

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

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Tuesday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013  
ETLC 1-018

## LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2013-15)

2013-15/1      SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

2013-15/2      PRESENTATIONS

2013-15/2c      International Student Tuition Advocacy Efforts, Presented by Petros Kusmu, Dustin Chelen, and William Lau. Sponsored by Dustin Chelen.

The Students' Union found out about a proposed increase of 5% to undergraduate international student tuition on Thursday November 7. This presentation will cover a summary of our advocacy efforts since then, including engaging a student volunteer base, discussions at the Tuition Budget Advisory Committee, Academic Planning Committee, and Board Finance and Property Committee, and an SU submission on our concerns with the increase. We will briefly touch on the legislative framework surrounding international student tuition before explaining the advocacy efforts leading up to the December 13 Board of Governors meeting where the increase will be voted on.

2013-15/3      EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

2013-15/4      BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

2013-15/5      QUESTION PERIOD

2013-15/5a      Question to Josh Le, VP Operations and Finance from Councillor Mohamed.

I heard a story of a student going to the student success center. When she went there they told her she had to pay \$20 for somebody to give her some study strategies. Why should students have to pay for this? Shouldn't students have this subsidized as per their student union dues?

2013-15/5b      Question to Petros Kusmu, President from Councillor Mohamed.

After considering all my supporting documents and support from international students, where does the executive stand on seeking a professional legal opinion on a charter challenge?

2013-15/6      BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2013-15/7      GENERAL ORDERS

- 2013-15/7c**      **MOHAMED/LAU MOVES THAT** Students' Council approve Bill #5 in first reading, based on the following principle:
1. The Student Refugee Program Board may choose to allocate, from the total Student Refugee Fund fee collected, an amount up to the total annual application cost required to be submitted to WUSC Ottawa, to be used to fund the application cost.
- 2013-15/7d**      **HODGSON MOVES TO** appoint one (1) member of Students Council to the Audit Committee.
- 2013-15/8**      **INFORMATION ITEMS**
- 2013-15/8g**      ERC Summary Report  
Please see document LA 13-15.01
- 2013-15/8h**      Audit Committee Summary Report  
Please see document LA 13-15.02
- 2013-15/8i**      Dustin Chelen, VP Academic- Report  
Please see document LA 13-15.03
- 2013-15/8j**      SCET Summary Report  
Please see document LA 13-15.04
- 2013-15/8k**      2014 SU Executive Election Dates  
Please see document LA 13-15.05
- 2013-15/8l**      Supporting documents for item 2013-15/7d  
Please see document LA 13-15.06
- 2013-15/8m**      Brent Kelly, BoG Rep- Report  
Please see document LA 13-15.07
- 2013-15/8n**      Policy Committee Summary Report  
Please see document LA 13-15.08
- 2013-15/8o**      Josh Le, VP Operations and Finance- Report  
Please see document LA 13-15.09



# ELECTIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY REPORT TO COUNCIL

<b>Motions</b>		
1.	<i>ZENG</i> moved to <i>amend the agenda to change the location from SUB 6-06 to SUB 6-08.</i>	<i>CARRIED</i> <i>5/0/0</i>
2.	<i>SPEAKMAN</i> moved to <i>adjourn the meeting.</i>	<i>CARRIED</i> <i>5/0/0</i>
<i>Date: November 27<sup>th</sup> 2013</i>		<i>2013 – 2014</i>
<i>Time: 3.02 pm</i>		



## AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: **November 27<sup>th</sup> 2013**

Time: **6.06 pm**

2013 – 2014

### Motions

1.	<b>HANWELL</b> moved to <i>approve the agenda for November 27, 2013 as tabled.</i>	<b>CARRIED</b> 4/0/0
2.	<b>NGUYEN</b> moved to <i>approve the minutes for November 15, 2013 as tabled.</i>	<b>CARRIED</b> 2/0/2
3.	<b>HODGSON</b> moved to <i>adjourn the meeting.</i>	<b>CARRIED</b> 4/0/0



December 2, 2013

To: Students' Council 2013-2014

Re: Report of the Vice President Academic

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Hello Council,

Below you'll find an update of my activities from the past two weeks. I was off on vacation from November 23 - December 1, hence the brevity of the report.

