

University of Alberta Students' Union

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday June – : PM
Council Chambers University Hall

- / APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
The minutes of the May meeting are attached
- / REPORTS
- / a Mat Brechtel – CCSA Conference Report
Please see document LA
- / b Tyler Botten – Vice President Operations & Finance
Please see document LA
- / c Tyler Botten – CCSA Conference Report
Please see document LA
- / d Janet Lo – Vice President Academic
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- / e Janet Lo – CCSA Conference Report
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- / f Chris Samuel – Vice President External
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- / g Chris Samuel – CCSA Conference Report
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University of Alberta Students' Union

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Tuesday May 27, 6:00pm
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

M I N U T E S (SC 2003-03)

Faculty/Position	Name	6:00	9:00
President	Mat Brechtel		√
VP Academic	Janet Lo		X
VP External	Chris Samuel		√
VP Finance	Tyler Botten		√
VP Student Life	Jadene Mah		√
BoG Undergrad Rep.	Roman Kotovych		√
Agric/Forest/HomeEc	Paul Reikie		X
Arts	Chris Bolivar		X
Arts	Adam Kaasa		X
Arts	Alex Abboud		√
Arts	Erin Kelly		√
Arts	James Knull		√
Arts	Chris Laver		√
Arts	Terra Melnyk		√

Arts	Heather Wallace		✓
Arts	Paul Welke		✓
Business	Adam Cook		✓
Business	Steve Smith		✓
Education	Charles Beamish		✓
Education	Allison Ekdahl		✓
Education	Mandeep Gill		✓
Education	Christine Wudarck		✓
Education			
Engineering	Josh Bazin		✓
Engineering	Paige Smith		✓
Engineering	David Wepler		✓
Engineering	Matthew Wildcat		✓
Law	Dean Hutchison		✓
Residence Halls Association	Samantha Kelch		✓
Medicine/Dentistry	Jesse Pewarchuk		✓
Medicine/Dentistry	Rosalind Ting		X
Native Studies (School of	Valerie Kanaga		X
Nursing			
Nursing			
Pharmacy			

Physical Education	Holly Higgins		✓
Rehabilitation Medicine	Sarah Booth		✓
Faculté Saint-Jean	Zita Dube		✓
Science	Anne Aspler		✓
Science	Tereza Elyas		✓
Science	Aisha Khatib		✓
Science	James Meeker		✓
Science	Shawna Pandya		✓
Science	Elaine Poon		✓
Science	Steven Schendel		✓
Science	Taylor Duncan		✓
Science			
President Athletics			
General Manager	Bill Smith		X
Speaker	Gregory Harlow		✓
Recording Secretary	Shirley Ngo		✓

Observers: Chad Moore, Jenny Van Kempen

2003-03/1

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting is called to order at 6:00pm

2003-03/2

NATIONAL ANTHEM "O Canada:"

SMITH led singing of the national anthem, "O Canada".

2003-03/3

University of Alberta CHEER SONG "Ring Out a Cheer"

MAH led the singing of the U of A Cheer song, "Ring Out a Cheer".

2003-03/4

STUDENTS' UNION CREDO

WEPLER led the reading of the Students' Union Credo

2003-03/7

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MEEKER/HUTCHISON MOVED THAT the agenda be approved.

BRECHTEL MOVED to make item 15c, 15e and 16b special orders.

15c - We are in the middle of negotiations, so they are urgent

15e - So I can call a meeting of the internal review board

16b - The search for a chancellor needs to be in by the 30th.

Motion is carried.

2003-03/9

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

KOTOVYCH/SMITH MOVED to approve the minutes.

MEEKER - The councilor sitting on the FACRA Board of Directors should say Laver instead of Meeker.

SMITH - For the minutes of the 2003-02/10 council meeting, under Question Period, the comment made by Smith is supposed to read "The provincial government recently released its proposal to *replace the Universities Act.*"

There is also no motion under the approval of the executive committee report needed.

DUBE - My comment under Page 17 of the 2003-02/10 council minutes should include, " I am in full support of Jones' amendment, *but I don't feel comfortable of passing it tonight, because there is not enough information.*"

BRECTCHEL – As well, my comment under Page 17 of the 2003-02/10 council minute should read, “*What we have proposed is minimal. At this point we would like to have a policy that deals with our most serious concerns, and retain the capability to add other concerns to policy later. We have had the opportunity to talk to other universities in Canada. If we are unsure if we have other concerns we shouldn’t postpone, but instead accept this and add to it later.*”

ABBOUD – Please note that from the attendance list taken from the 2003-02/10, I am not a representative of the Agric/Forest/HomeEc Faculty. I am a representation for the Faculty of Arts.

