

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

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Tuesday January 31, 2006  
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

2005-20/2

SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

2005-20/2a (i)

Administrative Assistant – Students' Council duties

Please see document LA 05-20.01

2005-20/2a (ii)

Tobacco Ban Petition was received by the CRO January 30th 2006

2005-20/6

REPORTS

2005-20/6b

Graham Lettner, President

Please see document LA 05-20.02

2005-20/6c

Samantha Power, Vice President (External)

Please see document LA 05-20.03

2005-20/6d

Justin Kehoe, Vice President (Student Life)

Please see document LA 05-20.04

2005-20/10

INFORMATION ITEMS

2005-20/10c

Bill #24, as amended

Please see document LA 05-20.05

2005-20/10d

Health and Wellness Report

Please see document LA 05-20.06

**Administrative Assistant – Students’ Council**  
**Duties in a nutshell**

Students’ Council:

- Order Food for Council meetings
- Order Paper preparation (Thursday and Friday prior to a Tuesday meeting)
- Late Additions (Monday afternoon and Council Tuesdays)
- Prepare recording devices and Council brief case (Council Tuesdays)
- Council Recordings (listen and trim the meeting for web-site postings, this task takes as long as the meeting was or even longer. It also depends which recording device was used, the exclef records to MP3 and the ipod records to WAVE files which take as long as the meeting to convert)
- Votes and Proceedings (This is completed while trimming the recordings, not long to type up, just depends on how many “*Points of Order*” have to be transcribed)
- Web-page postings (i.e. Council agendas, bylaws, motion tracking docs)
- Motion Tracking – ONGOING (I’ve tracked the motions for Council for the past 5 years, currently working on the 90’s)

Committees of Students’ Council:

- Set up meetings (I try to, it can take some time, and please remember if you change your email address to let me know)
- Printing documents, copying as well (printing agendas for various committee meetings, copying documents for others – i.e. statements for the Audit Committee)
- Agenda Preparation (for BFC and GAC)
- Typing meeting minutes (BFC, GAC)

SU Office:

- Cover reception lunch on Mondays
- Students’ Union Phone Bill (usually takes a day or two)
- Misc. duties for the Executive Assistant
- Training back up staff

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## President's Report

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Meeting date: Tuesday, January 31, 2006

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Executive Committee is working feverishly on the task force projects that it has outlined. There has been a great amount of exciting discussion on a number of fronts: I would impress on Council the importance of this work in setting current and future priorities of the Students' Union and ask them to query the Executive members at every turn to have a firm understanding of the process and expected outcomes.

### SPECIFICS:

- Profile Building Task Force

Recent discussions have centered largely around how the Students' Union should be building its profile with students on campus. A variety of ideas have already been discussed: annual reporting, weekly reporting, membership services to student members, and a number of other discussions yet to come. Over the next two meetings we will be developing a number of different initiatives, then transitioning into conceptualizing the necessary resources to put each initiative in motion.

- Travel Cuts Lawsuit

Our General Manager, Bill Smith, is embroiled in trial preparations for the upcoming Travel Cuts Lawsuit. He will be an integral witness in the plaintiff's case and is devoting many hours to readying his testimony for court.

The UASU aims to host a student leaders summit this October. We have finalized the conference details and logistics and hope to hear back from the invited schools later this week as to whether or not they are going to be in attendance.

- A Learning Alberta Working Group

Samantha Power and I recently met with the University Provost to discuss the upcoming meetings of the Transformations working group developed by the Ministry of Advanced Education. We will be talking to our CAUS membership and attempting to develop a consensus opinion on how to best approach the ideas surrounding student loan reform and a tuition rollback.

- Upcoming Students' Union Elections

With the election deadlines fast approaching, I would be more than happy to sit down and talk with any councilors or students thinking of running for election. I'm sure that the Executive would be up for the same as well.

