Policy Committee

Date: June 25, 2013
Time: 6:00PM
Location: SUB 2-725

1. Approval of the Agenda

2. Approval of the Minutes
   (See attached minutes from June 11th)

3. Chair's Announcements

4. Presentations
   a. Goal Presentations
      (Executives are to present on all goals relevant to the mandate of the policy committee by June 30th)
   b. Quality Instruction Policy
      (Presentation from Dustin, Dylan and Natalia)

5. Executive Committee Reports
   Written/Oral Reports
   a. VP Student Life
      (See attached report)
   b. VP Academics
   c. VP External
      (See attached)

6. Question Period

7. Old Business
   a. Discuss and assign Policy Task Forces
      (See attached spreadsheet for form results)

8. New Business
a. PSLA Task Force
   (See attached document from VP External)

b. Policy Review: Quality Instruction
   (Please be prepared to discuss your goals for the year, and establish goals as a committee)

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 **July 9th, 2013 at 6:00 pm**
   (Please be prepared to confirm your schedule and/or provide justification for amending this time/date)
Date: June 11th, 2013  Time: 6.04 pm

In Attendance:
Kareema Batal (Chair)
Braiden Redman
Adam Woods
Dylan Hanwell
Dustin Chelen
Colin Champagne

Excused Absence:
Natalia Binczyk
William Lau

Others in Attendance:
N/A

1. CALL TO ORDER:
The meeting was called to order by Kareema at 6.04 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
Kareema motioned to approve the agenda
Braiden approved the agenda, seconded by Dylan

3. APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES:
Amendments made to past meeting minutes
Adam moved to approve the amendments to the minutes, seconded by Braiden

Vote on motion
6/0/0
4. CHAIR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS  
   a. Round table check in with everyone  
   b. As mentioned at Council, we have a shortage of minute takers. We will have to rely on each other and team work to take minutes every meeting  
   Kareema will compile them into a report

5. PRESENTATIONS  
   Adam sent his report regarding his initial thoughts on his assigned political policies  
   Adam: please go through my report, there are things in the policies that I would like to look at, potential holes

6. EXECUTIVE REPORTS  
   Dustin – provided an oral report. He met w/ director of URI about strategic planning and budget issues, and w/ director of bridging programs. Currently working on policy implementation plan. He received training on gov processes and authority of financial aid – who is responsible? – University should take on more responsibility. He talked to provost about budget cuts, and had a meeting w/center for teaching and learning.

   Adam – In the long term planning phase with other university leaders. The goal is to get the ball rolling province-wide, prepping communications for when everyone is ready to go with goals and execs in, booking lobby meetings for the fall, find MLAs at barbeques because session is out, PC’s events

6. QUESTION PERIOD  
   Kareema – (to VPX) do you have a timeline for setting these goals?  
   Adam – SA’s should be in agreement before the end of summer, sitting with AGC and ASEC about PSLA and such, also to think about municipal election and new people to lobby especially for mayor, it is difficult to create based on others who won’t say a timeline  
   Braiden (to VPA) – when will the GFC taskforce be done?  
   Dustin - Will be done sometime in October and will be public  
   Dylan (to VPA) – who will be responsible for appointing the GFC student rep?  
   Dustin - Depends on lots of things. Who do you think should appoint the student? And, from which student pool: (Council) to any students, GFC, council? (the same way you choose a speaker?)

7. OLD BUSINESS  
   a. PAD – We think it is best to engage councilors and not just executives. Dustin– we could be able to divide and conquer with giving different tasks and policies to different members, this could lead to a higher level of productivity  
   Adam – I disagree, I would like to work a policy through all of the different stakeholders first and then bring it to policy and let everyone critique it and poke holes in it to make it better  
   Dustin – I think that non-exec should direct the review of these renewed
policies
Adam – disagree, I think execs know best
Braiden - a task force for each policy that will consist of the assigned executive and councilors. Kareema will send out a form for councilors to choose the policies they are interested in.
General agreement
b. FRW Policy
Dustin/Adam move to amend the Fall Reading Week Policy in second reading
Vote
6/0/0
CARRIED
Dustin/Adam – move that Students' Council approve the Fall Reading Week Policy in second reading, based on the following principles:
The Students' Union will advocate for the creation of a Fall Reading Week that does not specify a particular implementation structure

c. goal setting - the group feels that we don’t necessarily have to have concrete goals, rather it will be important to really put an effort into understanding what we are working with and have ongoing reflection on our progress. This will further be enhanced by policy task forces

