

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

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Tuesday June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
TELUS 134

## LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2014-04)

2014-04/1      SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

2014-04/2      PRESENTATIONS

2014-04/3      EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

2014-04/4      BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

2014-04/5      QUESTION PERIOD

2014-04/5h      To the SU Board of Governors Rep's from Councillor Mohamed  
Were you at the last board meeting. If not, did you miss any votes.

2014-04/5d      Nicholas Diaz, VP Student life response to item 2014-04/5d

The process from my perspective is as follows:

First Phase: Clarify the office locations of FAs for their microwave stickers.

Second Phase: Write a contract for FAs regarding the cleaning and replacement of microwaves.

Third Phase: Delegate the distribution of FA microwaves to Discover Governance.

Fourth Phase: Contact all relevant university staff for non-FA microwave placement logistics.

I am currently on phase four. I hope that clears up how microwave distribution is going!

2014-04/5e      Nicholas Diaz, VP Student life response to item 2014-04/5e

Our Advocacy, Outreach, and Campaigns Officer (AOCO) Patrick Cajina will be meeting with his advocacy team this summer to articulate their terms of reference and plan for our campaigns.

You had previously asked me what the International Students' Association was planning to do about the IDF increase. It is my understanding that the ISA is in its formative stages and is seeking members for its council. Ultimately, this question would best be fielded by Councillor Chen, as she is the president of the ISA.

**2014-04/5f**

To Councilor Mohamed from President Lau

Being a key player last year in a conversation that resulted in the possibility of writing a SU Political Policy on Appeals processes, can you see yourself leading this initiative over the upcoming year?

Response:

It is unfortunately not that high up on my priority list on issues to spearhead. My main goals for the near future is: a Coke referendum, childcare, and WUSC. I will partake in mentoring and supporting anyone who would like to spearhead the initiative. I will give some context behind the appeals process discussion in council to see if councillors are interested.

**2014-04/5g**

William Lau, President response to item 2014-04/5g

The job description says that the University is looking for someone who "interact effectively with the highest level of business, government and public bodies." Does this limit the future presidents ability to challenge the powerful and question the status quo?

The duties of a University president are extremely diverse, and interactions with the highest level of business, government and public bodies are inevitable. Although we are looking for an individual that is effective in doing so, this does not limit the future president's ability to challenge the powerful and question the status quo. It is also key to recognize that being able to interact effectively with the highest level of business, government and public bodies is simply one of many skills the committee has identified. Also embedded in the Qualifications and Selection Criteria section of the Position Profile is a point under External Relations that gives more context to the section you quoted, stating that the individual should have the "Ability to act in an ambassadorial capacity to represent and advocate for the University at the highest level with staff, faculty, students, alumni, civil society organizations, governments and enterprises through excellent interpersonal, negotiation, and advocacy skills" which suggests that the future president should actually play a role that actively challenges the powerful and questions the status quo.

**2014-04/5i**

To VP Academic Orydzuk and President Lau from Councillor Banister:

Can you tell us more about the Chopped Leaf in PAW?

Response from VP Academic Orydzuk:

Chopped Leaf is a healthy-food take-out restaurant that serves sandwiches, wraps, and salads. They have one other location downtown.

**2014-04/5j**

To VP Operations and Finance Hodgson from Councillor Banister:

Could you expand upon the Request for Proposal on the Coke deal?

**2014-04/5k**

To VP Student Life Diaz and VP Operations and Finance Hodgson from Councillor Banister:

Could you expand upon SUB Organics and the meeting you had with Shannon LeBlanc about organic waste strategies?

**2014-04/5a**

VP Academic Orydzuk response to item 2014-04/5a

Small point of clarification; I really want to avoid calling the Saskatchewan Drive Residence the 'Leadership College', simply because I don't really want to further perpetuate the narrative that the residence is only open to 144 students getting their leadership certificate. The information I got was valuable, but not relevant to the point at hand at the time, which was talking about the fitness room, etc. By learning who may use the facilities, I learned concretely the limitations that are being placed on who is able to live in the residence. If only students in aspects of the program can use the fitness room, for example, I wonder who only can live there?

This sounds like bad news because if you have to live in a residence to participate in the program, it creates a financial barrier to many students, despite there being bursaries and scholarships offered in tandem with the certificate program. What we would want ideally is for the residence to be open to any student at all, not just students in the program, but have leadership programming in the building, so it's still in line with the principle of student leadership.