- Board of Governors Lobbying

I recently received a call from Mr Brian Heidecker who asked me to be a part of a sub-group of the Board that would develop a lobby document to take to all types of public audiences, the business community, the government, and other influential opinion makers. I am distributing a document called "A Case for Investment" that the University previously use as its main lobby document in securing it's most recent injection of operating funding. Of particular note to councillors, please read the section on tuition.

<b>COUNCIL REPORT JANUARY 24/31, 2006</b> <b>VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL</b>
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I'm attaching my previous report as we did not get to Question Period in the last meeting. If you would like to ask me questions about any of the report, they're more than welcome.

As for an update on activities. I'm working with Graham and Don to create a lobbying strategy for the upcoming **provincial review process**. We are working on a university lobby strategy independently, and a provincial review strategy to present to CAUS. We are not limiting our options as to the possibilities of working with the administration. I hope to have a presentation to you all on the tuition strategy as of next week. We are working out a communications strategy for February and March, as well as developing the Roll it Back, Ralph campaign, which we're going to push hard.

The **campus community** meetings are going well. We're looking at how we can increase SU support of student groups, and Liz Bolivar, the Student Groups Director, is reporting back on changes to her office. We're also looking at external campus groups and how we can better connect and organize.

I had the pleasure of introducing at **International Week**, and they appreciate Students' Union support of the initiative. Make sure to check out the events.

Upcoming Events:

Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> – First meeting of the provincial review subcommittee

Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> – **One year anniversary** of the Ralph Klein tuition promise – come to SUB to celebrate the one year anniversary and help renew Klein's commitment. We'll be celebrating with Roll it Back, Ralph! Cake and footage from the speech to the province.

Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> – Travel to UBC for UPass discussion

Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> – Valentine's Roll it Back Ralph action

Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> – CAUS meeting in Calgary

Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> – RSS: Wade Davis

Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Speech from the Throne: Legislature in session

**Feb. 24-26 – PIA PSE Conference**

Sam's report from Jan. 24th

**A HUGE THANK YOU!** To all those councilors who have helped on the Roll it Back, Ralph campaign thus far. Thanks to you we have over 1400 signatures and the campaign is still growing. Students on campus now recognize the slogan and the main policy push, so thank you!!!!

**CAMPUS CAMPAIGNS:** We had a successful month preparing for the tuition decision on January 20<sup>th</sup> and dealing with the federal election. Our federal election forum on January 11<sup>th</sup> was decided to be one of the best of the campaign by many candidates. We had a turnout of over 400 people, mostly students, and good media coverage.

Tuition, or Roll it Back, Ralph, campaigns are going well. Our petition has over 1400 signatures, fast approaching 1500. Our tables across campus are a success, with students approaching us. We held tables in Humanities, Tory, Education, and twice in SUB. I gave presentations to UASUS and the Lister Hall residence association (who invited us back to give a presentation to a larger group of students). Jessica, the CCC, is continuing to organize these FA presentations. This was all lead up to our press conference on January 20<sup>th</sup> resulting from the tuition decision.

The press conference was held at noon, we invited Raj Pannu, Kevin Taft and Bill Moore Kilgannon, as well representatives from the Canadian Labour Congress showed up. Every media outlet was at the press conference. We were unfortunately usurped by an announcement from Minister Hancock who simply made a repeat announcement that the government maybe might cover the tuition increase. The tuition still received coverage, and our message of the necessity of a long term policy was still high on the list of topics, but it wasn't as good as it could have been. There was no way to determine that the Minister would be making this announcement.

**PROVINCIALY:** We received word that the extension of the learning review will continue with three groups formed around the issues of institutions, aboriginal issues and literacy issues. CAUS has appointed Bryan West from the University of Calgary to represent students. There are four meetings planned currently with results to be announced on March 31<sup>st</sup>. We are currently planning out how we can maintain a media presence and define, publicly, the policy we want.

#### **EVENTS!**

The only event I currently have to announce is the Public Interest Alberta post secondary education conference, Feb 24-26. I highly recommend councilors attend. I know this is the weekend before the exec elections start, but if you are running I highly recommend you attend. The issues discussed will be very relevant to those involved in student government and external policy decisions. Jeffrey Simpson from the Globe and Mail, and a representative from the Irish Teachers Union will be giving presentations. The Students' Union will be fully funding 30 students to attend so there is no cost. If you're available please let me know. You can attend all or part of the conference.

