

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Tuesday May 16, 2006
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

ORDER PAPER (SC 2006-02)

- 2006-02/1 **SPEAKER'S BUSINESS**
- 2006-02/1a Announcements – The next meeting of Students' Council will be on Tuesday May 30, 2006.
- 2006-02/2 **PRESENTATIONS**
- 2006-02/2a Vice President – Academic, Amanda Henry to present on the Academic Guidance Plan.
- 2006-02/3 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**
- 2006-02/3a Executive Committee – May 11, 2006
Please see document SC 06-02.01
- 2006-02/4 **QUESTION PERIOD**
- 2006-02/5 **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- 2006-02/5a University Policy Committee – May 9, 2006
Please see document SC 06-02.02
- 2006-02/6 **GENERAL ORDERS**
- 2006-02/6a **CHAPMAN MOVED THAT** Students' Council read Bill #1 a first time.
Bill #1 – Council Remuneration (sponsor; CHAPMAN)
Principle (first reading)
1. That the bylaws be amended to include Council Remuneration as currently set forth in Standing Orders of Council.
- 2006-02/6b **KEHOE/HENRY MOVED THAT** Students' Council read Bill #2 a first time.
Bill #2 – UPC Mandate (sponsor; KEHOE)
Principle (first reading)
1. Section 16, subsection 9, part A (ii) and (iii) are repealed from Bylaw 100.

2006-02/7

INFORMATION ITEMS

2006-02/7a

Samantha Power, President – Report

Please see document SC 06-02.03

2006-02/7b

Amanda Henry, Vice President (Academic) – Report

Please see document SC 06-02.04

2006-02/7c

David Cournoyer, Vice President (External) – Report

Please see document SC 06-02.05

2006-02/7d

Chris Cunningham, Vice President (Operations and Finance) – Report

Please see document SC 06-02.06

Executive Committee Report to Students' Council May 16, 2006

- 1. There were no motions passed at the May 11, 2006 Executive Committee meeting.**

MINUTES

2006-01

University Policy Committee

Tuesday May 9, 2006

ATTENDANCE: Amanda Henry
Justin Kehoe
Christopher Lé
Omer Yusuf

CALL TO ORDER: 6:09 pm

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Elect a Chair
HENRY/LE moved to nominate Kehoe as interim Chair. Nomination accepted and motion carried.
KEHOE/YUSUF moved to postpone the election of a permanent Chair to the next meeting due to low attendance. Carried.
- b. Create Standing Orders
Discussed the standing orders template distributed to members. It was decided that Henry would adjust the template to be UPC-specific and that the new document would be distributed to members with the intention of debating and establishing standing orders at our next meeting. It was also decided that Henry/Kehoe would be getting in touch with EPC to compare notes.
HENRY/LE moved to postpone the creation of standing orders to our next meeting. Carried.
- c. Meeting Schedule
Discussion. Tentatively Mondays or off-Council Tuesdays. Our next meeting will be next week sometime and will be coordinated through the Chair.
- d. Review of UPC Mandate as per Bylaw 100
Discussed the relevance of UPC's mandate as laid out in Bylaw 100. There was some discussion about the balance between the academic and non-academic parts of UPC's mandate and whether or not that was accurately reflected in the existing bylaw. There was also some discussion about whether or not UPC's current mandate was sufficiently broad in scope.
KEHOE/HENRY moved to recommend to Council that sections 16 (9) a ii and 16 (6) a iii be repealed from Bylaw 100. Carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Goals for the 06/07 Year

