

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday May 20th, 2014
TELUS 134

LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2014-02)

2014-02/1 SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

2014-02/2 PRESENTATIONS

2014-02/3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

2014-02/4 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

2014-02/5 QUESTION PERIOD

2014-02/5b Cory Hodgson, VP Operations and Finance response to 2014-02/5b.

1. Are there any updates on CAC's budget? What is the amount of the Council Outreach Fund?

A. The Council outreach fund is \$460 in total, with \$140 of that being marked for Council-led initiatives and \$320 at \$10 per councillor for councillor led initiatives, following the 30/70 split outlined in CAC standing orders.

2. What is the progress of your inquiry into expanding parking hours for Councillors considering that CAC meetings may start as early as 4:30 PM on Council Tuesdays?

I've contacted Courtney Lindberg the Client Services Rep with Parking services and inquired about expanding the parking pass duration. I'll give an update in my next Council report with her response.

2014-02/5a Nicholas Diaz, VP Student Life response to 2014-02/5a.

I very much like the SCET recommendations. I will go through in the order they are listed in the Summary:

A. Connecting Councillors with their Electorate

The events calendar idea is a great one, and staff have been working on a public implementation for quite some time. That will tentatively be implemented this calendar year.

In the mean time, I would like to create an accessible google calendar for the Students' Council that can be pinned on the council Facebook page. In there, any

member of council could post events for council. The hope is that it will be easily accessible for us to reference when inviting each other to events.

B. Enhancing collaboration between SC and Faculty Associations

Our SU relationship with FAs is better addressed by VP Orydzuk. However, I will make the aforementioned calendar available to the COFA Member Services Working Group, and work to have their events listed.

C. Enhancing Collaboration between SC and International Students

Earlier this month, I delegated Councillor Zhang to the International Students' Association council in my stead. This was because of his presence throughout the executive selection of the ISA, and his interest in supporting and engaging with the ISA. We also have several ISA executives as councillors this year!

D. Defining Council Goals

I can see the merit in this, though I can only speak of my brief experience in Students' Council. Perhaps VP Hodgson could better speak to this, given his prior experience on council.

E. Enhancing Collaboration between Councillors and Executives

I believe President Lau has already begun the process of enabling councillors to work with VP Portfolios that interest them. As mentioned in my council report, I would personally like to establish a Student Life Working Group to achieve the goals outlined in SCET, as well as better pursue mutual goals I share with councillors that align with my portfolio.

F. Increasing SC Presence on Facebook

A discussion of Students' Union communications strategy is something I am passionate about. You can expect reporting on this throughout the year, and I will bear this SCET recommendation in mind in those deliberations.

H. Ensuring SC's Efficiency

Surveys to gauge efficiency and perception of council by councillors will be a valuable tool! This is a discussion we can have with our Discover Governance colleagues at Governance Camp. Could CAC facilitate this survey process?

I. Enhancing Professional Development Opportunities for Councillors

I agree that professional development is a useful incentive. Would it be useful in initial discussions to establish the different kinds of professional development that councillors are interested in?

2014-02/5f

To President Lau from Councillor Mohamed

Will tuition be going up for students? If so, do we have a plan to combat it

Response from William Lau, President

Thanks for the questions, Councillor Mohamed. Unfortunately, there has been no conversation around 2015-2016 tuition rates yet. I will be contacting the Vice President Finance & Administration and the Provost in the near future to request a presentation to Council as soon as they have a tuition proposal put together.

2014-02/5g

To President Lau from Councillor Mohamed

Will IDF (International Differential Fee) be going up this year? If so, do we have a plan to combat it?

Response from William Lau, President

Likewise, I have not received any updates on the international differential fee this upcoming year. However, we are blessed to have a seat on the Tuition & Fees Working Group that the Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education has created, and we will keep you updated with the progress in that group as we get the ball rolling. On the external front, the IDF, in the broader context of tuition and fees is a top priority of the Council of Alberta University Students' (CAUS) lobby efforts this upcoming year.

