

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Thursday May 5th, 2011
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

ORDER PAPER (SC 2011-01)

2011-01/1 SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

2011-01/1a Installation Ceremony

*I am not here for me.
I am here for the people that lent me their power in exchange for a promise.
I will keep that promise to make decisions with their interest in mind.
I will vote after knowing the facts, not before.
I will use Robert's rules for their purpose, not my own.
I will oppose ideas, not people.
I will think before I speak, not speak just to think.
I will take the job seriously or not take the job at all.
I will represent my students interests, not my own.
I am not here for me.*

2011-01/1b Announcements – The next meeting of Students' Council will take place on Tuesday, May 17, 2011

2011-01/2 PRESENTATIONS

2011-01/2a An overview of the Students' Union- Presented by Rory Tighe, President. Sponsored by Rory Tighe, President.

Abstract

- This presentation will provide an overview of the Students' Union in its entirety. This will likely be review for many members of Students' Council but will offer some insight into departments that Councillors may not be as familiar with.

2011-01/2b The Student Body- Presented by Rory Tighe, President. Sponsored by Rory Tighe, President.

Abstract

- This presentation is comprised of statistics of different groups of students that make up our campus. It will provide insight into where students are from and the composition of the undergraduate body.

2011-01/2c 2011-2013 CUPE agreement Presentation- Presented by Andy Cheema, VP Operations and Finance. Sponsored by Andy Cheema, VP Operations and Finance.

- 2011-01/3** **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**
- 2011-01/4** **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- 2011-01/5** **QUESTION PERIOD**
- 2011-01/6** **BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS**
- 2011-01/7** **GENERAL ORDERS**
- 2011-01/7a** **CHEEMA MOVES THAT** Students' Council appoint one (1) member of Students Council to the Budget and Finance Committee.
- 2011-01/8** **INFORMATION ITEMS**
- 2011-01/8a** Rory Tighe, President- Report
Please see document SC 11-01.01
- 2011-01/8b** Farid Iskandar, VP External- Report
Please see document SC 11-01.02
- 2011-01/8c** Emerson Csorba, VP Academic- Report
Please see document SC 11-01.03
- 2011-01/8d** Brit Luimes- Resignation from the Bylaw Committee
Please see document SC 11-01.04
- 2011-01/8e** Votes and Proceedings
Please see document SC 11-01.05

Prepared by: Rory Tighe, President

To: Students' Council 2011/2012

Introduction

Hey everyone and welcome to our first official council meeting! Although Council Standing Orders stipulate that I have to submit a report at this meeting, this will be very short based on the timeline.

Transition

I have been transitioning with Nick over the past couple of months quite heavily and have spent a chunk of time catching up on issues that I wasn't as familiar with in my previous position. The Executive has also been meeting weekly for a few weeks now and are off to a very good and organized beginning. The incoming and outgoing executive will be going on transition retreat for 5 days beginning April 30. This retreat will provide all of us with an opportunity to learn and set goals for the year.

Federal and Provincial Lobby Groups

The Vice President External and I will be going on our Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) retreat from May 5 to 8. In order to attend council we will be arriving a day late but shouldn't be too behind. We will be attending the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) beginning May 13.

Board of Governors

I will be attending the Board Finance and Property Committee on May 3 to present the SU fees for the upcoming year. I will then be attending a Board of Governors meeting on May 13th where the fees should be approved.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions. Ask during council, stop by the office, or send me an email at president@su.ualberta.ca

To: Students' Council

Transition

I have met regularly with Aden Murphy, the outgoing Vice President (External), since being elected. The spectrum of our discussions ranged from the specific details of Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) to ideas for a "get out the vote" (GOTV) strategy. Our executive has also met regularly to start shaping our goals. There's a lot to learn and a whole lot to read, but my excitement for this year is on an upward climb. I have been bombarded with great ideas, and there's room for a lot more. If you have any ideas or suggestions relating the external portfolio, I would love to set up a time to meet with you.