8. NEW BUSINESS
a. SU Political Policies - see previous discussion on task forces
b. Kareema suggested that member(s) of the task forces provide background information to the rest of the committee when discussing that particular policy.
General agreement

9. DISCUSSION
No discussion items presented

10. NEXT MEETING
June 28, 2013 at 6.00 pm.

11. ADJOURNMENT
Meeting is adjourned by Dylan and Braiden at 7:02
Vote
6/0/0
CARRIED
### Motions

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 11th, 2013</td>
<td>6:04 pm</td>
<td><strong>1.</strong> Braiden moved to approved the agenda, seconded by Dylan</td>
<td>CARRIED 6/0/0</td>
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<td><strong>2.</strong> Adam moved to approve the amendments to the minutes, seconded by Braiden</td>
<td>CARRIED 6/0/0</td>
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<td><strong>3.</strong> Dustin/Adam move to amend the Fall Reading Week Policy in second reading</td>
<td>CARRIED 6/0/0</td>
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<td><strong>4.</strong> Braiden/Dylan moved to adjourn the meeting.</td>
<td>CARRIED 6/0/0</td>
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June 25th, 2013
To: University of Alberta Students’ Council
Policy Committee 2013/2014 Re: Executive Report of the Student Life’s Delegated Policies

Affordable Housing
I will be attending a Residence Budget Advisory Committee (RBAC) meeting with Petros on Tuesday afternoon, where we will be looking at (and fighting) rent changes in residences.

Capital Projects
N/A

Engagement
I have been trying to support initiatives that are brought up to me however possible. Several immediate examples are Shinerama, “Who is the Rooster?”, Terry’s CAUSE on Campus, and creating opportunities to engage Campus Saint Jean and Augustana.

- Shinerama – Hope to connect with Greek Community to increase reach in community
- “Who is the Rooster?” – Hope to connect with Clubs Fair to increase registration for their augmented reality game in week 2 of September. The game aims to educate incoming students about high risk behaviours.
- Terry’s CAUSE on Campus – Connecting with MacEwan University to support a “Try-athlon” on their campus. Will be inviting groups on campus to register for their event if successful.
- CSJ & Augustana – UASU Exec will be going to both campuses to run BBQs in September. Both campuses will be invited to main campus to attend a Golden Bears Hockey Game and possibly IFC’s Toga Party if they are coordinated to be the same night.

Another opportunity I am creating for engagement is arranging office space for the Student Health Committee in the ECHA Student Commons. This is an effort to connect the Health Sciences disciplines to initiatives.
that are occurring around campus in hopes to increase collaboration as they reveal common goals. I have also been pushing the UASU Mobile App in hopes to better connect the community.
Food

I want food trucks during Week of Welcome. Haha, besides that, the opening of the new coffee/smoothie venue in SUB may allow for some leeway in menu and product development. Nutrition labeling will be an ongoing discussion, as Jerry (Senior Manager of Food Services) is already working on it.

Health and Wellness

I am working with a plethora of other organizations on campus to set criteria and the visual identity for a new Wellness initiative on campus, which encompasses seed funding for staff/student projects that aim to improve the campus community. President Kusmu and I have also been working with Alcohol Policy relating to residences and are aiming to reverse the changes last summer that banned alcohol consumption in common/public spaces in residence. Oh, and I replaced my chair with a yoga ball – it’s a lot of fun.

Internationalization

Vice-President Chelen and I are looking at enhancing the Bridging Program at University of Alberta International. We hope to build a Mentorship Program for first year international students to increase cultural exchange and better transition them to the U of A community.

Public Transit

Dentistry students have shown interest in a Spring/Summer U-Pass. Although referendum was passed, their program was "skipped" because their courses are registered as Winter classes in January, but extend into the Spring/Summer months without registration in May. The Dentistry Students’ Association (DSA) has their retreat this weekend and will notify us whether or not they will run a referendum in September/October for a Spring/Summer U-Pass starting Spring 2014. Implementation of Smartcard technology is planned for 2016, and Strathcona County are bringing a lot of double decker busses.

