Policy Committee

Date: July 23, 2013
Time: 6:00PM
Location: SUB 2-275

1. Approval of the Agenda

2. Approval of the Minutes
(Please review the meeting minutes attached from July 9th, 2013)

3. Chair’s Announcements
   a. Council Goal Session
      (As an extension of the Council and GFC Retreat, VP Le would like to further explore councillor goals for the year and will need our meeting time on August 6th, 2013)
   b. Policy Task Forces
      (Attached is the schedule for policy reviews and the task forces responsible for each policy)

4. Presentations
   a. Students in Governance Policy
      (Prepared and sponsored by VP Chelen. See attached)

5. Executive Committee Reports
Written/Oral Reports
   a. VP Student Life
   b. VP Academics
      (Absent: Written report provided)
   c. VP External
      (May be absent: Written report provided)

6. Question Period

7. Old Business
      (Attached is the latest policy with amendments from Council)
   b. Internationalization: Status and update
8. New Business
   a. Policy Re: Omar Khader
      (Discussion of how to best tackle this strategy, form a task force, and an action plan to work on this policy. See attached documents)
   b. Students in Governance Policy
      (Task force formation, amendments, and general discussion. See attached)
   c. Motion: Le/Batal move to reschedule the Policy Committee's meeting on August 6th, 2013 from 6:00 pm until 5:00 pm based on the following principals
      (See attached)

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 August 6th, 2013 at 5:00 pm
    (Please be prepared to confirm your schedule and/or provide justification for amending this time/date)
CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by HANWELL at 6:09 pm.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No amendments to the agenda

Lau moved that the July 9th, 2013 agenda be approved as tabled
Seconded by Chelen.

Vote on Motion 7/0/0
CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lau amended minutes to include the displacement of Lau’s first statement “NuFSSA does sit on it” in Section 6 Question Period to the end of his statement.

Woods moved that the June 25th, 2013 minutes be approved as amended. The motion was seconded by Hanwell.
Vote on Motion 7/0/0
CARRIED

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS
VC – Hanwell: Political Policy Task Forces completed and are in the Drive
Hanwell will be the Vice Chair for this meeting

4. PRESENTATIONS
a. Woods/Lau presentation on the internationalization policy- attached
b. Chelen, Woods, Lau presented about their policy implementation plans
Le submitted a Policy implementation plan but was absent and thus unable to present

5. Executive Reports
d. VP Student Life
Progress with internationalization and mentorship program, meeting with vice provost internationalization and general manager for ?
e. VP Academics
Summer is prep work time for VPA slower now.
f. VP External
Two updates: went over all the tasks at casa- all relate to students loans internationalization, grant and mental health and aboriginal ask. 12 asks available in council report
Met with the MacEwan University and NAIT student associations about the municipal election campaign and meeting with the rest of Edmonton post-secondary institutions. There will most likely be a forum and a questionnaires for candidates, as well as a get out the vote campaign

6. Question Period
Hanwell: To lau: I heard something about engagement task force
Lau: No engagement task force – tied to CAC and exec goals
Hanwell: To Woods: is the strategy mainly for mayoral?
Woods: trying to find a general way to get students engaged and get them to vote- only have a forum for mayoral candidates
Hanwell: Planning on meeting with as many council candidates as possible?
Woods: meet with every mayoral candidate and every successful councillor- probably 80 councillor candidates so difficult to meet with everyone in an unbiased way
Hanwell: will you be advocating for the forum to be on u of a campus
Woods: on the MacEwan campus probably
Bincyk: Food part of report- market style dining doesn’t work- because expensive? Ways to go around, taxed unhealthy food, subsidizing healthy?
Lau: container size instead of weight- going to explore it more ideas there opportunity is not as tangible as it could be right now-need to find someone with that style of business.

7. OLD BUSINESS
a. Quality Instruction (See attached document for changes made to the policy)
Chelen moves that, upon the recommendation of Policy Committee, Students’ Council renew the Quality Instruction Policy in first reading based on the following principles:
1. That instruction refers to the teaching and learning involving instructors
2. That the state of technology and interdisciplinarity don’t relate to the objectives of the policy
3. That the SU should advocate for more mandatory and improved instructor professional development activities, especially those focused on communication
4. That the SU should advocate for mid-semester formative feedback opportunities
5. That an effective teaching evaluation mechanism is psychometrically valid and has available results

Seconded by Redman.