Retreats

Executive retreat is from April 30th to May 5th followed by the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), the provincial lobby group we're currently a part of, retreat which lasts until May 8th. And finally on May 13th, the President and I head off to our federal lobby group the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) retreat.

Acronyms

This is my first report, it is brief, and I've already used 4 acronyms. Expect more in the future. For your information, I have created a brief list of some of the more popular ones:

CASA = Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (Federal lobby group)

CAUS = Council of Alberta University Students (Provincial lobby group)

CSLP = Canada Student Loans Program

FTE = Full Time Equivalent (1 FTE student is enrolled in a normal course load of 30 credits per year)

GOTV = Get Out The Vote

PSE = Post-Secondary Education

SFA = Student Financial Assistance

SFAIC = Student Financial Aid Information Centre

A list of University related acronyms can be found on the University governance website under the "Governance Toolkit" heading.

Looking forward to working with all of you,
Farid Iskandar, VP (External)
Phone: 780-695-5413
Email: vp.external@su.ualberta.ca

Emerson Csorba VPA First Report (for May 3 meeting)

Prepared by: Emerson Csorba, VPA – 21 April 2011



To: University of Alberta Student Council

Introduction

First off, I hope that exams went well for you guys, and that you are all taking some time off to relax. In this report, I will touch on some of my goals for the upcoming year. Although I have a strong idea of what I intend to do in 2011-2012, the approach taken to the achievement of the VPA goals will transform based on your input and leadership. Moreover, I will provide an outline of some important dates related to the VPA portfolio for the upcoming year, in addition to some dates where I will be out of the city. So without further ado, the initial report.

Recap of the last month of transition

The last handful of weeks has been tremendously busy, though I feel that they have provided good preparation for my term as VPA. I participated on two interview panels – for the Student Governance Officer and Student Ombudspersons – attended many General Faculties Council standing committee meetings and met individually with numerous students, faculty members and university administrators. Lastly, I attended the Council of Faculty Associations (CoFA) retreat on April 9, where I met some of the students that will lead FAs over the next year. In particular, a motion was passed in my initial CoFA meeting that mandates the VPA to talk with the Centre for Student Development in order to establish a 50-minute block of time that FAs can host during Orientation.

Key goals for Vice-President Academic

Over the past month, as I have met with numerous individuals on campus and participated in different meetings, some of my goals have changed. My focus will still be on what I discussed during the election period; however, with more knowledge, my approach is now more detailed and informed. Here are some key goals:

Undergraduate Research

Before I touch on what I plan to do, I think that it is important to discuss an issue raised against this platform point during elections. A number of students were concerned that the focus on research will further exacerbate the problem regarding teaching on campus. In my opinion, ensuring that more undergraduate students have a research experience during university is beneficial to the student body. But you should still continue to challenge the idea that teaching and research are interconnected. Without critical analysis, this notion – which Allan Tupper and Tom Pocklington deem the “myth of mutual enrichment” – becomes vacuous rhetoric. So please think about this idea – that research enhances teaching – and if you want, discuss it with friends, fellow councillors, professors and me.

Here is a brief outline of my plans:

- Undergraduate Research Symposium for November 17 and 18. The research symposium will allow students from all faculties to present their work and meet engaged professors that will act as judges. There will also be keynote speakers, and panels focusing on different research-related issues. This will be a good time to promote undergraduate research on campus, through Yaffle and the new Undergraduate Research Initiative (formerly called the Office of Undergraduate Research and Engagement).
- Ensure that the new centralized research database, Yaffle, provides opportunities for students in all faculties.
- The university found \$200 000, which will go to undergraduate research. About \$50 000 of this is projected to go to Roger S. Smith scholarships. The other funds should go to an array of research opportunities, such as internships and perhaps travel to different conferences. If you have ideas regarding where funding should go, please share them with me.

Graduate Attributes

As I stated during the executive elections, this is an emerging topic on campus. At a recent GFC Committee on the Learning Environment meeting that I attended on April 7, a subcommittee was created to work on the issue of graduate attributes and competencies.