- Have committee standing orders passed for May 30th, to be forwarded to Council by June 13th.
- Yusuf- working to network between SLAC and UPC to increase the effectiveness of both bodies in their particular mandates and to reduce some redundancies.
- Henry- as a committee, try and develop a coherent strategy for policy drafting that is less ad-hoc than in previous years.
- Henry- facilitate UPC in its policy drafting, but without overburdening it with extra research whenever possible.
- Kehoe- revisit UPC's legislated mandate (see New Business d). Talk to EPC to try and make sure that there is some consistency between the two policy committees.
- Discussed the fact that some members have demonstrated an interest in talking about residence food services as a potential policy goal for the year.
- Also discussed the review of the 2 policies that currently exist within UPC's purview (add/drop and tobacco).
- Henry/Yusuf stated that they would like to give a presentation of some of the relevant issues and supporting documents to provided the committee with a context for debate and potential areas of policy development, hopefully no later than June.
- Yusuf- A joint presentation of the Exec/VPSL/VPA goals as they relate to UPC as well, both as a resource for UPC and as a good planning exercise for the VPSL & VPA.
- Henry- drafting policy to fill current gaps (i.e. we used to have an entire body of policy relating to access to technology. We should still have some policy relating to access to technology and other issues besides).
- Le- effective and productive use of meeting time
- Kehoe- dealing with whatever issues Council directs us to.
- Kehoe- develop a report on UPC goals and submit it to Council for information ASAP.
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ADJOURNMENT (HENRY/KEHOE) – 7:45 pm

NEXT MEETING - TBA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
MAY 11, 2006

Welcome to a new term! The executive has now been in office for exactly one week and we've been busy making sure our desks are in the right place, and our offices properly decorated. Oh, and doing work .

Nothing makes a new term like surprise legislation from the provincial government.

On Monday May 8th Minister Herard tabled Bill 40 – the ugly stepchild to Bill 43 for those who recall that incident in 2003 when Minister Oberg attempted to remove the tuition policy from legislation. Removal from legislation means the only thing standing between students and \$10,000 tuition is a cranky minister and a bad day in caucus. Not a pretty picture. Dave and myself have been working with the New Democrats, the Liberals, CAUS and Public Interest Alberta to gain as much public opposition as possible, as well as put up as many legislative roadblocks to implementing this legislation. Thanks to an absent Dave Taylor second reading won't be until Monday giving us time to launch a press conference and write several more strongly worded letters to the ministry.

Speaking of tuition, well I wasn't really, but I will. The Board of Governors meeting is tomorrow at which they will be approving the provincial budget money to go towards resetting tuition to 2004 levels permanently. From this point on the University will be calculating tuition from 2004 levels onward.

Speaking of CAUS the Council of Alberta University Students is meeting this weekend in a four day transition retreat. I've been very impressed with our ability to communicate with the UofC and UofL during this tumultuous time and look forward to developing a strong year with them.

Retreat! Transition does not happen in a day. The upcoming week will be filled with CAUS transition retreat from Saturday to Tuesday morning. Wednesday will be a day long executive retreat to follow up on goal development, and Friday will be an external advocacy retreat to further develop our priorities coming out of A Learning Alberta and Bill 40.

Amanda Henry, Vice President (Academic)
Report to Students' Council
May 11th, 2006

Follow-up on Past Projects

Smart Classroom Use for Student Groups

I am in the process of working with the VPSL, the Director of Student Groups, and AICT to come up with a suitable list of criteria for approving student groups to use Smart classrooms without having to book a technician. Ongoing (so, not really a “past project” as much as a “project from the past that we haven’t finished yet.” Meh.).

Update on Current Projects

24/7 SUB

The 2005/06 24/7 SUB Project wrapped up on April 27th. The report as well as the proposal for next year are written and will be submitted to the University in short order. In my estimation, the project was once again a success.

Academic Plan Submission

We’re in the process of drafting a submission to the University Academic Planning Process. It’s due on May 31st, so I need to get cracking. Feel free to ask if you want to know what the basic content looks like at the moment. I didn’t include a draft because there isn’t one that’s ready for circulation at this point.

Law Fee

I’m in the process of looking into the present situation with the Law Faculty Membership Fee (not to be confused with the Law Faculty Association Membership Fee, which does not in fact exist). I’m getting in touch with the Director of Student Services for the Faculty ASAP as well as the LSA, but it’s summer, so I’m not certain how fast I will be able to move on getting this resolved. Stay tuned.

Information on Upcoming Projects

University Teaching Services Panel Discussions

University Teaching Services (UTS) is in the process of setting up summer sessions and September workshops for faculty on a number of different topics. For a couple of these sessions, UTS would like to set up student panels to accompany the program.