2003-03/10

QUESTION PERIOD

ABBOUD – A question for Brechtel and Kotovych, my understanding is that the SU has a policy for expansion in Garneau, did the 2 representatives on the board oppose this?

Kotovych – if we are going to look at SU policy, in terms of the housing issues, I voted in favor of it. Consultation is being done with Garneau.

BRECHTEL – This is 1 of the 5 motions that need to be passed. My response is that they will try to create as much green space as possible.

DUBE – Question for the President, I am concerned about meetings going very late. The main concern is that something that was very important didn’t get discussed till very late. Is there anyway of making special orders go earlier, so we can have discussion about it with quorum more than 1.

KELCH – About the North Garneau expansion, I sit on the committee, so if you guys have any questions or what we plan on doing with the green space, you can ask me.

JONES – VP Samuel decided not to attend the first GFC meeting of his term. Instead, he attended a golf tournament. Please explain why he didn't attend.

SAMUEL – Included in my report, is the campus golf tournament. Each hole needs a faculty representative and the SU was treated as a faculty. It was an excellent opportunity for SU to get out there and tell people what we do. The tournament has been running for the past 3 years and has had representatives from the SU all 3 years. My understanding was that nothing substantial was going on at GFC. By the way, I was not golfing.

SMITH – The VP External took an early flight from Halifax to make the golf tournament. Why didn't the President do the same?

BRECHTEL – I had to go to a meeting that day that was more important than the golf tournament.

2003-03/11

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

SAMUEL – For 1e, please note that the motion was purposely left very vague. We haven't hammered up if we are having office space or where it is going to be located.

MELNYK – The credit cards that are being used, what happens to those points?

BOTTEN – I was told that no points are accumulated but I am willing to look into it.

2003-03/13

OLD BUSINESS

2003-03/15c

BRECHTEL/SMITH MOVED THAT item 15c is a special order.

Motion is carried.

BRECHTEL/SAMUEL MOVED to informal consideration to allow Botten to have an extended introduction.

Motion is carried.

BRECHTEL/SAMUEL MOVED THAT council move in camera.

Motion is carried.

WEPPLER/HUTCHINSON MOVED the previous question.

Defeated.

SMITH/ABBOUD MOVED to postponed the question.

SMITH MOVED TO withdraw question

No objections.

JONES /SMITH MOVED THAT space be leased to Juice Fare contingent on a \$3500 tenant capital contribution.

Carried.

BOTTEN/SAMMUEL MOVED THAT Students' Council approve renovations associated with tenants' reconfiguration to a total cost of \$60,000, of which \$50,500 is to come from tenant capital contributions and \$6,500 to be derived from capital budget.

WEPPLER/SMITH MOVED TO postpone question to the next council meeting on June 3rd, 2003.

SMITH/HUTCHISON MOVED the previous question.

Carried.

SMITH/ABBOUD MOVED to postpone question.

Defeated.

DUBE/HUTCHISON MOVED the previous question
Defeated.

KHATIB/HUTCHISON MOVED the previous question
Carried.

Main motion is carried.
(Smith, Jones opposed)

BRECHTEL/SAMUEL MOVED THAT council move ex
camera.

Carried

2003-03/13a **BRECHTEL/SAMUEL MOVED THAT** Students' Council
rescind motion 2002-25/13c regarding the Faculte
Saint-Jean.

Motion is carried.
(Opposed Welke and Dube)

2003-03/13b **BRECHTEL/LO MOVED THAT** Students' Council, upon
the recommendation of the nominating committee,
ratify the selection of Dan Bradley as student at large
member on the Awards selection committee.

Motion is carried.

2003-03/13c **MEEKER/PANYA MOVED THAT** Students' Council
approve the proposed changes to the Standing Orders of
the University of Alberta Students' Council.

SMITH /LAFFIN MOVED TO refer this motion to
standing orders in their entirety.

Carried.

2003-03-13d

MEEKER/PANDYA MOVES THAT Students' Council approve the proposed changes to the Standing Orders of the University of Alberta Students' Council.

KHATIB - This should be discussed in council, as attendance affects us all.

JONES/WELKE MOVED TO refer 13d to crap.

DUBE - It is a pretty cut and dry issue. And there is another meeting after this one anyways.

Motion to refer 13d to CRAP is carried. (2 opposed)

2003-03-14a

BOTTEN/MAH MOVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve the proposed changes to Bylaw 3400 relating to the Executive Committee (First Reading).