Over the next year, this will be a topic that I will bring to councillors and faculty associations in particular. An ideal process for graduate attributes, based on the copious amounts of literature on this topic, would involve the following: A) considerable consultation of various stakeholders on campus, such as students, faculty, parents, employers and administrators; B) precise terminology (there is a distinct difference between the terms *attributes/qualities* and *competencies/skills*); C) curriculum reform in order to work up to the qualities/attributes selected by the university; D) assessment in order to gauge whether students develop the qualities set out.

Some university faculties are well underway with their graduate attributes plan, which is commendable. Now is the time for the Students' Union to take a leadership position in this realm.

Peer Mentorship

As I've met with various stakeholders on campus, my perspective regarding the approach to this initiative has changed. Here are a few important points to keep in mind:

- The Required to Withdraw (RTW) process will likely be changing within the university (the Dean of Students and the Academic Policies and Procedures Review Task Force have taken the lead here). For students that face RTW after first year on campus, there is the possibility that they will go to Open Studies, instead of dropping out. At this point, a

peer mentorship process could work with students that have had academic difficulties in their most recent year of study.

- Another possibility is creating a Students' Union-specific peer mentorship program, to work in conjunction with services. If this is to occur, then I would like to see a pilot program ready to go by Orientation.

Lastly, InfoLink has been doing a superlative job researching and preparing for a tutoring program. One of my questions at the moment is the following: how do *tutoring* and *mentoring* programs differ? My initial response is that tutoring is more academic-focused, whereas mentoring links students to social activities.

This program will develop throughout the summer, and I will be banking on many councillors to provide leadership here.

Some more topics for the VPA in the upcoming year

Although I ran on three campaign points, the VPA will deal with many more issues. Here are some of them:

- Revisions to the international study abroad transfer credit system: At the moment, students that study abroad tend to face problems finding courses at international partner institutions that line up with courses required to graduate at the University of Alberta. Students have to do considerable research on their own, whereas UBC has a chart that compares international courses to their UBC equivalent course for credit.
- There is the possibility that some faculty associations will be on probation in the upcoming year. Although the Interdepartmental Science Student Society (ISSS) was rare in that its executive was composed of an incredible team of leaders, I will work diligently to ensure that FAs on probation improve just as the ISSS did throughout the year.
- Continuing to work toward the implementation of a fall reading week is important to me. Rory and I will play an important role in these discussions over the upcoming year.
- I may work closely with the Office of Sustainability, and in particular, with one of its three branches: the Office of Sustainability Academic Advisory Committee (OSAAC). Two students that work within ECOS have come to me in order to share an idea regarding a double-sided examinations policy. I will be meeting with these students over the next weeks in order to establish a more concrete plan.

Important dates

November 17-18: At the moment, these are the two scheduled dates for the Students' Union's inaugural undergraduate research symposium. The event is likely to occur in Dinwoodie Lounge upstairs.

September 6-7: These two dates mark Orientation. Many councillors are serving as TFs or OVs, so you will be active participants here. For those not volunteering for Orientation, do your best to make it out and talk with incoming high school and transfer students. This is arguably the Students' Union's most notable tradition, and it is one of the best times of year. I hope to have a peer mentorship program set up by this time.

Travel time

April 30-May 5: Will be away for SU executive retreat.

May 14-23: I will be in Poland and Germany during this time, for the March of Remembrance and Hope.

June 13-20: I will be in Saskatoon for the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education annual conference.

August 26-28: I might be in Toronto.

Over the upcoming months, I will keep you all informed of any travel time that I may take. In any case, I'll have council reports prepared well in advance of the trips, and will attempt to Skype in order to attend meetings.