To finally answer your question more solidly, nobody knows yet how many students are in the program because the program doesn't exist yet. The test-cohort will begin in September 2015. As far as I know (I use this phrase because I often feel like I'm kept in the dark on this issue) any student will be eligible to get the leadership certificate over their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years provided they have the time (as in don't have to work too much) and money (so they can fund their 'stretch experience' over the summer in between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year). There is rumour of bursaries for students in the program. My sense is that a student would have to apply to get one of the already existing research grants, but I don't know for sure. I am meeting with the people leading the project soon to get some answers and raise our concerns.

Please let me know if this does not answer your question. I'm sorry that the answer is that I don't know.

**2014-04/5b**

VP Academic Orydzuk response to item 2014-04/5b

I'm afraid not, but I was definitely planning on raising it when I meet with the people in charge one-on-one. From the most recent business plan, I can tell that the funding model is geared towards a smaller group of students. I also notice that other programs such as URI and CSL, which would be the most obvious ways to reach out to more students, have been cut out of the funding.

**2014-04/5f**

VP Academic Orydzuk response to item 2014-04/5f

Ombudservice is a service that assists students in navigating the often complicated university policies. An Ombudsperson can act as a mediator in a situation where a student is facing academic sanctions, or they can assist a student in understanding the process by which they might advocate for

themselves. For more information visit the website:  
<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>

**2014-04/6** **BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**2014-04/7** **GENERAL ORDERS**

**2014-04/8** **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2014-04/8k** Nominating Committee Summary Report

Please see document LA 14-04.01

**2014-04/8l** William Lau, President- Report

Please see document LA 14-04.02

**2014-04/8m** CRO letter of resignation

Please see document LA 14-04.03

**2014-04/8n** Humza Makhdoom Resignation

Please see document LA 14-04.04

**2014-0/8o** Sangram Hansra, BoG Rep- Report

Please see document LA 14-04.05



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: June 10<sup>th</sup> 2014

Time: 5.33 pm

2014 – 2015

### Motions

1.	<b>ORYDZUK/KHINDA</b> moved to <i>approve the minutes as tabled.</i>	<i>CARRIED</i> 2/0/2 (Abstentions by <i>BANISTER,</i> <i>TARRABAIN</i> )
2.	<b>BANISTER/ORYDZUK</b> moved to <i>adjourn the meeting.</i>	<i>CARRIED</i> 4/0/0

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**To:** University of Alberta Students' Union Students' Council 2014-2015

**From:** William Lau, President 2014-2015

**Re:** Report to Students' Council (for June 17<sup>th</sup>, Meeting)

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Dear Council,

The past couple weeks have been extremely exciting with students graduating left, right and centre. Although I decided to spend the time in the office and in meetings rather than on the stage of the Jubilee, the excitement was still visible from every corner of campus, from SUB to HUB. A quick thanks to Nicole as well for helping me schedule one-on-one meetings with you folks. The meetings have been great so far and it's been a blessing to find common goals with each of you and be able to share our resources to help you realize your full potential in your role as a Students' Union Councilor.

Without further delay, here are the latest updates in each of the following topic areas:

### *External Advocacy*

#### *Federal Advocacy (CASA) with VP Khinda*

CASA has had a board retreat recently and has divided up the roles of their board of directors. More importantly, our Policy & Strategy setting meeting will be coming up in early July in Nova Scotia to set the priorities for the year.

#### *Provincial Advocacy (CAUS) with VP Khinda*

The Quarterly meeting with the Minister of Innovation & Advanced Education (Premier Hancock) was extremely valuable. We were presented the measurable outcomes of the Campus Alberta System and are glad to hear that many of the outcomes align well with the goals that students have. A question was asked to the Premier about international student tuition rates, and Premier Hancock spoke strongly in favour of predictability and the possibility of regulating the IDF through a grandfather clause so that tuition increases would not affect current students. The largest immediate project for CAUS will be programming around the leadership races and making post-secondary education a priority for leadership candidates.

*Municipal Advocacy with VP Kbinda*

There has been no movement with municipal advocacy since the previous meeting with NAIT, MacEwan, and Mayor Iveson. However, we will be following up with them soon to join our voices in asking the province to resolve the issue around Residential Property Taxes.