Motion is carried.

2003-03/14b

MAH/BOTTEN MOVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve the proposed changes to Bylaw 3400 relating to the Executive Coordinators (First Reading).

Motion is carried.

2003/03/14c

SAMUEL/BRECHTEL MOVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, rescind the Political Policy relating to Gateway Autonomy.

Motion is carried.

SMITH/WELKE MOVED the adoption of the following resolutions: WHEREAS the Constitution and Bylaws of the Students' Union are in a state of shameful disrepair;

2003/03/15a

WHEREAS the 2003-2004 Internal Review Board show significant promise;

WHEREAS there are a number of jackasses sitting on Council as voting members;

WHEREAS many of these jackasses plan on moving bylaw amendments and rescissions over the course of the year; and WHEREAS this sort of large scale legislative tinkering is best and most efficiently done through a subcommittee of Council in the first instance rather than in Council proper; BE IT RESOLVED THAT Students' Council direct the Internal Review Board to undertake a review of the Students' Union "Constitution" and Bylaws.

BOTTEN/CONGLEY MOVED to strike the 3rd whereas entirely and replace "There are a number of jackasses sitting on Council as voting members" to say, "Replace these jackasses to the internal review board" and also to strike the quotations around "Constitution".

Carried.

Main motion is carried.

2003-03/15b

BRECHTEL/BOTTEN MOVED THAT Students' Council appoint one councilor to sit on SCAAB
Smith nominates Booth, congratulations to Booth.

2003-03/15d

SMITH MOVED THAT Students' Council authorize a committee composed of Mike Hudema, Mat Brechtel, Margaret Lffin, and Zanna Sharp, such committee having a quorum of three members, to appoint two (2) student-at-large members to the Internal Review Board until June 10, 2003.

SMITH withdraws motion.

2003-03/15e

BRECHTEL/SAMUEL MOVED THAT the VP of Student Life be appointed to the Chancellor Search Committee.

Motion is carried. (1 opposed, VP of Student Life abstained)

2003-03/16

REPORTS

BRECHTEL - On the issue of banning smoking on campus altogether. We will be looking for how SU feels and how students feel about it. This will likely come in effect in Sept 2004. (Got this from the task force on wellness). Next week, we might have a presentation by the general manager regarding the lawsuit.

SAMUEL - CCSA will have a focus next meeting. A lot of talk about the Post-Secondary act.

BOTTEN - Chaired my first SCAAB meeting. When I was gone, during my absence, I was elected to board of directors for Campus Events.

MAH- I was able to pull a lot of facts, ideas and initiatives from the conference. Working on WOW right now. The first WOW planning committee meeting will be tomorrow. Also working with Athletics, trying to address some athletic issues. Working on the revolutionary speaker series, still looking for suggestions and a value line on how much you guys are interested in paying for them.

KOTOVICH - My report was included in the agenda. A few deans have been approved. I will likely be missing or late for the next meeting. At yesterday's GFC meeting, we were talking about the budgeting principles, and there was a long discussion as to what was happening to the Faculty of Arts on how students can't graduate in 4 years.

2003-03/17

INFORMATION ITEMS

BRECHTEL - A council meeting will be held next week on June 3rd, 6:00pm

2003-03/18

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WALLACE- The International Convention of Youth for Democratic Values will be held August 19-24, 2003, in Edmonton. If we can register before June 1st, with a group of 10 or more, the cost will be \$65/person. If you are interested, please e-mail me at hwallace@ualberta.ca.

Chief Returning Officer - The date of elections have been decided. Please talk to me after the meeting.

2003-02/19

ADJOURNMENT

CONGLEY/SAMUEL MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:34pm.

Carried.

Conference Report—CCSA 2003

Mat Brechtel-President

To begin I would like to thank council for the opportunity to attend this conference. Although it may not be the premiere conference of the year, it has, without question, the potential to become the premiere conference of the year for any and all executives. This year the conference saw a much more capable organizing committee, which helped form a series of more relevant streams.

Generally speaking the sessions were tailored toward beginning executives, however there were many sessions targeted to GM's that I found particularly useful. Some of the sessions that I attended were "Campus Liquor Licenses and Alcohol Policies", "25 Tips for a Successful Year" (put on by our own Bill Smith, and the only multi-stream session), "President Portfolios", "Turning Your Executive into an Effective Working Team", "Planning for the Possibility of Voluntary Membership", "Strap on your tool belt Mary, 'cos we're going to give you the tools to queer your schools", "Elections Overview", and "Effective Employee Retention". I also helped to facilitate two sessions for the CART stream: "The Constitution and Common Declaration" and "Academic Portfolios".

