

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday July 2nd, 2013
ETLC 1-008

LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2013-05)

- 2013-05/1 SPEAKER'S BUSINESS
- 2013-05/2 PRESENTATIONS
- 2013-05/3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
- 2013-05/4 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 2013-05/5 QUESTION PERIOD
- 2013-05/6 BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS
- 2013-05/6c **LE/DOUGLAS MOVES THAT** upon the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that Students' Council approve an allocation not to exceed one hundred and six thousand dollars from the Capital Reserve for the purpose of constructing the Students' Union Building coffee shop and upgrading the mechanical services in the food court.
- 2013-05/7 GENERAL ORDERS
- 2013-05/8 INFORMATION ITEMS
- 2013-05/8g William Lau, VP Student Life- Report
Please see document LA 13-05.01

July 2nd, 2013

To: University of Alberta Students' Council 2013/2014

Re: Report of the Student Life Portfolio

Hello Council,

It's getting hot in Edmonton – I'm sweating in the office just typing this up! Hope you all take some time to enjoy the weather and the festivals around the city!

I. Programming

Athletics

In hopes to promote athletics, the Golden Bears' Hockey coach will be contacting Faculty Associations to donate large numbers of game tickets. FA's will be encouraged to take this opportunity to fundraise rather than simply disperse tickets.

Orientation/Week of Welcome

This year's WOW theme is a "beach party". Feel free to toss me any ideas you may have for a successful Week of Welcome! Orientation had a huge BBQ at Hawrelak Park last Thursday night and it was a blast – hotdogs, capture the flag, Frisbee and a pretty sweet water fight!

II. Services

Peer Support Centre

Although I initially hoped for a deformalized PSC, I was exposed to some statistics of last year's visits and have changed my mind. 162/601 visits were of rather serious nature (92 suicide, 65 abuse, 5 assault), showing that crisis training and such was a necessary piece to the PSC's programming. Nonetheless, the PSC may be expecting some minor alterations depending on the changes to the Mental Health Centre.

Student Group Services Granting (VPOF)

There has been conversation around the nature of the support that SGS offers to student groups whose mandate is to fundraise for external organizations, for example, The Heart and Stroke Foundation Students' Association, or the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation Students' Association. Some external organizations mandate their student-run counterparts to donate all remaining funds at the end of each year, which is not the point of Student Group Grants. In the meantime, one strategy will be to encourage these student groups to request funds from the main organization.

III. Advocacy

U-Pass

I have been in contact with a Law student that wants to amend Transit Bylaw 8353 as well as the procedures around “Failure to Present Proof of Payment”. Quite the ambitious guy; he is fighting to allow two business days for students to either bring their U-Pass or valid proof of tuition/fee payment to one of the Traffic clerks at the downtown courthouse to have their fines withdrawn. Currently, the appeal process after being caught on the LRT without a U-Pass is a major barrier to fighting a \$250 ticket.

Also, I have been in touch with the Dentistry Students’ Association to run a referendum in September/October for their Spring/Summer U-Pass, since their program was excluded in the implementation this year due to structural differences in their course registration.

Smoking Policy

I am currently looking at moving designated smoking areas farther away from doors, air intakes and high traffic areas, with a vision of having a smoke-free campus.

I will be looking forward to consulting several on- and off-campus groups, including the Cardiovascular Health Initiative, the Butt-Out campaign, Health Promotion and Worklife Services and Alberta Health Services.

Residence Issues (PotSU)

Efforts are still being made to re-assess the Residence Community Standards. I have pushed to talk about a lease process and the associated appeal mechanisms; it has finally been added to the agenda.

From the Residence Budget Advisory Committee, President Kusmu and I recently learned that installing Wi-Fi in Lister towers may possibly save students money, as they are currently paying ~\$25/mo for wired internet access. We have received information regarding rent increases for 2015-16 and will be discussing those before the next meeting in September.

IV. Other

City of Edmonton Recreation Facilities

I had my first meeting with Ron Nichol, the Operations Supervisor at Kinsmen Sports Centre. He communicated that the city’s facilities had noticeable unused capacity, and wanted to tap into the market of U of A alumni. We agreed that our common goal was to increase access for students to fitness facilities. As I pushed for an option to opt-out, Ron proposed an alternative – waiving the fee instead via the Leisure Access Program– which would maintain student access to fitness facilities. The Leisure Access Program of the City of Edmonton grants free access to (generally) low-income individuals. Ron will look at opening up the program to Post-Secondary students as a way to waive the fee assessment, and take a second look at a manageable “% discount”. I will look into stats on student income and proportion of students living on/off campus to gauge how many waivers we would expect. Next steps include involving the Onecard and Registrar’s offices to talk about logistics.

Health and Dental Plan Mobile App (VPOF & PotSU)

The app is in its beginning stages – we are the first campus on the West Coast to have this app. It will allow students to make health claims directly from their smartphones and will shorten the turn-around time of reimbursements to about 5 business days. It is still undergoing testing but should formally launch before the Fall term starts.

Legacy Fund Updates (VPOF)

The Legacy Fund is a DFU collected by the Students' Union to support and promote campus athletics and varsity teams. As some of you may know, last year's fund has yet to be dispersed due to miscommunications surrounding how the funds should be used. This delay was caused by the elimination of the Panda's Field Hockey team.

Vice-President Le and I will be in constant communication with Athletics to work on a timeline to not only approve last year's funds but to plan future distribution.

WellnessRx

This is a new program from the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry. Nutrition paired with an active lifestyle... a prescription for new health. It is a new curriculum being piloted for health sciences students to not only promote self health, but the awareness that healthy eating and regular physical activity could be "prescribed" in a health care setting in many cases before drugs. The discussion around this is how else to tailor the course to make it relevant to more programs on campus to integrate health promotion (education) into classrooms on campus.

SU Staff Wellness: Lunch and Crunch

I put together a nutrition education presentation with Chelsea Livingstone (Interim SGS Manager) on June 19th and it was a blast! Funny that I was presenting to a room full of SU nutrition! #HA!

Cheers,

William Lau

[Electronically Submitted]