

University of Alberta Students' Union

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday January 18, 2005 – 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

2004-20/6

REPORTS

2004-20/6a

Jordan Blatz, President

Please see document LA 04-20.01

2004-20/6b

Lisa McLaughlin, Vice President (Academic)

Please see document LA 04-20.02

2004-20/6c

Alex Abboud, Vice President (External)

Please see document LA 04-20.03

2004-20/6d

Alvin Law, Vice President (Operations and Finance)

Please see document LA 04-20.04

2004-20/6e

Duncan Taylor, Vice President (Student Life)

Please see document LA 04-20.05

2004-20/6f

Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative

Please see document LA 04-20.06

2004-20/7

QUESTION PERIOD

2004-20/7a

NICOL – A question for the President: A valued constituent of mine e-mailed you over a month ago and failed to receive a reply. Could you explain why this is the case?

2004-20/8

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

2004-20/8b

Executive Committee Report to Students' Council January 18, 2005.

Please see document LA 04-20.07

2004-20/9

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

2004-20/9b

MOTION BY ABBOUD, RESOLVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the External Affairs Board, direct the Internal Review Board to draft a referendum question with the following principles:

Do you support the establishment of a Universal Bus Pass subject to the following conditions:

1. That the pass would provide unlimited access to participating municipal transit systems during the Fall and Winter terms.
2. That the pass would be applicable for the Fall and Winter terms.
3. That the pass would be mandatory for all undergraduate students except:
 - a. Students not residing in a municipality served by a participating municipal transit system;
 - b. Students, who are for an entire term, not attending courses on the University of Alberta campus; and
 - c. Students who, by reason of disability, are unable to make use of ordinary transit services.
4. That Students' Council shall have the power to set the price of the Universal Bus Pass on an annual basis.
5. That this referendum would bind the Students' Union to enter into an agreement on the terms outlined in this referendum as soon as possible, and as soon as a price suitable to Students' Council can be agreed upon with participating parties.

Report for Students' Council
Jordan Blatz
President
January 18, 2005

Good evening Council,

The following is a list of things that I have been working on since last meeting:

1. **Tuition Week**– Tuition week is now over. Here is a summary of how the events went as well as the media coverage that we received:
 - a. **Soup Kitchen, Monday, January 10, from 10am until 1pm.**
 - i. This event went well, but unfortunately we ran out of soup at noon. However, on the good side, that means that we served a couple of hundred students 'hot soup'. Global, CFRN, and CBC covered the event.
 - ii. I did a live interview with Lynda Steele from Global that aired this evening as well.
 - b. **International tuition forum, Tuesday, January 11, from noon until 1pm.**
 - i. The event went ok, but only Global showed up as far as media was concerned. However, Global's coverage was very extensive and did a good job at highlighting tuition generally and international tuition specifically.
 - c. **Touchdowns for tuition, Wednesday, January 12, from 10am until 4pm.**
 - i. This event was organized and ran by the University Athletics Board (UAB). Unfortunately, due to extremely cold weather, UAB was not able to run any events in Quad and instead ran a free BBQ (raising awareness of our other events and the week in general) as well as music on SUBstage. I believe that it was a good event considering the circumstances. The Gateway was the only media to cover Touchdowns for Tuition as far as I know.
 - d. **Rally, Thursday, January 13, from 3pm until 5pm.**
 - i. On Thursday morning I did a live interview for the Global morning show. The interview went very well and I had a lot of students stop me on campus to let me know that they saw it and thought it was really good.
 - ii. On Wednesday, we made the decision to move the Rally for Tuition Relief inside because of the cold weather. I believe that this was a very good move because the students came for the rally, combined with students that were just in SUB and stayed to check it out, made for a decent crowd. Thank you to Kitchen's Passport for providing musical entertainment to start the rally. We had Dr. Raj Pannu, Dr. Kevin Taft, and Luis Lopez speak. We also had students help us to freeze the word

tuition in blocks of ice and the media really liked the image. We received good coverage on all four major television stations.

