committee

Date: June 11, 2013  
Time: 6:00PM  
Location: TBD

1. Approval of the Agenda

2. Approval of the Minutes  
(Please review last meeting’s minutes)

3. Chair’s Announcements  
a. Check in  
b. Minute taking

4. Presentations  
A basic introduction of each executive’s goals for the year  
a. VP Student Life  
b. VP Academics  
c. VP External

5. Executive Committee Reports  
Written/Oral Reports  
a. VP Student Life  
b. VP Academics  
c. VP External

6. Question Period

7. Old Business  
a. (PAD) Policy Authority Delegation: Brief discussion  
(See attachment)  
b. Fall Reading Week Policy  
   Making necessary adjustments to move into second reading  
c. Goals setting activity  
( Please be prepared to provide one goal you would like the Policy Committee to achieve)
8. New Business
   a. SU Political Policies
      Review political policies, set a timeline to tackle each policy based on order of priority
   b. Presentations
      (Please take a look at our political policy manual and be prepared to share which ones interest you most)

9. Discussion
   (If you have an item to discuss, please be prepared to open discussion and bring it to the table)

10. Confirmation of Next Meeting Date
    Next meeting is scheduled for June 25th 2013 at 6:00 pm
    (Please be prepared to confirm your schedule and/or provide justification for amending this time/date)
ATTACHMENTS:

_____/____ move that, upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, Students’ Council adopt/amend the Fall Reading Week Policy in first reading based on the following principles:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students’ Union will advocate through University Governance for the creation of a Fall Reading Week.

Expires April 30th, 2015

VI. FALL READING WEEK

WHEREAS student mental health is a growing concern in the post-secondary education system;

WHEREAS a Fall Reading Week will create an opportunity to provide academic, wellness and social programming;

WHEREAS the benefits of a fall break will be optimized by providing students with a full week off from classes; and

WHEREAS a fall reading week that coincides with Remembrance Day holiday is preferable given the constraints on the academic schedule.

WHEREAS the academic schedule will permit a four-calendar day study break at the end of Fall term in the vast majority of academic years.

WHEREAS the Students’ Union will advocate through University Governance for the creation of a Fall Reading Week such that:

1. A full week without instruction will take place concurrent with the Remembrance Day holiday;

2. Instruction in the Fall Term will commence, when possible, on the Tuesday following Labour Day; and

3. The study break at the end of each Fall Term, excluding consolidated examinations, will be reduced from four to three calendar days.

Rationale for change:

This policy was initially created to provide clarity and direction for the SU Executive on which scenario to choose for advocating to the University. Much time was being spent considering which option may be most favourable for students, so a political policy effectively ensured only one option was pursued.
Since its initial adoption, two amendments have already been required to adapt to feedback and sensitivity from members of the University community.

At this point, the Executive prefers a more collaborative, flexible approach to Fall Reading Week advocacy. This will facilitate more open conversations with the University, particularly the Provost’s Office and Deans, in the hopes that a solution will be arrived at for implementation in Fall, 2014.