*Internal Advocacy*

*Lister Hall Students' Association with VP Diaz and VP Hodgson*

With the LHSA as a key building block of the Lister Hall Residence, the SU and the university administration is dedicated to ensuring their success in Fall 2014 to build a strong residence community to optimize the student experience of first year students. We have consulted the association's executives on what they need to have a successful year, and are working with senior administration to build a supportive environment for our student leaders in residence.

*Athletics and Recreation with VP Diaz*

The key focus this year with the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation will be the promotion of free Golden Bears & Pandas games. We have decided to first focus internally with our SUs Communications Strategy, and the promotion of the free games is in the pipeline for the piloting of the strategy.

*International Students with VP Diaz*

The strongest direct link with International Student Services this year will be in regards to the Peer (mentorship) program, as there is a high appetite to engage more domestic students in the program. How we do this is still unknown, and any suggestions would be appreciated! The strongest indirect link would of course be the International Students' Association, as they continue to plan programming and strengthen their Council over the next few months.

*Fall Reading Week with VP Diaz*

The list of representatives sitting on the FRW Programming Task Force was recently completed. I will be completing a list of questions to send out as "prework" before our first meeting.

*Leadership Initiative with VP Orydzuk*

I have determined that the strongest support I can give to the Leadership Initiative will be to increase Honorable Kim Campbell's awareness of the amazing work that is currently being done on our campus. I will be compiling a list of initiatives to introduce to her, encouraging partnerships between the initiative and existing structures.

*Student Participation Protocol with VP Diaz and VP Orydzuk*

Before we present our draft handbook to Council, the various stakeholders will need to have an extensive conversation about how the handbook should be used. We will strive to meet the needs in our written agreement by the given deadline (June 30<sup>th</sup>).

*Student Health with VP Diaz*

VP Diaz, Councilor Kwan and myself visited Calgary to attend a Wellness Summit that aimed to gather stakeholders across Alberta to create a Provincial Strategy for Student Mental Health. We will debrief on the summit later this week. Here are some of the key take-aways for me:

- Mental health is an issue that impacts the 5 in 5.
- We must be critical of our current service delivery model and explore innovative methods of engaging and supporting students.
- By the time a student accesses a service, it is too late.
- Although many students may identify as non-religious or non-spiritual, there are aspects of spirituality like self-reflection that are critical to one's mental health.

*Academic Planning Committee with VP Orydzuk*

The major topic of discussion at our last APC meeting was the institution's appetite to adopt Responsibility Centre Management (RCM), which would mean that units (ie faculties) would be responsible for managing their direct revenue and expenses rather than central administration. Although research shows many benefits, it will definitely have an impact on the undergraduate experience. What this impact will be though is yet to be determined.

***Students' Union Internal Projects***

*Executive Goal Setting*

Goal-setting is well underway, and comprehensive goals should be ready to be presented to Council by mid-July.

*Students' Council*

Throughout my one-on-ones, I have seen the importance to have a clear orientation for first-year councilors so that they understand the responsibilities and scope of their new role. Discover Governance will be working on creating professional development opportunities for student representatives, and I hope you all think about what the SU could do to better your experience!

*Strategic Plan*

This is planned for Fall 2014.

*Student Life Central*

An initial meeting with services staff is scheduled for next week.

**Board of Governors**

For anyone interested in learning about our Board and its functions, please come out to observe our June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting in SAB 2-31 at 8:00AM. I have been meeting one-on-one with public board members and have various approaches to ensuring that my role on the board is effective and respectful. I am exploring the chance of inviting the Board Chair here to Council for a presentation so we can have a clearer idea of the Board's vision for the University.

All the best,

**William Lau**

[President](#) 2014-2015 | [University of Alberta Students' Union \(UASU\)](#)

Governor | [University of Alberta Board of Governors](#)

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Brandon Christensen  
Chief Returning Officer – *Designate*  
University of Alberta Students' Union

Students' Council  
c/o Rebecca Taylor  
Discover Governance Manager  
University of Alberta Students' Union

June 9, 2014

Dear Rebecca,

In light of some new, upcoming changes in my academic career and recent information brought to my attention, I will be resigning the office of the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) effective upon the hiring of my replacement, or sooner, depending on the SU's response to this e-mail.