Vote on Motion 7/0/0
CARRIED

7. NEW BUSINESS

d. Policy Review: Internationalization

8. DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS

Chelen: anyone want to join him about students in governance in next 2 weeks
Bincyk Bring it up to 7PM meeting

11. NEXT MEETING

July 23\textsuperscript{rd}, 2013 at 6:00 pm.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Redman moved that the meeting be adjourned.
The motion was seconded by Hanwell.

Vote on Motion 7/0/0
CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.
### POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
### SUMMARY REPORT TO COUNCIL

**Date:** July 9, 2013  
**Time:** 6:09 pm  
**2013 – 2014 MEETING # 5**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Lau/Chelen</strong> move to <strong>approve</strong> the agenda</td>
<td><strong>CARRIED 7/0/0</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. <strong>Woods/Hanwell</strong>  move to <strong>approve</strong> the minutes</td>
<td><strong>CARRIED 7/0/0</strong></td>
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<td>3. <strong>Chelen/Redman</strong> moves that, upon the recommendation of Policy Committee, Students’ Council renew the Quality Instruction Policy in first reading based on the following principles: (see attached)</td>
<td><strong>CARRIED 7/0/0</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. <strong>Redman/Hanwell</strong> move to <strong>adjourn</strong> the meeting at 7:13</td>
<td><strong>CARRIED 7/0/0</strong></td>
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Quality Instruction Policy

Chelen moves that, upon the recommendation of Policy Committee, Students' Council renew the Quality Instruction Policy in first reading based on the following principles:

1. That instruction refers to the teaching and learning involving instructors
2. That the state of technology and interdisciplinarity don't directly relate to the objectives of the policy
3. That the SU should advocate for more mandatory and improved instructor professional development activities, especially those focused on communication
4. That the SU should advocate for mid-semester formative feedback opportunities
5. That an effective teaching evaluation mechanism is psychometrically valid and has available results

I. QUALITY INSTRUCTION

WHEREAS instructional quality is one of the most decisive factors in the quality of undergraduate education;

WHEREAS outstanding undergraduate instruction reflects positively on every aspect of the University;

WHEREAS excellence in teaching requires effective communication and interaction between and among students and instructors;

WHEREAS student evaluation of teaching provides students with a voice in their learning environment and can help instructors improve their teaching;

WHEREAS excellence in undergraduate instruction promotes continuing educational endeavours by undergraduate students into higher levels of study;

WHEREAS initiatives designed to improve teaching make positive contributions to common pedagogical practice teaching and learning practice as well as legislation relating to the governance of teaching and learning;

WHEREAS interdisciplinary exploration and advances in technology influence the quality of education;

WHEREAS development of a culture that promotes excellence in teaching
requires funding, attention and innovation on the part of the University;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students’ Union actively supports and facilitates programs that seek to improve pedagogical technique for professors and instructional quality for undergraduates;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students’ Union fosters conditions that promote the importance of teaching at an institutional level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students’ Union encourages the development of an effective student teaching evaluation mechanism.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students’ Union advocates for more activities that enhance the instructional quality for undergraduates and increased teaching professional development activities, including those that enhance communication skills;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students’ Union advocates that instructors are required to present evidence of their current and past teaching professional development experience as part of their annual review; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students’ Union fosters conditions that promote the importance of teaching at an institutional level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students’ Union advocate for increased communication between students and professors through informal mid-semester feedback; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students’ Union advocate for a more effective student teaching evaluation mechanism and whose results are psychometrically valid and are made readily available for students.
July 5th, 2013

To: Policy Committee

Re: Report to Policy (for July 9th meeting)

Hello Policy,

I have a few minor updates to provide at this point, however nothing too substantive.

1) Municipal Elections:

The coalition between ourselves, the GSA, and the Students’ Associations of Grant Macewan and NAIT had our second meeting this past week. We had the opportunity to discuss marketing for the campaign, as well as the potential of on campus voting stations. After touching base with individuals from the City of Edmonton, we were informed they would be more than happy to provide polling stations on Election Day. While I cannot confirm this at this point, it was also mentioned that these stations could accommodate voters from every ward. I will provide more detail on this at a later time.