## **I. SU Student Experience Survey**

In partnership with Evaluation and Research Services, the SU has sent out a survey to a sample of undergraduate students, consisting of approximately 80 questions on their U of A experience. The topics range from course and instructor quality, to student engagement, to student finance. The responses will be analyzed by the external consultant, and a report that highlights the core outcomes will be produced by January. A more thorough analysis of the data will be completed by February. This comprehensive survey is indented to inform our lobbying strategies to the University and the Government, as well as Council's policy development.

## **II. Engineering Students' Society Resignation En Masse**

On Wednesday November 13, four out of five ESS Executives resigned from their positions at their Board of Directors meeting, with the final Executive resigning on November 27. The SU has heard concerns from Engineering students about the process and rationale for the resignation of the Executives. I sent a letter informing the ESS, Student Group Services, Dean of Students, and Dean of Engineering that the SU would be investigating the situation to ensure that SU and ESS rules were not contravened during the resignation process. This investigation is ongoing with the support of Discover Governance, and I will report the outcome to Students' Council. The SU also reviewed the election for four of the Executive positions, and I'm looking forward to working with the new team. I am thankful for the work that the 5 resigned ESS Executives put into serving and representing their students.

## **III. VPA For A Day**

I'm pleased to have hosted a job shadow day, where two students accompanied me to see what the life of an SU Executive is like. I believe it was the most authentic way for students interested in the highest levels of student government to get a taste of the excitement and possibilities that come with the job. I will hold another one in the Winter semester, possibly on February 10, 2014.



#### IV. Miscellaneous

I attended lunch with former University President Myer Horowitz, as well as meetings with the Vice Provost (Academic Programs and Instruction) and University Governance. I attended meetings of the Academic Standards Committee, the Leadership College Academic Programming Committee, and the AUFSJ town hall on the budget cuts.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at 780-492-4236, or email me at [vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca).

Sincerely,



Dustin Chelen



# STUDENTS' COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE MEETING SUMMARY REPORT TO COUNCIL

*Date: November 28<sup>th</sup> 2013*

*Time: 6.06 pm*

2013 – 2014

## **Motions**

1.	<i>BINCZYK</i> moved to <i>approve the agenda for November 28, 2013 as tabled.</i>	<i>CARRIED 5/0/1</i>
2.	<i>BINCZYK</i> moved to <i>approve the minutes for November 14, 2013 as tabled.</i>	<i>CARRIED 5/0/1</i>
3.	<i>BINCZYK</i> moved that <i>the committee move into a 5 minute recess.</i>	<i>CARRIED 7/0/0</i>
4.	<i>MILLS</i> moved to <i>adjourn the meeting.</i>	<i>CARRIED 6/0/0</i>

## **2014 SU Executive Election Dates**

Executive Nomination deadline	1600, Friday, February 14, 2014
Candidates' meeting	1800, Friday, February 14, 2014
Information Session: How to Run a Campaign	1100, Saturday, February 15, 2014
Deadline for Name Changes	1700, Saturday, February 15, 2014
Withdrawal Deadline	1700, Sunday, February 16, 2014
Campaigns begin	0900, Monday, February 24, 2014
Budget Submission Deadline	1300, Tuesday, March 4, 2014

**Executive Elections**  
**0800, Wednesday, March 5**  
**1800, Thursday, March 6**

### List of Elections Forums

#### **Tuesday, February 25, 1800**

##### **Lister Centre, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Cafeteria**

- Each race will be participating.
- Each candidate will be afforded a two (2) minute opening speech in turn, followed by an opportunity to answer (with one (1) minute responses) prepared and/or audience questions.