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**Justin Kehoe, Vice President (Student Life)**  
**Report to Students' Council**  
**January 24, 2006**

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Submitted: January 23, 2006

Good Evening Council,

I begin with an update on the Non-Academic Advocacy Task Force that I am chairing. The membership of this task force includes myself (VPSL), Mathieu Johnson (VPA), Don Iveson (AD), Mustafa Hirji (SAL), Norma Rodenburg (SM-SS), Graham Lettner (President), and Bill Smith (GM). We will be meeting weekly, likely until the end of February, to define how the Students' Union needs to address non-academic advocacy.

The priority of the task force is to consider non-academic advocacy as a whole, regardless of traditional issue categorization among portfolios (i.e. not VPSL-specific). Secondary to this, we will be analyzing the Student Life portfolio, where and how advocacy fits in, and what other shifts need to be made. There is no clear division between "academic" and "non-academic" within the University, so we have set some initial parameters to focus our discussions. There is significant overlap with the Academic Advocacy Task Force, so most members are aware of both processes.

Outside of this task force, Student Services will remain a key priority. I look forward to further meetings with Norma, our Senior Manager, as there are several exciting improvements currently being considered.

AntiFreeze was a smashing success. Check out [www.su.ualberta.ca/antifreeze](http://www.su.ualberta.ca/antifreeze) for more details, but some of the highlights include:

- with 25 teams and over 300 students, we had a increase (32%) in participation for the first time in the last several years;
- 9 teams, within 3.5 hours, raised \$4,500 for the Campus Food Bank, more than tripling last years numbers; and
- there was a dragon!

Everyone involved had an amazing time. Congratulations go out to the Avalanche teams D-Unit (champion) and The Finger Miracles (Spirit), and the Iceberg teams The Mighty MUGLs (champion) and DominAzn (Spirit). Special thanks to Pete (AVPSL) and the AntiFreeze Coordinators for sustaining awesomeness all week long.

If anyone is interested in this Non-Academic Advocacy Task Force or any other issues in the Student Life portfolio, please feel free to contact me to initiate further discussion. I am interested in hearing your input and providing you with more information.

**Upcoming:**

January 25: Non-Academic Advocacy Task Force  
January 26: PAC MoU Meeting, Handbooks, Service Directors  
January 30-February 3: International Week  
January 31: RSS, ASSC Open House

## Amended Bill 24

### Operating Budget

1. The Project Allocation shall be not be more than \$50,000 per year
2. Expenditures from the Project Allocation below \$5,000 must be approved by the Executive Committee.

### Allocating Spending Authority

1. Allocation of Spending Authority shall be described in the Standing Orders of the Budget and Finance Committee.
- ~~2.Changes to the Operating Budget between \$5,000 and \$10,000 must be approved by the Budget and Finance Committee~~
- ~~3.Changes to the Operating Budget between \$1000-\$5000 must be approved by the Executive Committee~~
- ~~4.Changes to the operating budget below \$1000 must be approved by the Vice President Operations and Finance, as well as the Executive Committee Member or Senior Manager responsible for the department requesting the change.~~
- ~~5.Changes to the operating budget that do not impact the net profit or loss of an operating unit must be approved by the Vice President Operations and Finance.~~

### Signing Authority

1. Consignment Cheques issued by SUBTitles do not require the signature of an elected officer.

### Budget Process

1. The budget process currently described in bylaw shall be replaced by this bill.
2. The Fiscal year of the Students' Union shall begin May 1 and end April 30.
3. Budget Principles describe in words the priorities to be enshrined in the final budget.
4. The Budget process shall be described in the Standing Order of ~~Students' Council and shall be the purview of the Budget and Finance Committee~~the Budget and Finance Committee.
5. A final operating and capital budget must be approved by Council prior to the beginning of each fiscal year.
6. A preliminary budget document must be approved by Council at a meeting of prior to the approval of a final operating and capital budget.
- ~~6.In the event that any parties are unable to meet the obligations outlined in the budget process, Students' Council shall retain the authority to appoint an appropriate proxy.~~
7. In the event that a final operating and capital budget is not passed before the beginning of the financial year, the previous year's budget may be used as an interim substitute.