2) The Premier’s K-Days Pancake Breakfast:

I attended the Premier’s pancake breakfast this past Thursday with the President and members of the Students’ Association of Macewan University. I had the opportunity to chat with many MLA’s including Jacquie Fenske, Matt Jeneroux, Stephen Khan, and Steve Young. The most significant conversation of the day however was held with Dave Hancock, the Minister of Human Services. As I’ve mentioned before, I would like to hold a roundtable on student employment in the upcoming year and the Minister seemed very receptive to this idea. As a whole, I think the potential of this roundtable taking place is very high.

3) The Quarterly Meetings:

On July the 30th I will attend government orientation and the first of the quarterly meetings with members of the Council of Alberta University Students’ and the Alberta Student Executive Council. This will give us the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Advanced Education and Enterprise in order to discuss the current state of post secondary in Alberta, the quality of education, and most importantly the Post Secondary Learning Act.

I am incredibly excited for this opportunity. Pertaining to the PSLA, I recently send a letter to the members of ASEC presenting priorities and hope for collaboration in this meeting. With all due luck, the meeting will go well and we will have clearly communicated our principles with the Minister. At this meeting the SU will also be providing its response to the University’s MNIF report. While this report is not yet complete yet, we look forward to presenting it and receiving a response from the Ministry.
That is all I have to report at this time, but I thank you for taking the time to read this. I will provide detail on the quarterly meeting and government orientation afterwards, and look forward to any questions you may have about it.

Thank you for your time,

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

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July 19, 2013  
To: Students’ Union Policy Committee 2013-2014 Re: Report of the Vice President (Academic)  

Hello Policy Committee,  

Below is a report on my progress toward political policies delegated to my portfolio.  

I. Academic Materials  
I met with the Dean of Students to discuss an external review of the Bookstore’s operations. He notified me that supervision of the Bookstore has transferred over to the Vice Provost and Chief Librarian, and so I have set up a meeting to discuss this with him in August. I also lobbied three senior IT administrators for redevelopment of the Bookstore’s ordering process, but they expressed that it wasn’t on their list of priorities due to the budget situation.  

Next Steps:  
• Request for an external review of the Bookstore’s operations, to inform their strategic planning process.  
• Gather more data on the Bookstore’s financial performance through the Bookstore Advisory Group.  
• Make the minutes of the Bookstore Advisory Group public so students are aware of advances made toward reducing academic material costs.  
• Advance the Bookstore’s communication with primary purchasers – instructors – through a redeveloped online materials ordering process for instructors. This process should include information on the cost of textbooks that professors are ordering.  
• Advocate to the VPIT’s office for a more comprehensive product management system that gives more data to instructors.  
• Build a close working relationship with the new Vice Provost and Chief Librarian.  
• Inform students about alternatives to purchasing new academic materials through a comprehensive marketing campaign.  
• Develop a resource for professors to refer to when considering alternatives to new textbooks.  

II. Experiential Learning  
No new progress on this policy in the past two weeks.  

Next Steps:  
• Build a rapport with the Director of CAPS  
• Write to University Advancement thanking them for their support of student experiential learning opportunities, and publicly thank donors through a blog post.
• Work with leaders of experiential learning services to gauge their interest in collaboration.
• Meet with SSDS to discuss the barriers that they perceive to experiential learning opportunities like CSL and Undergraduate Research.
• Work with the Dean of Students to expand the scope of the Academic Accommodation policy.

III. Internationalization
The VPSL and I met with Britta Baron, Vice Provost International. We had an excellent and broad-ranging conversation on the impacts of globalization on the University environment. In particular, we discussed barriers to increasing the number of international students, potential improvements to International Student Services, and an undergraduate international student mentorship program.

Next Steps:
• Gather data on UAI International Student Services compared to peer institutions.
• Better understand barriers to international students on campus, perhaps through a focus group.
• Work with Extension and the RO to expose more international students to Canadian culture.

IV. Quality Instruction
I met with the Associate Vice President Digital Strategy about promoting the Centre for Teaching and Learning and the quality of teaching online. She stated that it wasn’t part of her priorities, but that the University could do a better job telling stories about the quality of teaching at the University. I’m hopeful that continued student and government pressure for the University to enhance teaching quality will change her mind.

Next Steps:
• Involve the SU in long-term planning for the Centre for Teaching and Learning.
• Actively participate in TLEF allocation discussions.
• Advocate for continued funding for TLEF grants, even in tough budget times.
• Review the University vision for teaching through the rescission of GFC policy 111 and the development of a new teaching strategy or teaching evaluation policy.
• Every day, find ways to encourage and celebrate excellent teaching on campus.
• Provide a higher level of visibility for excellent teaching through a re-developed teaching and learning webpage.
V. Research
No new progress on this policy in the past two weeks.