2014-02/5h

To Governor Hansra from Councillor Mohamed

How did you vote on the ARF item at the last BOG meeting?

Response to Councillor Mohamed

Thank-you for your question and diligent work! Pursuant to section 16(d)(iv) of the Post Secondary Learning Act ("the Act"), in order to become a voting member of the Board of Governors, all members of the Board of Governors (the "Board")- including the 2 student undergraduate representatives- must be appointed by the Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education. This is done through a parliamentary procedure known as Orders in Council. President Lau and I have yet to receive our Orders in Council. Consequently, we were not able to vote on any matter(s) that required a vote at the Board.

In an enormous sign of good faith and trust, Board Chair, Doug Goss, allowed President Lau and I to both attend and speak in closed and in-camera sessions. Mr. Goss did not need to grant us these privileges, as technically neither President Lau nor I are currently Board members. It is my hope that as students we can continue to build on the significant work done by President Kusmu at the Board to build trust and strong working relationships in order to achieve positive outcomes for students which help lead the University to become a leading world-class post-secondary institution.

For further inquires on issues related to the Board of Governors and/or my role as the Undergraduate Board of Governors representative, I would first direct Council to review my report.

2014-02/5i

To President Lau from Councillor Mohamed

How long was the ARF item on the agenda? Was there alot of discussion.

Response from William Lau, President

The Athletics and Recreation Fee was on the consent agenda at the May 9th Board of Governors meeting, meaning that it would have passed without discussion if none of the board members had asked to have it removed (from the consent agenda). Governor Hansra and I asked to have a brief discussion on it, and there was no discussion beyond our comments.

2014-02/5j

To VP Diaz from Councillor Mohamed

Does the ISA have a plan to combat an IDF increase?

2014-02/5k

To Councillor Khan from Councillor Mohamed

Is there talk amongst the Law faculty to increase tuition? If so, whats the context for this.

Answer:

It is true that there has been some debate about increasing tuition, especially in light of the budget cuts that were imposed campus-wide earlier this year. The Law Students Association conducted an informal poll last summer asking current students if they would prefer a tuition increase to bring U of A's tuition up to U of C's level (approximately a \$1500 increase per year), or to admit a larger number of students in first year law. The results overwhelmingly indicated that current students at U of A law preferred a tuition increase over increasing the 1L intake. This is mostly due to concerns about over-saturating the legal market and compromising U of A's articling placement rate.

From what I know, the Faculty decided AGAINST increasing the 1L intake for 2014/15 - so 175 students will be admitted for this September as in past years. This leaves open the possibility that tuition may increase next year, although there have been no announcements to that effect. It is still uncertain whether a tuition increase will be approved or not - the Alberta budget that was introduced a couple months ago restored most of the funds for post-secondary institutions that were cut in the last provincial budget, so there may no longer be a need to increase tuition.

Dr. Paton (Our new Dean) was asked if he would favour increasing tuition over increasing enrollment at a Q&A session. He indicated that he would prefer to increase tuition, and would only consider increasing enrollment if the increase did not severely compromise post-graduate employment rates or the overall quality of education at the school. If there are any further questions I am happy to help to the best of my abilities.

2014-02/6

BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2014-02/7

GENERAL ORDERS

2014-02/8

INFORMATION ITEMS

2014-02/8k

Sangram Hansra BOG Rep - Report

Please see document LA14-02.01



May 20, 2014,

Hope all Councilors and Executives are both working hard and enjoying their positions! Pursuant to section 16(d)(iv) of the *Post Secondary Learning Act* (“the Act”), in order to become a voting member of the Board of Governors, all members of the Board of Governors (the “Board”)- including the 2 student undergraduate representatives- must be appointed by the Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education. This is done through a parliamentary procedure known as Orders in Council. President Lau and I have yet to receive our Orders in Council. Consequently, we were not able to vote on any matter(s) that required a vote at the Board.