Without doubt for me the benefit of the conference was in the majority derived from discussing pertinent issues with other executives from across the country. I had the opportunity to explore issues like Alcohol Policies, Organizational composition, Organizational reviews, and the Travel CUTS Lawsuit. In the process of these discussions I also had the opportunity to make contacts from other institutions from whom I have already solicited advice. Notably, it is difficult for a first time president to ascertain things like the breadth of responsibility of an undefined portfolio. However with a little discussion I was able to understand that the dilemma was common and not likely damaging.

In addition to the informal discussion at the conference there were times of structured extra-conference discussion, most notably surrounding Bill 43 and the lawsuit. In both cases the simple presence of many involved parties allowed for a type of discussion that is uncommon and problematic to arrange. In the case of the Bill 43 discussion there was a resolution approved for a general oversight body on responses. In a meeting of most of the Alberta institutions, one most aptly chaired by the VP External, we had the opportunity to reach consensus on a process for a response.

Like any other conference or major gathering the conference, CCSA wasn't without difficulty, however I am very proud to report to council that every member of this executive has volunteered to sit on the respective advisory bodies to determine the best setup for next year—an undertaking that will in all likelihood result in a better use of student money, not just at the U of A but nationally.

I have several sets of general notes that I took, and if council is interested I could produce on request, however in the interests of not facilitating the needless destruction of more forest than necessary I have chosen not to attach those for today—please mention any desire to see these and I will produce them.

Cheers! -Mat

Report to Students' Council
June 3, 2003
Tyler Botten, Vice President (Operations & Finance)

Members of Council,

Though a verbal report was given at the meeting of Students' Council 27 May, only one week ago, certain items discussed therein have carried through, leaving this Vice President slightly confused about which items have and have not been outlined. As such, this report shall include not only my exploits of the past week, but may contain small traces of work done prior to the last meeting.

- 1. Access Fund** – I have weathered the granting learning curve, and our first meeting of the selection committee was much less painful than I anticipated. Following the first meeting of the Board for this year next week, money is certain to fly from the dedicated fee coffers to those who need it. I was forewarned that this would be the only time in the year I could feel good about my position, and so far I am inclined to agree.
- 2. Budget Process** – FAB met last night for its first solid discussion on budgetary matters. I have received a number of final budget submissions and will be reviewing them this week. I have started meeting with Department heads to discuss major changes to their budgets and search for areas in which money can be saved. Currently we are still on schedule for completion at the end of this month, and as per my last report, you should expect to see a final budget presentation at the first meeting of Students' Council in July.
- 3. Lease Agreements** – Work has concluded on the agreement with the Women's Centre, which will be moving into their new office on the 4th floor of SUB within the next couple of weeks. The SimpleFood group has not yet come up with the additional money required to meet their agreement and so are not yet operational.
- 4. Food Court Tenants** – Following last week's meeting, yet another potential option has arisen for the layout of our Food Court, and if final details are available, it will be brought before Council.
- 5. Interviews** – Having completed interviews for a new Powerplant Night Manager and Sponsorship Administrator, we have selected candidates for each position. The former is not yet public, but the latter is one Geoff Grimble, who is already busy at work contacting potential new sponsors that meet the criteria of our ethical business policy.
- 6. Interim Services Manager** – Until such time as a new Senior Manager of Student Services is hired to replace Dale Coffin, I have assumed a shared responsibility of his duties along with Chris Robb, the Director of the Student Development Centre. The process to find a replacement should conclude by mid-July.
- 7. Advertising** – While my portfolio does little of this, I met with the Marketing Department to discuss plans to undertake a campaign of publicizing the breakdown of student fees as well as publishing of the overall budget, once completed.

Congress of Canadian Student Associations
May 21-25, 2003
Dalhousie / St. Mary's Universities
Halifax, Nova Scotia
Tyler Botten, Vice President (Operations & Finance)

I must once again offer my thanks to the members of Students' Council for approving the budgeted expenditure to send the five members of the Executive Committee to the Congress of Canadian Student Associations (CCSA) 2003, hosted by Dalhousie and St. Mary's Universities in Halifax, NS. Not knowing what to expect from this conference, I did my best to target in advance those sessions that I thought would provide the greatest benefit to my position, and which schools I wished to seek out to discuss certain matters they had experienced in the past year. I do not believe I would have had the same experience had I failed to prepare as I did, and my openness to absorb as much information as possible and interact with as many people as possible certainly contributed to what I found to be an overall very valuable experience.