### Standing Orders of the Budget and Finance Committee

Budget and Finance Committee may amend the standing orders with a majority vote of the committee.

### Budget Process

1. The Vice-President shall submit or cause to be submitted a proposed set of budget principles to the budget and Finance Committee.
2. The Budget and Finance Committee shall recommend a set of budget principles to Students' Council.
3. Students' Council shall approve a set of budget principles.
4. The Executive Committee shall submit or cause to be submitted a final operating and capital budget reflecting the set of budget principles approved by Council to the Budget and Finance Committee.
5. The Budget and Finance Committee shall recommend a final operating and capital budget to Students' Council.
6. Students' Council shall approve a final operating and capital budget.

### Allocation of Spending Authority

1. Changes to the Operating budget above \$10,000 must be approved by Students' Council
2. Changes to the Operating Budget between \$5,000 and \$10,000 must be approved by the Budget and Finance Committee
3. Changes to the Operating Budget between \$1000-\$5000 must be approved by the Executive Committee
4. Changes to the operating budget below \$1000 must be approved by the Vice-President Operations and Finance, as well as the Executive Committee Member or Senior Manager responsible for the department requesting the change.
5. Changes to the operating budget that do not impact the net profit or loss of an operating unit must be approved by the Vice-President Operations and Finance.

Students' Council (2005-12/9b) directed the Executive Committee to:

- a. examine the business operations of the Students' Union in order to determine the effect of those operations on the health and wellness of students;
- b. recommend principles to guide the interrelationship of business operations to student health and wellness;
- c. recommend actions consistent with those principles; and
- d. report such recommendations to Students' Council no later than 31 January 2006.

The Executive Committee subsequently delegated this task to the Vice President (Operations and Finance) and the Vice President (Student Life).

In order to focus the report, several definitions were employed. It is assumed that the term 'health and wellness' was most concerned with direct physical effects and not with wellness in an academic, social or other sphere. SU operations that were not considered pertinent to this report were discounted because they:

- operated in a non-business context with the deliberate intention of augmenting student health and wellness (Safewalk, Student Distress Centre);
- operated secondarily with a business focus (Information Services derives revenue from the sale of ETS passes)\* ; or
- were considered 'neutral' within the health and wellness context (SU Print Centre, SUBtitles).

Therefore, for the purposes of the committee, the following SU business units were considered relevant:

- L'Express and L'Express Catering
- Cram Dunk
- Juicy
- SUBmart
- Powerplant
- RATT

These operations all derive revenues from the sale of food, beverages, and in some cases alcohol, tobacco and lottery products. We can call these five revenue streams the business 'segments'.

Once these six businesses were identified as focal points, the committee considered methods by which to evaluate the 'impact' of these six businesses within the context of the five aforementioned segments. Data was available from the 2004-05 Students' Union General Survey, as well as from various small studies commissioned by the SU Marketing Department. Other resources were available through University Student Services, Student Groups and the SU Student Life Advisory Committee. Although the

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\* An assessment of these services is beyond the scope of this report.

idea was investigated, another full-scale survey focusing on this particular issue was not feasible given the time constraints and lack of available resources.

The following information was used in the preparation of the report:

- SU General Survey data
- Student focus group interview data
- Marketing 301 survey data prepared for the SU Marketing Department
- General staff feedback

## RELEVANT DATA

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### **Students' Union General Survey**

The most recent SU survey questioned students on a variety of questions related to Student Life, health and wellness, specifically:

- Do you think the food is reasonably priced for quality in: SUB, CAB, Lister, Campus Bars?
- Do you think there are enough healthy food options in: SUB, CAB, Lister, Campus Bars?
- Do you smoke?
- If campus bars (RATT and the Powerplant) were to become non-smoking, what effect would this have on your attendance at the bars?