In an enormous sign of good faith and trust, Board Chair, Doug Goss, allowed President Lau and I to both attend and speak in closed and in-camera sessions. Mr. Goss did not need to grant us these privileges, as technically neither President Lau nor I are currently Board members. It is my hope that as students we can continue to build on the significant work done by President Kusmu at the Board to build trust and strong working relationships in order to achieve positive outcomes for students which help lead the University to become a leading world-class post-secondary Institution.

NTD: As a voting member of the Board, I have a fiduciary obligation to the University of Alberta (the “institution”) and furthermore must keep certain matters confidential, therefore I apologize in advance if I am unable to provide a thorough report or adequately answer your questions.

Athletics and Recreation Fee

The item was originally on the consent agenda, based on my understanding this means that discussion on the issue is limited. With the support of the Board Chair and the consent of the entire Board, President Lau and I were able to remove the item off of the consent agenda and open the Athletics and Recreation Fee for discussion. Both President Lau and I spoke on the matter. This passed unanimously. While I could not vote on the issue, I spoke in favor of the Athletics and Recreation Fee. This decision was solely based on what I believed to be the best decision for the University of Alberta. The factors that I considered in coming to my decision included [**NTD: But were not limited to**]:

1. The case outlined by the Faculty of Physical Education;
2. The potentially enormous long-term benefits to students as well as the Institution;
3. The unprecedented level of consultation conducted by the Faculty of Physical Education;
4. The support of the 2013-2014 Students’ Council and Executives.

In my speech in favor of the decision, I touched on all of these factors and further emphasized the enhanced positive outcomes for the Institution when Faculties and the

administration are: transparent, forthright, include students in the process from the beginning, and seek mutually beneficial options.

University Philanthropy and Advancement Report

The Open Report notes that that the fundraising achievement was “disappointing” under the previous year. This is despite the growth in the number of total donors and the growth in alumni. As a student, this is deeply concerning and something that I will continue to monitor throughout my academic term.

New Board Members

On May 14, 2014, the Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education approved the appointment of three new Board members: Dr. Ray Muzyka and Mr. Michael Ross for three year terms effective May 14, 2014; and Mr. LeRoy Johnson for a three year term effective October 22, 2014. All three are also University of Alberta Alumni.

Dr. Muzyka holds degrees in Science and Medicine from the Institution. He was the co-founder of BioWare and is currently the founder and CEO of Threshold Impact Ltd., a company focusing on sustainable, profitable impact investing in disruptive information technology, new media, education and medical innovations.

Mr. Ross holds a degree in Commerce and Business Administration from the institution and serves on a variety of professional, industry and community boards and is also the recipient of numerous awards and achievements.

Mr. Johnson holds a degree in Education from the Institution. He is a resident of Camrose, and has served as a trustee and Chair of the Camrose Public School Board and as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. He has also previously served in administrative positions at the Augustana University College.

We can expect further appointments to the Board in the near future with new representatives from the Alumni, Academic staff and the Senate representatives, after the retirement of Don Fleming, Wayne Renke, and Bernd Reuscher. While I was only able to attend one meeting with these three gentlemen, it was enough to sense their extraordinary passion for helping build a world-class Institution. Mr. Reuscher has already announced an endowment in the name of him and his wife. Professor Renke is moving to the position of Acting Vice Dean in the Faculty of Law. Based on my understanding, all three were both loved and extremely respected by previous student leaders. Their insight, passion and dedication to the Institution at the Board will be extremely missed.

Meetings

I have already met with roughly a third of Council; I hope to meet all of you for coffee prior to the end of the summer. I have also met with representatives from the Augustana Students Association and Law Students' Association. I also hope to meet with representatives from each Faculty Association by the end of September in order to have a thorough understanding of issues facing students. Finally my meetings with members of the Board commence this week, with the goal of meeting the majority if not all the members by the end of the summer.

For further inquiries please feel free to ask me anything during Question Period, or contact me at: hansra@ualberta.ca.