#### **Wednesday, February 26 @ 12:00 – Campus Saint-Jean Forum**

##### **Location: Student Lounge & Cafeteria, Pavillon McMahon, CSJ Campus**

- Each race will be participating.
- Each candidate will be afforded a two (2) minute opening speech in turn, followed by an opportunity to answer (with one (1) minute responses) prepared and/or audience questions.

#### **Thursday, February 27 @ 12:30 – SUBstage Forum #1**

##### **Location: Main Floor, Students' Union Building**

- Half of the races and/or referenda will be participating.
- Each candidate will be afforded a two minute opening speech in turn, followed by an opportunity to ask their opponent(s) a question (30 seconds), followed by a response (one (1) minute), followed by a rebuttal (one (1) minute).
- After the debate portions have concluded, they will be followed by an opportunity to answer (with one (1) minute responses) prepared and/or audience questions.

#### **Friday, February 28 @ 12:00 – SUBstage Forum #2**

##### **Location: Main Floor, Students' Union Building**

- Half of the races and/or referenda will be participating.
- Each candidate will be afforded a two minute opening speech in turn, followed by an opportunity to ask their opponent(s) a question (30 seconds), followed by a response (one



(1) minute), followed by a rebuttal (one (1) minute).

- After the debate portions have concluded, they will be followed by an opportunity to answer (with one (1) minute responses) prepared and/or audience questions.

**Monday, March 3 @ 12:00 – Myer Horowitz Forum**

**Location: Myer Horowitz Theatre, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Students' Union Building**

- Each race will be participating

- Main campus classes from 12:00 – 13:00 will be cancelled so that all students have the opportunity to attend.

- Each candidate will be afforded a two minute opening speech in turn, followed by an opportunity to ask their opponent(s) a question (30 seconds), followed by a response (one (1) minute), followed by a rebuttal (one (1) minute).

- After the debate portions have concluded, they will be followed by an opportunity to answer (with one (1) minute responses) prepared and/or audience questions.

December 1, 2013

ATTN: University of Alberta Students Council

Re: Charter challenge

I am an international student from China. It has been the fourth year, since I first arrived this country. In this gorgeous country, I have gained countless support, and joyful memories. I am pretty satisfied as an international student in UofA until the school's decision on increasing the international student tuition fees by 5%, which has already been incredibly high for me and my family, when the domestic students have been only increased by 1%. I am extremely shocked about, how such an unfair decision can be made by the school in such deregulated way.

1) Disappointedly, the school did not keep their words from last year, "the budget cut won't be putting on the students' backs...", and irresponsibly decided to use international students as cash cow for the University to rely on during tough budget times.

2) Even more disappointedly, the school board makes such an important decision so rapidly, as well as releasing this information in the busiest time for the students; which is really hard for me to not to associate these actions as some kind of strategy, in order to get as less attention from the international students as possible.

3) As an Art and Design major student, I have been suffered from the shortage of studio courses due to the budget cut, and that left me no choice but to transfer to another program, after I have already spent a whole year in Art and Design program. It will be such negative impact for me, mentally and financially.

I am extremely shocked about, how such an unfair decision can be made by the school in such deregulated way. The whole unfair action of increasing tuition fees of international students is deregulated that is definitely an inescapable responsibilities for the Board of Government. As an international student of University of Alberta, I am supporting the legal action against the root of this issue; because without a proper, legal, and equal regulation towards the school on processing the tuition changes, these kind of plotted, unfair strategies will be inevitably thrown on the students once again, by the school.

Regards,

An international student, Arts and Design

December 1, 2013

ATTN: University of Alberta Students Council

Re: Response to my e-mail about potential Charter challenge

Preface:

This is a personal opinion from a lawyer based on her previous education and experience practicing law. This is not a legal opinion. This is an important distinction to make.