Reading materials for interested councillors

Some of my suggested reading materials for councillors are as follows (these are good sources for university-related material):

- *No Place to Learn* by Allan Tupper and Tom Pocklington
- *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, which you can find online

Conclusion

The last month of transition has been quite busy, and I feel prepared to formally begin as VPA on May 1. The summer will require considerable amounts of work, and I will turn to many councillors and other students to fine-tune some plans under the VPA portfolio. Please ask me any questions that come to mind, and I will do my best to answer them thoroughly.

If you need to contact me, please do so at vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca.

Solidarity,

Emerson Csorba

Dear Chair of Bylaw and Speaker,

It is with great regret that I must put forth my resignation from Bylaw Committee. Unfortunately, as I will be out of the country for May and June, 3 committees is too much for me to pass on to my proxy. I hope the early nature of this resignation will allow you to find a replacement quickly.

Sincerely,

Brit Luimes
Education Councillor

STUDENTS' COUNCIL VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, April 12 2011
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS (SC 2011-00)

- 2011-00/1 **ELECTION OF A SPEAKER**
- 2011-00/1a Applicant Information to be distributed at meeting
- 2011-00/1b Announcements – The next meeting of Students' Council will take place on Tuesday, May 3rd 2011
- KAAI/FERGUSON MOVED TO** move in camera
- Motion: CARRIED**
- NICOL/ISKANDAR MOVED TO** move into discussion
- TIGHE/KAAI MOVED TO** amend the motion to read:
 NICOL/ISKANDAR MOVED TO move into discussion limited to 30 minutes.
- Motion: CARRIED**
- Main Motion: CARRIED**
- KAAI/KUSMU MOVED To** move ex-camera
- Motion: CARRIED**
- Michael Ross appointed speaker**
- 2011-00/2 **ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE**
- TIGHE/MACGILLIVARY MOVED TO** adopt the 2011-2012 Students' Council meeting schedule.
- TIGHE/KAAI MOVED TO** amend the schedule to strike the May 3rd meeting of Students Council and replace with May 5th
- Motion: CARRIED**
- ISKANDAR/TIGHE MOVED TO** amend the schedule to strike the February 28th meeting of Students Council and replace with February 14th
- Motion: FAILED**

Main Motion: CARRIED

2011-00/3

NOMINATIONS TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Audit Committee (7)

Nominations: Nicol, Haider, Karuvelil, Ferguson, Le, Charron, MacGillivray

Nominations Closed

Appointed: Nicol, Haider, Karuvelil, Ferguson, Le, Charron, MacGillivray

Budget and Finance Committee (7)

Nominations: Haider, McMurtrie, Crone, Gulyas, Thomas, Cheema

Nominations Closed

Appointed: Haider, McMurtrie, Crone, Gulyas, Thomas, Cheema

Bylaw Committee (7)

Nominations: Johnson, Sumar, Woods, Luimes, Iskandar, Fehr, Gould

Nominations Closed

Appointed: Johnson, Sumar, Woods, Luimes, Iskandar, Fehr, Gould

Council Administration Committee (5)

Nominations: Ferguson, Mills, Luimes, Zhao, Bellinger

Nominations Closed

Appointed: Ferguson, Mills, Luimes, Zhao, Bellinger

Policy Committee (9)

Nominations: Karuvelil, Woods, Fehr, Khinda, West, Johnson, Bellinger, Liang, Lepage Fortin, Kusmu, Zinyemba

Nominations Closed

Appointed: Kusmu, Lepage Fortin, Fehr, Khinda, Woods, Karuvelil, Csorba, Iskandar, Yamigishi

Grant Allocation Committee (7)

Nominations: Cheema, West, Liang, Sumar, Boutuell, Zinyemba, Johnson, Yamigishi

Nominations Closed

Appointed: Cheema, West, Liang, Sumar, Boutuell, Zinyemba, Yamigishi

Elections Review Committee (5)

Nominations: Iskandar, Bellinger, Ferguson, Luimas, Nicol

Nominations Closed

Appointed: Iskandar, Bellinger, Ferguson, Luimas, Nicol

KAAI/KUSMY MOVED TO adjourn

Motion: CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