- e. **Board meeting, January 14, from 8am until noon.**
 - i. The Administration gave their presentation (same one we saw at council), followed by me. My presentation went well and at the end of it, debate started. Many of the Board members expressed empathy with the student position; however, they felt as though they had no choice but to raise our tuition given the financial situation of the university. I moved an amendment to delay the tuition decision until the March Board meeting, however, when the Administration said that it was not feasible and I saw that I wouldn't have support from the Board, I removed it. However, I was able to get the Board to discuss re-considering the tuition numbers when we approve the budget in March. Many of the Board members seemed amenable to this suggestion, however, we will not know the result until we know how much operating funding we will receive from the provincial government.
 - ii. In the end, the Board voted in favour for both tuition motions (general and international) with only Roman and I voting against.
 - iii. Most of the media was present during the meeting.
 - f. **Media conference, January 14, immediately following the Board meeting.**
 - i. After the Board meeting, Jim Edwards (Board Chair), Dr. Amrhein, Alexis Pepin, and I held a joint media conference. This was a great opportunity because it allowed me to express students frustrations with 24 consecutive years of tuition increases, but it also allowed the four of us to highlight the provincial government as the source of the problem.
 - ii. The media coverage for the meeting and the media conference was very extensive on all four major networks as well as on various radio stations and newspapers.
2. **Engineering Week** – The SU booked Quad for a 'Winter Carnival'. The ESS will hold events in Quad, however, they have agreed to not associate their events with the name 'Engineering Week'. This was an acceptable solution between the SU and ESS in light of concerns from the Dean of Engineering.
 3. **Augustana Transitions Coordinator** – I re-posted the position of Augustana Transition Coordinator yesterday and have already received a few applications, however, I am sure that more will come.
 4. **Upcoming:**
 - Meeting with Rahim Jaffer
 - Meeting with James Rajotte
 - Meeting with Rona Ambrose
 - Rural tour part 3

Report to Students' Council, January 18, 2005

Lisa McLaughlin, Vice-President (Academic)

For period January 7 - 17, 2005

❖ PROJECTS:

Academic Survey - Awaiting ethics approval and then will begin recruiting students for focus groups. We are behind schedule, but have a fair amount of lag time at the end of the term that should accommodate any initial delays.

24/7 Study Space in SUB Pilot Project - Proofs for HUB and CAB banners have been sent to the plotter and will likely be up by the middle of this week. Posters are still being put up around campus. A comment form has been added to the SU homepage to allow students to easily give feedback about this initiative. All comments are submitted directly to me. I will be keeping all comments for use during the evaluation phase of this project. So far, the majority of comments have been in enthusiastic support of this service and applaud the SU for offering it.

SU Survey - The VPSL and I will be meeting with Dan Costigan on Tuesday this week to review the cross-tabulations and discuss our plans for developing a report.

Exam Deferrals - The UPIO is currently researching exam scheduling patterns and exam deferral policies at other Canadian universities, as well as scholarly literature on the effect of exam stress and memory capacity on student performance. I have asked the Vice-Provost and Chair of the Academic Standards Committee to assist me in getting the ASC ad hoc exam deferral committee together to discuss this issue in a U of A context before moving towards any formal proposals at ASC SOS.

❖ ISSUES:

- **Proposal from the Department of English and Film Studies to reduce the Junior English requirement for non-English majors from *6 to *3**

I met with the Dean of Arts, Daniel Woolf, and the Chair of the Department of English and Film Studies, Garrett Epp, last Friday to find out more information about the proposal and to discuss my questions and concerns. I was interviewed by the Gateway last week on this issue (the article appeared in the Jan 13 edition) and was also contacted last week for an interview by a reporter with the Charlatan, Carleton University's student newspaper. I am watching for that article. The issue is multi-faceted and has benefits and drawbacks. If you would like to discuss this issue, please feel free to come and see me in my office.

❖ UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES:

- **Jan 10** - GFC Executive Committee
- **Jan 10** - Bookstore Advisory Group - Discussed issues of Bear Scat receiving the book list from the Bookstore in light of our participation in the referral programs with Amazon.ca and Chapters.Indigo.ca. It was agreed that revenues from this program were not of significant threat to the Bookstore's revenues and that the Bookstore Manager and the Associative VP of Learning Services would monitor our revenues, but that there is no need to withhold the book list from the SU.
- **Jan 13** - ASC SOS - I will be bringing forward a formal proposal at the February meeting regarding the extension of the spring/summer add/drop deadline.