Sessions

While I was registered in the *Moneycon* stream of the conference, designed primarily for Vice Presidents Finance from the different schools, I did not limit myself to the sessions offered in that stream, and was able to check out a couple of sessions offered in the *AMICCUS-C* (General/Business Manager-oriented) stream. The complete list of sessions I attended is as follows: *The Financial Reporting Process*; *25 Tips for a Successful Year*; *Balancing the Workload – Prioritization Crash Course*; *Relations between the VP Finance and the General Manager*; *Policy Development*; *Contract Negotiation Basics*; *Planning & Implementing New Business Ideas*; *Understanding the Legal Side of You & Your Organization*; *Relations between the VP Finance and Accounting Staff*; *Net Income Allocation*; *Reserve Funds & Investments*; a Conference debrief session and two roundtable discussion sessions on internal issues. A more detailed breakdown of each session can be found in my expanded report. I also attended Keynote sessions given by Rex Murphy and Tony Conte, which each brought to light their own viewpoints on leadership in both a campus environment and the world at large.

The strict content of the sessions was not always valuable on its own and at times I needed to expand the information given on my own in order to apply it to the situation with the University of Alberta Students' Union. The primary shortfall was in discussion on budgets where I had one of the largest budgets in the room. Overall, for every three sessions attended, about two and a half provided me with some concrete information or ideas, some of which was certainly brought about by the student discussion that ensued in the given sessions. Despite certain shortcomings, the amount of useful information taken away from the sessions themselves was more than I had anticipated, which was very refreshing, and likely a function of the fact that this stream was geared towards individuals in portfolios similar to my own.

Networking

Recognizing that a large portion of the benefit from a conference of this size would come from discussion amongst students outside of the sessions themselves, time was allotted for this throughout the course of the week. Again, not thinking that the typical 'Moneycon' individual would be willingly engaged in communication, I was pleasantly surprised to find the exact opposite. This openness and willingness to 'talk shop' gave me the opportunity to discuss matters ranging over the entire scope of my portfolio with students from British Columbia through to the Maritimes. Everything from the fees lawsuit in BC to the bar situation at Waterloo and fears of similar fallout expressed by other schools dealing with the double cohort, to campaign budgets across the country, to relationships between the Student Associations and their respective University Administrations, to allocation of reserve funds, to business plans and operations, to the balance between full-time permanent staff and part-time student staff, to various Council structures, to additional methods Student Associations have employed to increase their revenues. On top of this, I found a great deal of value in solidifying contacts with my peers at other schools such that I have more than a simple email address to 'cold call' them in the future to see their opinions on or experience with a given situation. Obviously it is difficult to know in advance where or when these contacts will come in handy, but it is good to know that there are other schools – of all sizes and compositions – dealing with similar issues that we face on our campus. In the coming year, I intend to call upon these individuals to provide a different perspective if I cannot find a simple solution within our office.

The Future

While I may not be able to directly benefit from it, I have been selected as the Northwestern Region representative on the Moneycon Advisory Committee for CCSA 2004 – a position that I do not intend to use lightly. A major concern that was raised in the Moneycon debrief was the cost of the conference, and areas in which costs can be trimmed to reduce the delegate fees in future years. Combined with the other individuals on the Advisory Committee, it is my side goal to do whatever possible to reduce this fee for the future so that more schools may send delegates to the conference. There is selfishness at play here as it is my recommendation that my successor attend this conference next year, though I would like to see the cost reduced so that he/she who follows me can have a similar experience at a lower cost to our students. I realize this project is best left to my own time, and will be keeping it separate from the work I do as an elected representative on this campus.

Janet Lo, Vice-President (Academic)
Report to Students' Council
Submitted for Tuesday 3 June 2003

Since I sadly missed the last Council meeting due to a bout with either (a) SARS; (b) West Nile; (c) Mad Cow, or; (d) an incapacitating flu, J-Lo gets to submit a slammin' triple report spanning her escapades of 14 MAY to 2 JUNE!