Next Steps:
- With the Director of URI, advocate for a consolidated and easy to access database of undergraduate research opportunities.
- Provide support to the Festival of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity as needed.
- Advocate for greater online presence of the Undergraduate Research Initiative.
- Develop information on integrating teaching and research at research-intensive universities.
- Continue to encourage applications for tri-council undergraduate research awards, Kule Institute for Advance Study grants, Roger Smith Undergraduate Researcher Awards, and the undergraduate researcher stipend.

VI. Scholarships and Bursaries
No new progress on this policy in the past two weeks.

Next Steps:
- Lobby administration to use a student data system to account for available resources and costs when making scholarship and bursary decisions.
- Ensure that there is policy in place that mandates the Registrar’s Office to provide a percentage of need-based aid.
- Continue to collect data on the impacts of continuing scholarships on student retention.
- Collect more data from the Dean of Students on student retention.
- Recommend a more coordinated management approach to scholarships and bursaries at the University.
January 21, 2013
To: Policy Committee 2012-2013
Re: Proposed Policy on Student Participation in Governance

Hello PC,

The Council of Faculty Associations directed the Advocacy Working Group to find ways to ensure that the student voice is enshrined in faculty governance on campus. On November 29th, the COFA AWG met and recommended that I propose to Policy Committee a new policy on student participation in governance. Most of the information below is sourced from the Discovering Students in Governance report, as well as the Why Represent? focus groups held earlier this year, and from feedback from FA executives.

I look forward to any feedback you may have on the below Political Policy!

Whereas undergraduate students know their needs best, and

Whereas some University and Faculty policies already give undergraduate students and student groups representative capacity on certain committees and boards, and

Whereas there are over 600 representative positions filled by undergraduates at the University of Alberta, and

Whereas undergraduate students are required to balance their academic, personal, and professional lives with their representative activities, and

Whereas the undergraduate population at the University of Alberta is diverse in its makeup.

Therefore, Be It Resolved That the Students’ Union shall advocate that the University act fairly and equitably toward undergraduate students and student groups, as they would any other member of the University community, and

Be It Further Resolved That the Students’ Union shall advocate for ways to alleviate academic pressures of student representatives, and

Be It Further Resolved That the Students’ Union shall advocate against the elimination of undergraduate student representative positions from policy or practice, and
Be It Further Resolved That the Students’ Union shall encourage the University to consult students and student representative on academic, administrative, and operational issues, and

Be It Further Resolved That the Students’ Union shall actively communicate to the University the value of student representatives, and student representative groups, and

Be It Further Resolved That the Students’ Union shall act to reduce barriers to student participation in University governance, especially for under-represented groups.

Sincerely,

Dustin Chelen
MOHAMED/KELLY MOVES THAT Students’ Council approve a new political policy in first reading, based on the following principles:

- The Students Union (SU) lobby the University Administration to adopt a similar stance as Kings University College by committing to treat any application made by Omar Ahmed Khadr as any other;
- The Students Union assisting Omar Ahmed Khadr in his integration into the University of Alberta by ensuring that: All SU spaces will be free from discrimination, and by condemning any discrimination that potentially occurs; and
- The Students Union encouraging other post-secondary institutions to adopt similar
stances so that Omar Ahmed Khadr has other options when receiving his Post-Education.

WHEREAS Omar Ahmed Khadr is a Canadian Citizen;

WHEREAS Omar Ahmed Khadr was the youngest captive and last western citizen to be held in Guantanamo Bay;

WHEREAS Omar Ahmed Khadr has been formally identified as a Child Soldier by the United Nations;

WHEREAS Omar Ahmed Khadr has been a victim of torture such as prolonged sleep deprivations, assaults, hoooding, intimidation by dogs, forced nakedness, body cavity searches, forced feeding, short-shackling in stress positions, prolonged solitary confinement, cell conditions of extreme cold, noise, and constant light, and withholding of medical treatment;

WHEREAS Omar Ahmed Khadr has been denied his right to an Education;

WHEREAS Kings University College is providing and advocating for Omar Ahmed Khadr’s formal Education;

WHEREAS Kings University College stated that they would treat his application like any other students; and

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Students Union (SU) will pressure the University Administration to adopt a similar stance as Kings University College by treating any application made by Omar as any other student;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The Students Union will assist Omar Ahmed Khadr in his integration into the University of Alberta by ensuring that: All SU spaces will be free from discrimination, and by condemning any discrimination that potentially occurs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The Students Union will encourage other post-secondary institutions to adopt similar stances so that Omar Ahmed Khadr has other options when receiving his Post-Education.