E-mail:

I think this is relatively in line with *Andrews* – which is the foundational section 15 case. Non-citizens can be an analogous ground for section 15 protection. The only issue I see here is that it can be justified (s. 1 Oakes test) by the need to recoup fees that citizens will have paid for or continue to pay for through taxes. So you'd have to craft the argument that charging international students amounts beyond that particular amount violates section 15 – and it seems the law is drafted in such a way that it doesn't prevent that from happening. (There are doctrines of arbitrariness and vagueness which have to do with laws that are poorly drafted and have the effect of violating the constitutions.) And now the university (to which the Charter applies by virtue of being a public body) is also violating section 15 by enacting this policy.

The other thing you'd have to prove is that these differential rates are in fact over what would be necessary to cover off the extra costs. I suspect that they are, but I don't really know. In either case, the law as drafted doesn't stipulate any policy objectives or calculations to go into the LGIC's decision setting out the differential rate. So theoretically, he could just set it however he wants based on whatever rationale.

It wouldn't be an easy case, but Charter cases rarely are. Have you tried reaching out to see if lawyers will take this on a pro bono basis, seeing as how you're students? At the end of the day, it doesn't hurt to canvass a few experience Charter litigators and see what they say. I'm not sure why council is so opposed to that. You're not on the hook to pay for anything if you just ask around for a brief consultation.

I should also add – there's a lot of confusion on recent case law around section 15. It's pretty unsettled on some of the most basic aspects. So it's even harder to predict what will happen with a section 15 challenge these days.

Regards,

Gwen Feeny, B.A., J.D. (currently an inactive member of the Law Society not practising law)

December 1, 2013

ATTN: University of Alberta Students Council

Re: Charter challenge

I am an international student from South Korea. I am very disappointed and concerned about the increase in tuition. The money is my first concern but what made me feel terrible is the unfair treatment by the university. I was even more disappointed when I found out that international students are not protected and supported by the governments in this issue. By not having any regulation, the institution can raise tuition by any percentage they want in any time. They do not necessarily need to protect us in every issue we have but they should at least protect us from the unfair treatment by a public institution.

The Charter of Rights and Freedom, section 15 states that every individual is equal under the law and has the right to the equal protection. I believe that international students also have rights to be protected by Alberta government. If there is a regulation about international student's tuition under a law, I believe that majority of international students will feel very protected and safe. International students are not asking much, they are just asking for a fair treatment and a small protection.

Regards,

Insung Peak, Faculty of Science

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

**To:** Students' Council

**Re:** Report to Council

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Hey Council,

Before I proceed with my report, I would like to acknowledge that our university and our Students' Union are on Indigenous land. Specifically: Cree, Saulteaux, Metis, Blackfoot, and Nakota Siou.

They are faculty, staff, students, family, and friends, and they are still here. I acknowledge that we meet on treaty 6 territory. That treaty governs the relationship between first-nations and non-first nations citizens. I am thankful for this opportunity for us to meet on this land today. This statement will be included at the front of my report to council until either the time that my term ends, or Council moves to makes a similar statement available for public viewing.

It's been a bit more active on the BoG front these last two weeks. There was a dinner for members of the Board last Monday after a GFC meeting earlier that day. I'll talk about both a little bit here.

### **GFC**

Unfortunately I was unable to attend the full meeting of GFC due to a prior arrangement with a professor. A significant part of the meeting centered on the proposed international student fee increases – many questions were asked to President Saramasakera in this regard. Unfortunately, despite many incisive and critical questions from students and graduate students it appears that the administration is still going to go forward with a (modified) increase. I will be speaking against this increase on the Board.

### **Dinner**

The subsequent dinner for Board members afterward provided an opportunity to discuss many

issues of concern to the university community – and again the international student fee increase

took up a significant amount of the time. There was a certain amount of concession and agreement with the concerns regarding the increase, but again, no concrete steps were made by Indira to significantly reduce or reverse the increases.