THU 15 MAY:

Attended Committee on Admissions, Academic Standing, and Transfers (CAAST) [subcommittee of GFC] (*standards for course outlines tabled*)
Had lunch with Dean of Students, Dr. Connor (*looking forward to working with Dr. Connor*)
Chaired the first AAB meeting (*minutes to follow upon approval*)

FRI 16 MAY:

Attended the Facilities Development Committee [subcommittee of GFC]
Met with Chad Moore, CRO (*discussed FA and GFC elections*)
Chaired the first GFC Student Caucus meeting

SAT 17 MAY:

Hosted the Council of Faculty Associations Retreat
(*I would chalk this success up to the trusty work of Chris Henderson, the AAC, on the ever resourceful CoFA handbook and the participation of a notable 8 Faculty Association Executives: thanks to Arts, Business, Ed, Engineering, La Fac, Law, Med, and Science for their dedication and hanging with me from 0830 until 1800. I sincerely hope that it was a useful experience, and I look forward to an exciting year with CoFA: it is what you make it.*)

Note to all other FA's: Councillors, if your FA is not on my list of attendees, please encourage your FA Executives to contact me, as I'd love to meet with each FA Executive and discuss their goals for the upcoming year and how I might be able to assist them in my capacities.

SUN 18 MAY:

"Leaving on a Jet Plane" at 6:30 am to sunny Halifax

WED 21 MAY to SUN 25 MAY:

Canadian Congress of Student Associations (*report to follow*)

MON 26 MAY:

Treked back to E-Town at 6:00 am Halifax time

MON 26 MAY to WED 28 MAY:

"Hanging By A Moment" J-Lo MIA due to illness (*thanks to my well-wishers*)
"I can't believe I missed Council."

THU 29 MAY:

Met with ATA President Larry Booi (*whattaguy*)
BoG Consultation Forum (*yay, BoG!*)

MON 2 JUN:

"I hate Mondays" hold true and blue, Garfield.
Playing catch-up for the 3rd working day in a row. E-mail, reading, and report writing. Does it get any better?

Academic Affairs Coordinator (AAC)

The superb Chris Henderson, aka AAC, has been as busy as a bee compiling the AAB manual, which will prove to be a good working knowledge basis for the issues that AAB shall explore. Additionally, Mr. Henderson held down the fort while J-Lo was working it in Halifax and bedridden with "insert illness here." Research projects in progress. Working incredibly hard. Janet very happy.

Upcoming Academic Intrigues:

Academic Affairs Board (Lower Level Meeting Room)	05 June 5-8
Council of Faculty Associations (TBA)	18 June 6-8



Name That VPA Ailment!

- 1) Create an innovative Academic name for the bug that sidelined J-Lo and kept her off the ice for two days. (It forced her to miss Council AND work! Of course it deserves a name!)
- 2) E-mail the name of the ailment to janet.lo@su.ualberta.ca.
- 3) The person who has the most creative name submitted by **Monday, June 9 at 5:00 pm** will win a prize (it's a surprise!).
- 4) Name away, Council folk!

Janet Lo, Vice-President (Academic)
Report on the Canadian Congress of Students' Associations (CCSA), 21 MAY to 25 MAY
Submitted to Students' Council: 3 JUN 2003

What is CART?

The Canadian Academic Round Table is a stream of CCSA that is geared towards VPs Academic, VPs Education, and Executive VPs. Focusing on academic support for students via the students' associations and unions and people who provide this support, the goal is to share information and learn from each other while contributing to a consensus document called the Common Declaration. CART is apolitical and not affiliated with any lobby organization and meets twice per year, usually in May at CCSA and again in October at CART II.

Sessions Janet Attended:

Introduction to CART

History of CART *(one of my favourite sessions, as it provided good background and got some ideas in my mind flowing about what the future of CART might be)*

How to Work with Administration/Faculty *(a tips session)*

Evaluating the Quality of Education *(excellent session on articulating what specifically makes an education good versus bad)*

Dare to Care *(getting involved and inspiring others to care)*

Academic Portfolios *(a good session that was split by size of schools; provided comparison as to what academic/education/executive portfolios entail outlining commonalities and differences; instrumental in that I will know who to ask when I have specific issues)*

Student Advocacy & Appeals *(most of my counterparts across the nation play a large advocacy and appeals role, in that they also serve as their schools' ombudsperson, something that is provided as a service here by the OmbudService; this session was a guide into how the appeals process may work for them and how for them to be effective as both a politician and as an appeals mediator)*

CART Constitution *(reviewing the CART Constitution which was written by my predecessor)*

Getting What You Want When Nobody Wants You To Get It *(another tips session for dealing with administration)*

Conference Debrief *(discussing CART!)*

CART AGM *(a 4 hour meeting that discussed CART's Common Declaration, Constitution, elected a chair, appointed the CART Advisory Board [CARTAB], and chose Conestoga to host CART II; yours truly is the regional rep for the NorthWest [encompassing NWT, YUK, AB] on CARTAB)*

Value of CART

Ideas. Sitting in many sessions produced many a brainchild. I did quite a bit of brainstorming in sessions, as a thought or two would be sparked when things were mentioned and I linked it back to us. Some ideas will be invaluable and I'll get cracking on them fairly soon.