❖ OTHER MEETINGS:

- **Jan 7** - Met with Catherine (EA) and Samantha (AVPA) to discuss details for Awards Night.
- **Jan 11** - Met with Alvin and Dr. Connor re: evaluation plans for 24/7 SUB
- **Jan 12** - Attended 4-hour roundtable session and presentations about information technology planning at the U of A, hosted by the Vice-Provost (Information Technology), Paul Sorenson. In my breakout group, I talked about my perspective on what the role of technology in teaching and learning should be, which was very well received by groups participants. I will also be participating in future e-learning planning groups and have been continuously advocating for more involvement in information technology planning at the strategic level. It was suggested that the Students' Union compose a position paper on the role of technology in teaching and learning - i.e., on issues such as blended learning, e-learning, etc. I think this is an interesting idea and will be thinking about it further and talking to the Exec about it. If you have any suggestions about this, please let me know.
- **Jan 13** - Participated in User Acceptance Testing for new Bear Tracks features that will allow students to apply for convocation on-line and to monitor the status of their application and receive information about their convocation ceremony, etc. These new additions are scheduled to go live in February. Although students who have applied to convocate in Spring 2005 will not be able to apply on-line due to the deadline having passed, they will be able to monitor the status of their application and receive information on-line.
- **Jan 17** - Met with Dan and Samantha to discuss contracts for Faculty Associations for working with the SU to develop faculty-specific sections in the SU handbooks.

❖ EVENTS:

- **Tuition Week**
 - **Jan 10** - Assisted with Soup Kitchen in Celebration Plaza for 1 hour
 - **Jan 13** - Assisted with SUB stage activity by collecting student draw entries and talking to them about the Dec 14 BoG meeting and the current tuition proposal
 - **Jan 14** - Attended BoG meeting
- **Jan 11** - Sat with the Lois Hole Book of Condolences for 1 hour
- **Jan 13** - Monthly Exec/Service Director lunch

❖ MEDIA:

- **Sometime mid-last week** - Interview with *The Charlatan* reporter regarding the Department of English and Film Studies' proposal to reduce the Junior English requirement from *6 to *3 for all students other than English majors

❖ UPCOMING:

- **Jan 18** - Judging for Engineering Week Battle of the Bands @ the Powerplant
- **Jan 20** - AAB @ 5:30 PM in the SUB lower level meeting room
- **Jan 21** - GFC FDC
- **Jan 24** - Town Hall meeting re: Academic Plan @ 2:00 PM in Council Chambers
- **Jan 24** - COFA @ 5:30 PM @ TBA
- **Jan 26** - PC Purchasing Committee
- **Jan 27** - CLRC
- **Jan 28** - Samantha's session for UTS on student-instructor e-mails

Alex Abboud, Vice President External
Report to Students' Council
January 11th, 2005

Submitted January 6th

CAUS

Leading up to our session with Minster Hancock on Wednesday, we'll be having a conference call Tuesday afternoon to discuss lobbying priorities, and lobbying strategies for the spring. We're attempting to finalize dates for our spring lobby conference in Edmonton. We're still unsure when the spring sitting will begin, and when the budget will come down, so that's complicating our time frame.

Tuition Campaign

We ran a series of events leading up to the tuition decision at the Board of Governors on Friday morning. Monday morning we had a soup kitchen in Celebration Plaza. It was far better intended than we expected, as we ran out of food after only a couple of hours. We had three television stations, and one radio station cover that event. Tuesday at lunch we had a forum on International Student Tuition and Student Experience on SUB Stage. We had three current students, and Edmonton-Strathcona MLA Raj Pannu (who did a Masters and PhD here as an international student) speaking, and answering questions. Global TV covered the event and had a lengthy feature on us that evening. Wednesday featured Touchdowns for Tuition, which was limited by the cold weather outside. Nonetheless, they also had bands on SUB Stage and were able to attract quite a bit of attention. We held a rally on SUB Stage Thursday afternoon in front of close to 200 students (credit: A-Channel TV). We had a band open up, Kevin Taft and Raj Pannu speak (we extended invitations to the Tories as well), Luis Lopez, an international student spoke, and then Jordan closed. Friday morning we had a breakfast in the bitter cold outside of Celebration Plaza. The media, especially TV, picked up many of our events, and gave us good coverage all week long.

Eugene Brody Committee

I attended the EBC meeting on the 12th to pitch the idea of using Eugene Brody money to help rebuild areas affected by the tsunami disaster. Ariana and I will be working on a proposal to use Eugene Brody funds to match what we can raise through certain efforts (i.e. a Live Aid-style Charity concert, or charity gala in the spring) to rebuild a school in the area.