Overall, I'm not pleased with the direction that the administration is taking the university at this time in regards to international student fees. I would prefer the burden from the recent cuts be shared among the university community – instead of targeting one section. As I've already said, I will be speaking against this proposal at the Board meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> if the administration does not come up with a fairer way of moving forward.

As always, should you have anything you would like to discuss with me about the Board or university governance, please do not hesitate to be in touch.

In Solidarity,

**Brent Kelly**

Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative 2013-2014 | [University of Alberta Students' Union](#)  
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## POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: **November 26, 2013**

Time: **6:07 pm**

2013 – 2014 **MEETING #13**

### Motions

1.	<b>HANWELL</b> moved that <i>November 26 agenda be approved as amended.</i>	<b>CARRIED</b> 6/0/0
2.	<b>MILLS</b> moved that <i>October 15 minutes be approved as amended.</i>	<b>CARRIED</b> 6/0/0
3.	<b>MILLS</b> moved that <i>the policy be split.</i>	<b>CARRIED</b> 4/1/2
4.	<b>CHAMPAGNE</b> moved that <i>the meeting be adjourned.</i>	<b>CARRIED</b> 7/0/0



December 3, 2013

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Students' Council

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Hello Council,

### **SUB Renovation**

The SUB Renovations continue in lower level SUB. The biggest relatable updates is the 2/3 concrete pours in the area are complete and the drywall boarding is going up next week. The area is closed off to those without proper authorization and safety protection, so I will share photos with you soon. The planning side has been quiet because the bulk of the work is done. Part of the team is currently exploring furnishing options and they will present these options in the coming weeks to the internal SUB Renovation working group.

### **PAW Centre**

GM Marc Dumouchel and I are working to prepare the Request For Proposal (RFP) packages for PAW. We have (1) retail and (1) food/beverage space that will be jointly owned by the SU and the GSA We are currently assessing the needs and ideal occupants for the space.

### **North Power Plant**

The visioning document is on my and GM Marc Dumouchel's table for the update since the last set of meetings with Bart Becker from F&O and the GSA.

### **The Daily Grind**

The Daily Grind is switching into 24 hour mode on December 7<sup>th</sup> with the exam season rolling in. You know where to fuel up if you're studying on campus late.

Continuous improvements are happening at TDG: a cream and sugar stand is present, a line stanchion is up, and a toaster is now present for bagels.

I will slowly wean off the updates since The Daily Grind's successfully open. I will mark this goal as complete. One last piece to finish off my goal is to have a grand opening celebration for The Daily Grind. We will look into that for the new year.

### **Room At The Top**

Nothing major to update.

### **Business Advisory Group**

The terms of reference and details are coming together bit by bit.

### **DFU Task Force**

The next DFU Task Force will meet on Thursday to continue our momentum with the group.

### **Communications Strategic Plan**

I am nearing the end of my Coop term and the paper is almost due. Look forward to a document in the coming weeks.

### **Financial Reporting**

This goal needs to be revisited through discussions at BFC. I will keep Council updated as BFC meets in the next couple of weeks.

### **Operating Policy Review**

The Sponsorship Policy review was successful. I will continue on to other parts later in December.

### **Inter-SU VPOF Collaboration**

I got to meet VPFO, Tyler Hofmeister, from the Students' Society of McGill University, at the studentcare conference. The ball continues to roll in some capacity for the collaboration

### **studentcare Operational Policy Review**

I went to Montreal this past week to review the operations of our health and dental care providers, studentcare, and it was a very positive trip. I'll outline it in my conference report to Council for next meeting.

Feel free to get in touch with me at 780-492-4236 or [vp.finance@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:vp.finance@su.ualberta.ca) if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. I am happy to meet with you if you would like to discuss any VPOF topics in detail.

Cheerio,

Josh Le

(electronically submitted)