Articulation. CART says a lot of things that are rarely said, but assumed as known fact (ie: tips). I very much appreciated the honest approach, as it enabled me to articulate much of what I've learned in my previous three weeks in term: the subtleties of how best to accomplish what needs to be done.

Other institutions. Learning how their structures work helped me put things into perspective. Commonalities and similarities are good starting points, and I will know who to ask for advice when I need it. From little things like their VPs Academic handling the appeals process to how their Executives are elected, I realized that the U of A SU is well advanced in many aspects and has much to be proud of and many valued people to be indebted to. Nonetheless, this doesn't mean that we're a perfect SU: "things" will always need work, but it is good to know that we are at the forefront and often setting a well-respected national precedent.

Networking. Likely beaten to the ground, I shall once again attempt to remount this horse. I met some amazing individuals in various positions at numerous post-secondary institutions. Having established a good working relationship with Grant MacEwan College's VP Academic, Matt Glass, I hope to continue working with him on CART initiatives. Furthermore, I hope to be in contact with VPs Academic across Alberta, discussing various academic issues and also on recommendations to the

CART Advisory Board. Overall, meeting SA Executives from across the country was an experience of a lifetime, and there are some individuals that I hope to keep in touch with for a while.

Some Thoughts on CART

And now for the main question: **Did CART live up to my expectations?** No, Janet's incredibly high expectations were not lived up to. Let's review!

- I expected a more structured board that would be more open for discussion, I expected more opportunities for open discussion (the kind of in camera stuff). Don't get me wrong; this kind of discussion indeed occurred (often well after conference sessions were over), just not within the parameters of CART. Two arguments were made: (1) CART is too structured; (2) CART is poorly structured. My opinion fits into category #2.
- CART is supposed to be a Round Table, indicating that discussion should ensue from all parties about academic issues from institutions across Canada. However, a good proportion of the sessions were tips and information sessions, and less QA/discussion type. Arguably, these sessions are helpful, but they were less applicable to me in my capacity here at the U of A, since our structure has its notable differences.
- I would have preferred more specific discussion on issues to occur, but it would seem that everybody is still "getting acquainted" with their portfolio, and thus, discussion was fairly idealistic and general. To my understanding, this is the nature of CART, and CART II (in October) is geared better towards discussing the nitty-gritty funstuffs, as by that time, we are all well-aware of the realities of our positions.
- Much discussion ensued regarding CART and its place in CCSA. Additionally, much time was spent on the CART Common Declaration and Constitution, which, as much as I love legislation (and a failed attempt to redraft the CART Constitution with the GMC VPA), detracted from the "Round Table" aspect of CART. Hopefully, a lot of this will be dealt with by the time CART II swings around. Using the CART mailing list should help.

Towards the Future: Recommendations

Despite the small qualms that I have about CART/CCSA, it was (without a doubt) an invaluable learning experience and networking opportunity. Most importantly, the qualms that I have with CART are growing pains, as CART is a body that is still searching for definition (and whether to do so by Constitution and Common Declaration is the debate that ensues). And now, as a sitting member of CARTAB, I will have the opportunity to participate in the process to define CART and make improvements to CART (the conference and the body). While I don't think that CART this year was phenomenal, it has glimpses of developing into a phenomenal resource body for future VPs Academic/Education across the country, and I definitely look forward to being a part of its definition. Most importantly, I have met some VPs Academic/Education whom I will consult when issues arise and (I hope) will prove to be invaluable support for me this year.

Understanding that CART is undergoing some growing pains, the U of A VP Academic is in a great position to participate in CART in its development. Therefore, I will recommend that my successor attend CART, as I believe there was much interaction and idea value in this conference.

Thank you to Council for the opportunity to attend CART this year. I look forward to seeing the agenda for CART II, and, if Council permits, participating in CART II this October, to be hosted by Conestoga College in Kitchener, Ontario.

Report to Council – V.003 (June 3rd)

This report is brought to you by a grant from “The Cheat” and support from viewers like you. (sbemail67))

Meeting w/ the MLA Raj Pannu (NDP) – May 28th – We discussed some of the Bill 43 changes, and tried to ascertain the best way to change the legislation. Raj suggested that it would be best for us to find Tory MLAs to propose any amendments, as opposition MLAs amendments will almost certainly fail. Suggested the idea of having a forum on the Bill scheduled in September. When asked about increased flexibility resulting from the removal of the tuition cap from legislation, he said it was “Nonsense”.