In particular, new faculty orientation is planned for August 14th-16th and UTS is looking to set up a student panel for the afternoon of the 14th. The tentative topic of discussion is what students get out of their first week at the University in terms of getting acquainted with the culture of the institution. I will be working with the Academic

Relations Group (ARG) to find four student volunteers for this panel as well as to come up with a strategy for recruiting volunteers for these sorts of activities on an ongoing basis.

Of course, if any Councilors are interested, you're more than welcome to get in touch (vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca).

GFC Student Caucus Retreat and COFA (Council of Faculty Associations) Retreat

Seeing as how it seems like GFC will be planning on having their June meeting, GFC Student Caucus Retreat will be moved up this year if possible. Also, we're planning a COFA retreat for early September, so both of these events will be occupying some time in the coming months.

COUNCIL REPORT MAY 16, 2006
DAVID COURNOYER
VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL

What a busy first week!

Bill 40: Last Monday, Advanced Education Minister Denis Herard introduced Bill 40 in the Legislature. If passed, Bill 40 will remove the 30% cap in tuition from legislature, which could allow the province to allow massive tuition increases once the policy is placed in regulation. Also, once it is placed in regulation, the policy can be changed on a whim by the provincial Cabinet through Orders-in-Council, rather than having to go through public debate in the Alberta Legislature.

As well as sending a letter to the Minister stating our opposition to Bill 40, we also sent out a press release and received a number of media hits on the issue. We have also been working closely with the University of Calgary Students' Union, Public Interest Alberta, and the Liberal and NDP Opposition on opposing the Bill.

CAUS: Our provincial lobby group, the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) will hold its changeover conference from May 12 to 16. This conference will include meetings with SU representatives from the University of Calgary and Lethbridge, along with presentations from Educational Policy Institute researcher Kim Steele, Marg Leatham from Advanced Education, Liberal MLA Dave Taylor, and NDP MLA Raj Pannu. We will also be meeting with Minister Herard on Monday afternoon.

UPass: Lots of upcoming meetings. I will have more information to update Council with in the coming weeks.

New Staff: I am happy to welcome Pamela Aranas as Associate Vice President External and Andrea Enes as External Policy & Information Officer to the SU Advocacy Team!

Upcoming:

May 12-15	CAUS Changeover Conferences
May 12	John Humphrey Society Democracy Conferences
May 17	Executive Committee Retreat
May 19	External Advocacy Retreat
May 26	X-Men 3: The Last Stand
June 3-7	Federation of Canadian Student Leaders Conference in Toronto
June 5	Chancellor's Cup
End of Nov	High School Leadership Conference

Chris Cunningham, Vice President – Operations & Finance
Report to Students' Council
May 16, 2006

Good evening Council,

Apart from familiarizing myself with the day to day “house keeping” responsibilities, I have been doing my best to meet with all of the senior managers and administrative support to define the relationship between them and myself.

Web Redevelopment Report

Students thought the SU's site was absolutely central to the SU's presence, and needs to be a higher priority for the organization.

There have been a number of student feedback groups which have outlined the desired changes that should be considered when updating the SU's web page.

- Prefer simpler navigation
- Maintain a shortcut menu to popular areas of the site.
- A better “search” tool
- Simple and clear layouts
- Event calendar needs to be broader and incorporate off-campus events to be useful.
- The number one recommendation of students was to ensure that content is up-to-date

The SU needs to give the website the priority and resources it deserves as a key point of contact and service delivery.

Aim for creation of a full-time web content management position, and centralize content creation and editing under this position.

This position should be instituted and funded in the next (2007-08) budget cycle, given the budgetary constraints of the upcoming year.

For 2006-07, the SU has applied for STEP grants for one web editor position. In addition to this, if granted, the SU should reallocate the STEP grant assigned to accounting to work on web content. If both STEP grants are obtained, that would mean two F/T summer positions to develop new web content and edit old content.

During the academic year, hire a p/t student to coordinate changes and updates to the content. Major content changes will be facilitated by whitematter, if required (and included in contract).

We expect a launch of a redesigned site in August