Smoke Free Environment

I have consulted the Cardiovascular Health Initiative (former Smoke-Free Campus Initiative) regarding this policy, and am currently in touch with Health Promotion and Worklife Services
(HPAWS) to assess the designated smoking areas on campus, marked by cigarette disposal receptacles. I hope to ensure that receptacles are placed in low traffic areas.

**Sustainability**

I've been using reusable Tupperware to eat my lunch. On the topic of economic sustainability, conversations with SFAIC and SGS about granting and awards are ongoing.

Cheers,
June 20th, 2013

To: Policy Committee

Re: Report to Policy (for June 24 meeting)

Hello Policy,

This report will be incredibly brief, as I do not have many policy-based updates to make.

First of all as many of you may now know, we have an item on the agenda today to create a taskforce mandated to review the Post Secondary Learning Act (PSLA). Evidently this will be of the upmost importance given the Minister of Advanced Education and Enterprises assurances that the PSLA will be reviewed in the near future.

There a number of reasons I feel this task force is relevant and important. The first reason is that it adds legitimacy to requests that at some point in time the government will consider trivial. Rather than just me going up to politicians and saying “I believe these changes should be made”, having a formal document with the conclusions of a “task force” provides is much more convincing. Rather than it appearing as though I’m presenting my own personal opinion about what should be changed, it shows that this is truly what the U of A students want, and that I am merely the voice communicating these asks.

Secondly, it doesn’t just make our findings “look” more legitimate; it very much increases their legitimacy. I have read the PSLA far more times than I’d like to admit, which gives me a biased perspective. I already understand the act, however having new ideas and perspectives added to the mix, stemming from individuals who have never reviewed the Act in great detail is exactly what we should be doing. Undoubtedly this task force will find issues I’ve never even thought of given the level of critical thinking that will be in the room. We should be ensuring that this Act makes sense to the average student, and that its rules make sense to students. That is the ultimate level of legitimacy.

Finally, it gives great weight when talking about these points to the government. To be able to walk into a lobby meeting and say that “these findings come from Albertans, these findings come from students, and these finding ultimately come from individuals who were elected to represent these students” is a very powerful argument. I will also be able to bring these findings to other provincial lobby groups and SU’s in order to compare notes and hopefully create joint asks. I hope I have adequately explained my reasoning for this task force, and look forward to any questions you may have.

Finally, I will briefly touch upon the policies that many of you and I will be working on over the next few weeks; Internationalization and Scholarships and Bursaries. Both of these policies will require a fair amount of work and research in order to maximize their potential. I feel that Internationalization requires much more detail directed at specific policy asks, outlining exactly what we feel the government should be doing to help International students.

Scholarship and Bursaries meanwhile I feel should be split into two respective policies. This is due to government attitudes towards student aid recently. While our government provides the highest scholarship funding in the country, its non-repayable aid funding is now among the lowest. Government often considers these two categories to be the same thing, which they are absolutely not. In reflecting our attitude that these two areas should be considered separate, I feel they each deserve their own policy.

Should any of you be interested in any of this, or have ideas as to how they can be improved, feel free to email or phone me and we can talk about it. Some of you will be assigned to assist with
these policies, and I greatly look forward to your assistance in developing these polices.

Thanks for reading my report, and feel free to ask any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time,

Adam Woods
Vice President External 2013-2014 | University of Alberta Students' Union

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Twitter: @uasuvpexternal or @AWoo_ds
Post Secondary Learning Act Task Force:

**Objective:** The objective of this task force is to review the Post Secondary Learning Act (PSLA) in full in order to find ways to improve the Act from a student’s perspective in preparation for the upcoming review of the PSLA as indicated by the Minister of Advanced Education and Enterprise. These recommendations will help advise the Vice President External and the Council of Alberta University Students.

**Membership:** This task force will include six student Councilors, elected by Students’ Council, the Vice President External as an ex-officio member and will be open to the public unless the task force should feel the need to go into camera.

**Timeline:** The task force will begin meeting upon the approval of its existence by Students’ Council, and should conclude its business no later than August 31, 2013.

**Structure:** This task force will follow Robert’s Rules of Order and will be Chaired by the Vice President External.

**Reporting Structure:** Upon completion of its recommendations, the PSLA Task Force will report on its findings to Students’ Council.