This decision was not made lightly and I will briefly go into the details to give you some context. I have recently been accepted into a new faculty and will therefore be leaving the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Alberta in the fall term 2014. When I applied and accepted this position, I was under the impression I would be remaining in the Faculty of Pharmacy and had made plans that would have allowed me to balance my academic work with the requirements of the office of CRO. In the new program I'm starting, I will not have the same luxury of time to dedicate to this position, as the course workload is significantly higher. In addition, as the new program will be my final career I am obligated to meet this workload.

I believe I would have enough time to manage the by-election and SC/GFC election with this new schedule but I do not think I will have the free time demanded by council to meet the executive election standards. In fact, I was recently told that I was expected and required to meet at least 75+ hours each week during the two weeks leading up to the executive election. This figure *far* exceeded my expectations as I was initially told during my interview it was around 40 hours required each of those two weeks, which I had planned to meet while in the Faculty of Pharmacy. Interestingly, this 75-hour time commitment is not mentioned in the voided contract I signed or the job description online.

I believe in the seriousness of the office of CRO and I was ecstatic about this position. Running elections is a passion of mine and if I had the time, I would have worked tirelessly to improve the election process this year. However, I do not want to be responsible for a repeat of last year due to lack of accessibility. I want to see this next election run as smoothly and efficiently as possible for the CRO and candidates. As such, I hope to give the SU sufficient time to find a replacement that is able to dedicate the mandated amount of time to the position during the executive election, while still fulfilling their academic obligations.

With sincere regret,

Brandon Christensen

Hello,

Unfortunately, I will not be able to retain my position as councillor. I resign my position. I thank the council and the student for the chance to have sat in council and I wish the council the best in the coming school terms.

Best,

Humza



June 17, 2014,

Hope all Councilors and Executives are enjoying their summers. Great Job to all the Council members who attended the pride parade! You guys looked amazing and did an awesome job representing both the University of Alberta Student's Union and the University of Alberta.

**NTD: As a voting member of the Board, I have a fiduciary obligation to the University of Alberta (the "Institution") this includes keeping certain matters confidential, therefore I apologize in advance if I am unable to provide a thorough report or adequately answer your questions.**

## **1. Financial Statements**

### *1.1 Overview*

Section 79(1) of the Post Secondary Learning Act (the Act") states:

*"(1) Each year a board must prepare and submit to the Minister a report that includes*

*(a) the audited financial statements for the preceding fiscal year, and*

*(b) any other information the Minister requires.*

*(2) The annual report must be submitted to the Minister on or before the date specified by the Minister."*

A special Board meeting was held on Monday June 2, 2014, where the Board viewed the consolidated financial statements ("statements") and approved the statements to be submitted to the Minister.

The statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards. The consolidated financial statements present fairly the financial position of the university as at March 31, 2014 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

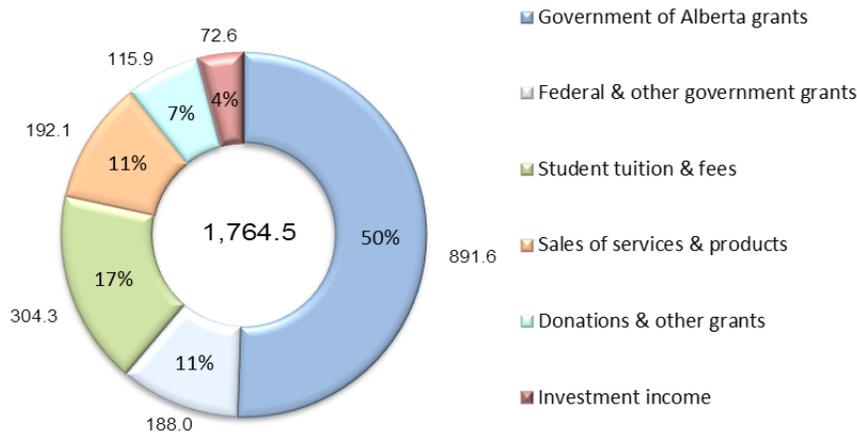
The Board is responsible for reviewing and approving the consolidated financial statements, and overseeing management's performance of its financial reporting responsibilities.