External Affairs Board

We met on Monday the 17th to discuss the U-Pass. Our recommendation is in front of you as a potential late addition. We didn't have time to get through the rest of our agenda, but hopefully will be meeting again soon once we've sorted out our schedules for this semester.

Alex Abboud's Day Off

Or hour off, to be more precise, as the ESS commandeered the SU executive offices Monday morning as part of Operation Sexy Uprising. Here's a photo of me with my worthy replacement. See if you can identify him.



Meetings

- Eugene Brody Committee Meeting (January 12th)
- Attended Board of Governors Meeting (January 14th)
- Community and Government Relations, on behalf of Jordan (January 17th)
- External Affairs Board Meeting (January 17th)

Upcoming

- Engineering Week (January 17th-21st)
- Rahim Jaffer, MP for Edmonton-Strathcona (January 18th)
- CAUS Conference Call (January 18th)
- Meeting with student groups about Tsunami Relief Effort (January 19th)
- Session with Minister Dave Hancock (January 19th)
- U-Pass Meeting (January 20th)
- James Rajotte, MP for Edmonton-Leduc (January 21st)
- Lewis Lapham, Revolutionary Speakers Series (January 21st)
- Canadian Unity Council Luncheon (January 25th)
- Opening of Alberta Centre for Surface Engineering & Science (February 2nd)

Report to Students' Council

January 17, 2005

Alvin Law – Vice President (Operations & Finance)

Hello Council, it's been a hectic and busy week since the last report. Most of the week was spent answering constituent queries, performing office duties, putting some time into Tuition Week and taking in the occasional Antifreeze event. There were also several meetings for various DFU's as many of them wished to meet in the first week of Winter Term.

APIRG: The APIRG Board had a retreat this weekend on both Friday night and all day Saturday. On Friday, the board examined itself and the organization with several important questions including, What is 'public interest'? How does APIRG serve the public interest? How appropriate are conference/training funds for serving the public interest? How do working groups serve the public interest? What direction should APIRG take in the next few years, and how? Unfortunately, as I had a conflict with the GSJS meeting, I was only able to attend a portion of the Friday meeting. On Saturday, the board was joined by members from LPIRG at University of Lethbridge, and members from a potential SPIRG at University of Saskatchewan. This meeting provided a great opportunity to connect and interact with other PIRG's and garner ideas. It became quite apparent early on that the other PIRG's were not at the level of organization that APIRG was at. However, ideas were soon spawned and it was agreed that an informal loose network of these three PIRG's would communicate regularly, spread ideas, and aim at forming a Prairie-PIRG sometime in the future. It was also decided that these three groups would maintain contact by meeting at least twice a year.

DVD Vending Machine: I am glad to announce that the DVD Vending Machine that has sat inoperable on Main Floor SUB for the past few months is finally up and running. This is an exciting time as we embark on a new technology that is just starting to be introduced within Canada. As an introductory offer, the machine will be renting **DVD's for \$0.99** per day until January 31, 2005. Feel free to spread news as the SU receives a commission on sales from this machine.

Executive/Service Director Lunch: Many thanks to all the Student Service Directors that came out and had lunch with the Executive. It was a nice break from a hectic first week back.

FACRA: We had the first board meeting of the year this past Wednesday. An update was given on the present DFUC proceedings, as well as the new objects and possible impact on charitable status. The board approved a budgeted professional development expense for Daryl Richel and tabled the request by Charlotte Bourne so she could be present for discussions. The board also set out a required report for

attendees of professional development seminars. Also discussed were FACRA's 5 year strategic plan, a digitization project, a possible technology committee, and a review of the current status of the operating agreement. Again, I ask all Councilors that if you are interested in having input on the Operating Agreement with FACRA before it comes to Council, please see me ASAP as negotiations for the new agreement are nearing completion.

GSA Committee Meeting: On Monday, I met with Jeremy Shragge, a Councilor of the GSA to discuss Executive structure, remuneration, support, and training within the Students' Union. Jeremy is a Councilor who has been selected as Chairman of a committee to look into why so many GSA Exec do not complete their term. We had an hour long discussion as I explained the structure and logistics within the SU.