In terms of perceived value for price of food, SUB and campus bars ranked higher than CAB and Lister. It must be noted, however, that SUB vendors also includes Edo Japan, Marco's Famous, Java Jive and Subway, over which the SU exercises no direct price control. In terms of healthy food options, SUB was ranked highest, while campus bars were ranked below CAB and above Lister. Even though SUB was ranked as having the most healthy food options, students were still fairly divided in their opinions of healthy food options in SUB.

The vast majority of students surveyed indicated that they did not smoke, while only 4% reported being regular smokers. When questioned on whether a smoking ban would affect their attendance at campus bars, those surveyed were almost equally divided. The survey did not determine the campus bar attendance frequency of the respondents, and there are obviously many other factors that determine attendance.

### **Student Focus Group**

The focus group consisted of the student-at-large members of the SU Student Life Advisory Committee and student representatives from Peer Health Educators and Peer Nutrition Educators. Healthy food was deliberately served at the meeting, provided by L'Express Catering. Focus group members were asked to comment on the survey results as well as their general impressions of SU businesses in terms of health and wellness.

Members were also questioned on their attitudes towards the sale of tobacco products in SU businesses.

A general comment raised by all members was the existence of a lack of *awareness* of available healthy options. It was felt that efforts to market the scope of what the businesses offered had been marginal. Another general comment was that variety in healthy food options is key.

Juicy was cited as a prime example of a business that responds directly to a voiced student preference (a previous SU survey indicated that students wanted a Booster Juice in SUB), and yet suffers from a relatively isolated location and low profile among the student body. The group also expressed an interest in seeing more breakfast options being made available to students, especially in the form of inexpensive fresh fruit and cereal.

The food available in the bars was considered acceptable. Although some group members felt that students do not desire healthy food when they go to the bar, others enjoyed having the option. Nevertheless, the group felt that if healthy food was to be offered in the bars, it should be presented in an attractive manner and not be 'thrown together.' There was general consent that while healthy options were nice, the sale of typical bar food items, such as burgers and fries, should not be discontinued on the basis of being 'unhealthy'. Smoking in the bars was not discussed, nor was the sale of alcohol.

The sale of tobacco products generated less discussion than the suggestions for improvement at L'Express. Although the representative from Peer Health Educators spoke very strongly against the sale of tobacco products in SUBmart, the majority of the group was of the opinion that it was just as important to cater to the needs of students who needed nicotine. Some concerns were raised regarding the prominent placement of tobacco products within SUBmart. Prohibiting the sale of tobacco products was generally opposed, although it was recommended that the sale of smoking cessation aids be investigated.

Overall, the group felt that the SU should strive to achieve a balance between offering healthy options and a broad spectrum of choices. It was also highly emphasized that in order to promote healthy options, competitive pricing was a must.

### **General Staff Feedback**

It is the permanent staff that make the decisions of the Students' Council and the Executive Committee happen day-to-day. They see first-hand the effect of these decisions. It is for this reason that we have included commentary for consideration.

The first relates to Vegan/Vegetarian options being served at L'Express. Based upon our sales data, these choices were often never sold and were wasted, despite public demand to have them included on the menu.

Another issue revolves around the perceived demand for healthy options and their actual sale. In both L'Express and the bars, previous market research indicates that although

customers express interest in healthy options, their buying habits indicate a different reality.

#### PRINCIPLES

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The SU shall respect each students' right to make healthy choices.

The SU shall endeavor to provide a balance between offering healthy options and a broad spectrum of choices compatible with student needs.

The SU shall endeavor to offer healthy options at a fair and reasonable price.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

In conjunction with the Marketing Review, efforts shall be made to increase the profile of healthy food options in SU businesses.

The Vice-President Operations and Finance will investigate the feasibility of the sale of stop-smoking aids in SUBmart

The Vice-President Operations and Finance shall work with the Senior Permanent staff to ensure that the principles outlined above are met.