### *1.2 Financial Results*

From total revenue of \$1,764.5 million, the university ended the year with an excess of revenue over expense of \$18.4 million (2013: \$25.4 excess) and an accumulated deficit from operations of \$89.2 million (2013: \$76.1 deficit). Net assets increased by \$156.3 million with increases in endowments (\$113.8), investment in tangible capital assets (\$31.4) and accumulated measurement gains (\$24.1). The increase in investment in tangible capital assets was funded by the excess of revenue over expense and an increase to the accumulated deficit from operations of \$13.0 million.

## 2014 Revenue

\$ millions



### 1.3 Significant Areas of Risk

The major risks that can affect the university from a financial perspective are as follows:

a. **Provincial Funding** – Budgetary Pressure In fiscal 2103-14 the Campus Alberta grant was reduced by 7.2% (\$43 million), coupled with the anticipated 2% grant increase the net effect was a \$55 million reduction in anticipated provincial funding. The Campus Alberta grant was increased mid-year by 2.6% (\$14.4 million). The university is currently planning for a 0% adjustment to this grant for fiscal 2014-15. GoA grants represent the university’s single largest source of funding for university activities, any reduction in the Campus Alberta grant results in significant budgetary pressure.

b. **Pension and Employee Future Benefits** -The university currently carries a liability of approximately \$250 million for employee future benefits, representing probable future payments to be made for benefits earned to date. This balance can change for many reasons outside the university’s control, including inflation and interest rates.

c. **Deferred Maintenance**- The university’s deferred maintenance is estimated at over \$800 million. While the university is making progress on deferred maintenance on its older facilities, the overall deferred maintenance remains relatively unchanged. This area remains a high priority as deferred maintenance puts some risk on the university’s programs and initiatives.

To further discuss the statements in detail, please see me or email me [hansra@ualberta.ca](mailto:hansra@ualberta.ca).

## 2. Executive Pension Reform

At the Closed portion of the May 9<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, the Board approved the closure of the Executive Supplemental Retirement Benefit Plan effective June 30, 2014 for the eight executive positions. This was replaced with the executive defined contribution supplementary

retirement plan (EDCSRP) plan similar to the existing Academic Supplementary Retirement Plan providing benefits on full salary for future new executive appointments effective July 1, 2014. The projected cost of the defined contribution plan is approximately half of the current cost as the plan provides on average 50% of the benefit.

The EDSCRPlan has a number of advantages including:

- This design is independent of the underlying UAPP so the University has greater control over provision of benefits and, ultimately, costs;
- The cost is significantly lower than the existing defined benefit plans;
- Cost is more predictable as it is not dependent upon current interest rates, annual actuarial valuation of current service and adjustments for gains and losses.
- Liability is shifted from the employer to the employee.
- □ internal administration is minimized as the administration infrastructure has already been developed for the ASRP and can be easily be adapted for a small subset group.
- This design promotes greater internal equity and transparency in total compensation and maintains the shared responsibility for retirement funding with individual members
- [NTD]: The first person to be on this new pension plan will be the incoming President.

The Board's decision to shift to a EDSCRPlan plan is a bold, innovative and cutting edge decision in the field of executive academia compensation in Canada. The decision reduces the liability and financial costs to the institution, providing greater financial flexibility for the Institution. Furthermore the decision highlights to students that despite the trend of decreasing provincial funding, we shouldn't loose sight of being an elite world-class institution. Simply that in order to achieve this collective goal sacrifices will need to be made. These sacrifices are expected from all sectors of the campus community including University Executives. Furthermore for those detractors that think that the Board is merely an extension of the Executive, this decision shows that the Board will leave no stone unturned in order to help build the best Institution. This decision is a huge win for the entire Institution.

I would further like to thank Chairman Doug Goss for allowing me to publically disclose these confidential issues. Mr. Goss's decision to allow me to reveal this decision exemplifies that if students work as collegial partners rather than as adversaries that we as Students can help build a better Institution with a world-class quality of education and experience.

For further inquiries please feel free to ask during Question Period, or contact me at: [hansra@ualberta.ca](mailto:hansra@ualberta.ca).

Regards,

Sangram Hansra, BSc  
J.D Candidate, 2015

Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative | University of Alberta Students' Union  
Governor | University of Alberta Board of Governors