Coming Up:

ENGG Week: The famed event is back and spirits couldn't be higher. Please do come out to the events. A schedule of what's happening is available on the ESS Website, www.ess.ualberta.ca. I will possibly be judging a portion of Battle of the Bands today, starting at 4pm, however, Council will be cutting my commitment short.

Health Plan Meeting: Duncan, Bill, and myself will be meeting with Dr. McInroy, and a GSA Representative to discuss details on the Health Plan.

Student Groups Granting: We have another Student Groups Granting session this week. Surprisingly, we only have 15 applications, considerably less than the previous two granting sessions.

APIRG: Another Friday APIRG Board meeting.

**Duncan Taylor – Vice President Student Life
Council Report January 11th**

The Health Plan: Working with Studentcare to advertise an ongoing survey to see what areas need to be covered from a student perspective, and what proportion of students lack coverage. Survey is available at www.studentcare.net/uasu.

Anti-Freeze: is over. It is somewhat bittersweet, as I had such a fun time but am very very tired right now. Mad props out to all the co-coordinators, as well as to any and all participants of teams. Congrats also to AntiFreeze winners DUNIT and Frosty's Revenge. Councilor Lettner, staring contest. You and me. Go..... you win... you always do.

COSA: Went over the academic plan and Senate Task Force on the student experience. Managed to provide some input into both, specifically with the melding of students' academic life with their social one.

TRAC grant meeting: Went over proposal, what was done this year, how we can learn, evolve and grow from these lessons.

Wellness Week had the first meeting to plan Wellness Week. It will be the week after the elections. Tell your friends.

Tuition Week: Made it out to a few events, but was "otherwise occupied" for the most part. If you need to ask "With what?" I advise you to leave SUB for a moment or two during your University career.

Coming Up!

International Week

Zero Year Reunion meeting

Live Aid Meeting

Tuition Week Stuff

Engg Week Stuff

COSA

Health Plan meetings

Pharmacy advisory committee

Meeting with Health Centre and GSA re: Health Centre financials.

Call on me, call on me

That Time of Year

BOG Rep Report to Council – January 18, 2005

Tuition went up.

Roman Kotovych
Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative

Executive Committee Report to Students' Council January 18, 2005

Motions

- 1. The following motions were passed at the January 17, 2005 Executive Committee Meeting who consisted of: Rosy cheeks, Legs, Other Guy, Smiley and Air Guitar after the overthrow of the elected SU Executive by the ESS Executive**

ROSY CHEEKS/SMILEY MOVED THAT the SU President shall henceforth be known as Supreme Overlord

AIR GUITAR/SUPREME OVERLORD MOVED THAT The SU Executive Committee Rename Antifreeze to Wanna Be Winter Carnival Week, The SU logo will now be hot pink and will be referred to as the flaming Pink SU Logo, a student draft shall be instituted for all SU functions rather than relying on volunteers.

OTHER GUY/SUPREME OVERLORD MOVED THAT the SU will lobby GFC to boost the GPS 0.1 for all Engineering students involved in the Winter Carnival . tuition policy shall henceforth read: The SU will support a complete tuition freeze unless the U of A Adm. really, really, really, really, really needs it.

LEGS/ SUPREME OVERLORD MOVED THAT there will be weekly 3 hour labs for all Arts classes and that all doors in 2-900 SUB be removed to facilitate the "Open Door Policy.

SMILEY/ SUPREME OVERLORD MOVED THAT there will be \$1.00 beer for engineering students at RATT and Plant and there will be a beer option offered in all SUB water fountains.

LEGS/SUPREME OVERLORD MOVED THAT Business Week henceforth shall be known as Weenie Week

VOTE ON ALL MOTIONS

5/0/0 CARRIED

Recommendations to Students Council

All business students should be required to complete mandatory work in the U of A food courts to prepare for employment after graduation.

All tiles should be replaced with posters that are funny and portray engineers in a tactful light. On the topic of washrooms all toilet paper will be replaced with Gateway's.

Gateway autonomy be removed and given to ESS.

SAC must advertise all SU events wearing a sandwich board at all times, and stay up for one 24 hour period to make use of 24 hour opening.

Whereas Sam (AVPA) and Ariana (CLO) share an office and know each other 's positions, they shall switch titles and portfolios but not be issued new business cards.

ETLC solarium shall henceforth be the third bar on campus

EA and GM shall have fridges in their offices that shall be fully stocked with their preferences of beverages.