Meeting w/ MLA Don Massie (Liberal Education Critic) – May 28^h – Much the same advice that Raj had for us...when asked about increased flexibility resulting from the removal of the tuition cap from legislation, he said “Balderdash”.

Connie Harrison (Director of Business Integration @Alberta Learning – May 29th
Gained some interesting insight regarding the motivations of some of the changes in Bill 43. Surprisingly (cough), it seems the bill was drafted in a relatively short period of time, and many of the implications weren’t fully considered. We’ve been reassured that they didn’t intend to remove our ability to charge mandatory student fees. That was an “oops”. One of many “oopses”

Larry Booi (Outgoing President of Alta Teachers Association)– May 29th – Talked w/ Larry about how to best organize and utilize our resources. He gave us several good ideas about how to gather public support around our issues.

EAB Meeting II! W!o!W!z!a! – May 30th – On the agenda was National Lobby Organizations, Differential Tuition, Bill 43 Action Plan, and Political Policy Review. Minutes to come (this time, after I get them approved!)

Education Block Party – June 1st – An event promoting public education. It was unfortunate that it “rained on our party”, but it was a very impressive and well-organized event.

Edmonton 2004 Planning Committee –June 2nd – Attended a meeting in City Hall to plan events surrounding Edmontons’ 100th Birthday, on October 8th, 2004.

Meeting w/ Lauren Batiuk (U of C SU VP [External]) – June 3rd – Talked w/ Lauren about Bill 43 (again!) and the U-Pass in Calgary. University of Calgary is going through their budget process, so hopefully CAUS funding will be approved.

Upcoming Events:

June 6th – Learning and Technology Stakeholders’ Forum

June 6th – Visiting Lectureship on Human Rights Committee Meeting

June 9th – High School Speaking @ Eastglen

June 13th – Next EAB meeting (all welcome!)

June 14th – “How do we want our society to look?”

November 28th – HSLC!!!

Special Report to Council!
CCSA – The good, the bad and the ugly

“You’ve got to lean into life”
Mat Brechtel, UASU President

<u>Sessions attended</u>	<u>(Score out of 10)</u>
Social entrepreneurship – How to run a charitable business and still be successful	(5)
Tips for a successful year – How to retain your head during this wild year	(7.5)
Rex Murphy Keynote – Leadership	(9)
Effective Communication Skills – How to ...um...effectively communicate	(4)
VP External Roundtable	(8)
Tony Conte Keynote – Equality	(8.5)
Corporate Partnerships – How to get money from the corporations	(5)
Fighting for Student Representation – Gaining representation on boards	(4)
Media Relations – How to give interviews and get media coverage	(4)
Diversity within Student Organizations – How can value our differences?	(8.5)
A look at Canada’s PSE Financial Assistance Programs – An info-session	(7)
Supercon Conference Debrief – A chance for us to give our input	(n/a)
Maintaining and Understanding your Bylaws –A roundtable on bylaws (one billion)*	
The Basics of Parliamentary Procedure – An info-session	(7.5)
*-(8.5)	

What was good about CCSA?

- *Opportunity to meet and liaise w/ Student Organizations from all over the place
- *Great to discuss issues that we’re looking at that have been done elsewhere (eg. U-Pass)
- *Extremely well-run conference = everything was on time and smooth
- *Special bonds made between certain institutions will come in handy in the coming year
- *Bill 43 was a hot topic, and three special meetings were held for Alberta Institutions to discuss the issue. It was extremely important that we were there, especially since CAUS Chair Shirley Barg was unable to attend, therefore leaving the Vice-Chair (me) as the CAUS representative. It was here that we struck the composition of a steering committee
- *Excellent for personal development (in particular, the keynotes)
- *Made me realize the relative strength of our organization. We’re the best SU out there.

What was bad about CCSA?

- *Some (not all) of the sessions should have been divided into larger institutions and smaller ones...I found that, at times, the session discussions weren’t applicable to me
- *The issue of National Lobby Organizations was thoroughly avoided at the conference (which, is both good and bad, since last year their presence ruined a lot of the conference)
- *There needed to be more roundtables, since the ones we had were very superficial, and only scratched the surface of many of the issues
- *Drink tickets...I disagree with these being given out as part of the conference package

Would I send my successor?

Yes, that would be my recommendation. The conference contacts and ideas that you gain are invaluable, and I am confident that several of our concerns that were raised can and will be rectified (I’ll try my best to make sure that they are!).