Supporting Documentation from Councillor MOHAMED:

Below is the section of the University Admission policy that could prevent Omar from attending without discrimination.

source: https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Policies/Admissions-Policy.pdf

"DANGEROUS CIRCUMSTANCES – Refusal of Admission for Reasons of Danger:
The University of Alberta reserves the right to admit applicants on a conditional basis or to refuse admission to an
applicant who may constitute a danger or risk of danger to university students, staff or property, or to persons or property in the wider community. When the Dean of an admitting Faculty, or the Registrar in cases of admission to Open Studies, is of the opinion that admission of an applicant could pose such a risk, the Dean or Registrar may refuse admission to an applicant or may make admission subject to whatever conditions the Dean or Registrar deems necessary. The decision of the Dean or Registrar will be final and binding.

Now below is the legislation that sets the mandate of the Students Union. It is the Post Secondary Learning Act (PSLA) Section 93 sub section 3 source: [http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/p19p5.pdf](http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Acts/p19p5.pdf)

"(3) The students association of a public post-secondary institution shall provide for the administration of student affairs at the public post-secondary institution, including the development and management of student committees, the development and enforcement of rules relating to student affairs and the promotion of the general welfare of the students consistent with the purposes of the public post-secondary institution."

They see this as meaning that the SU can only take stands on issues that directly relate to students. I find it pretty vague but thats what they say. Anyways, they narrow down the mandate by the SU Bylaw 4000 which gives the SU the power to establish a Strategic Plan. This 4 page document is also used as rational to limit the scope of the SU. Both Bylaw 4000 and the Strategic Plan can be found here: [http://www.su.ualberta.ca/about/strategicplan/](http://www.su.ualberta.ca/about/strategicplan/)

I don't see how the PSLA limits the scope of the SU but the Strategic Plan is difficult to deal with...

July 21st, 2013

To: University of Alberta Students’ Council Policy Committee 2013/2014
Re: Executive Report of the Student Life’s Delegated Policies

**Affordable Housing** Petros and I will be briefing for RBAC in August.
Capital Projects I will be applying for funding from the Edmonton Art’s Council for a grant to upgrade the outdoor plaza (SUB Renovations) to polished, stained concrete to create a usable space for the dance community to practice and perform publicly. The grant proposal will be put together once the quote is retrieved from the contractors.

Engagement Primary project is currently compilation of a Council Outreach Proposal for Council Administration Committee (CAC). I will complete the proposal by July 30th and give a brief presentation to Council unless CAC recommends any revisions.

Food I will meet with Councilor Batal on Monday to chat about the planning of the Community kitchen in PAW. We have also connected with Shannon LeBlanc from Facilities and Operations who is conducting research surrounding Sustainable Food on campus. Planning for the Community kitchen will be broken down into three main parts – a needs assessment, research re: programming options, and putting together an advisory committee. I will be running the needs assessment as my Winter 2014 course.

Health and Wellness The first Health Centre Advisory Group (HCAG) meeting is scheduled for mid-August. I have not taken lead in any Health and Wellness initiatives, but am in touch with the working groups for Wellness Rx (self-health curriculum), Healthy Campus Seed Funding (grants for campus health initiatives) and the Student Assembly for Campus Health (conference for health-related student groups).

Internationalization Vice-President Chelen and I are looking at enhancing local-international student interaction on our campus. We had an initial meeting with the Associate Director of International Student Services, and will
be working together to review the structure of their Peer Program and also promote it to local students to help address the demand from international students.

**Public Transit** Scott Meyer’s case to amend Transit procedure has received quite a bit of media attention – the Gateway, Metro, and CBC all within a week. The following steps are to be taken:
- Compilation of a legal argument to present to Municipal prosecutors
- Meeting with City of Edmonton to exchange cases
- Negotiation

**Smoke Free Environment** Health Promotion and Worklife Services (HPAWS) have not received any complaints/feedback about smoking on campus for the past two years. From their perspective, the current infrastructure with Smoking Shelters (Triffo Hall and Lister) and cigarette disposal receptacles satisfies the public.

**Sustainability** N/A

Cheers,
William Lau