

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Tuesday March 6, 2007
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

ORDER PAPER (SC 2006-21)

2006-21/1 SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

2006-21/1a Announcements – The next meeting of Students' Council will take place on Tuesday March 27, 2007.

2006-21/1b The Administrative Assistant to Council, Jennifer Serafin will be leaving the SU effective March 9, 2007. Jenn is moving on to a new position within University Hall. We will all miss Jenn but we know she will do well in her new position. The new administrative assistant to council will be Astra Aqi. Many of you will be familiar with Astra as she has been the SU receptionist for the past 18 months. Astra is excited by the new challenges and is looking forward to working closely with Students' Council.

2006-21/2 PRESENTATIONS

2006-21/2a ECOS Development Task Force, presented by VP Student Life, Omer Yusuf

2006-21/2b Student Group Services Review: Draft Document, presented by VP Student Life, Omer Yusuf

2006-21/3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

2006-21/3a Executive Committee – February 28, 2007

Please see document SC 06-21.01

2006-21/4 QUESTION PERIOD

2006-21/5 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

2006-21/5a Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board – Ruling #3: CRO vs. Killer Coke Materials

Please see document SC 06-21.02

2006-21/5b Budget and Finance Committee

2006-21/5b (i) **CHAPMAN/DOLLANSKY MOVED THAT** Students' Council read Bill #21 a first time.

Bill #21 – Remuneration Repeal

Principle (first reading)

1. Councillors and the Board of Governors Representative will not be remunerated financially.

2006-21/5c

Bylaw Committee

2006-21/5c (i)

BUGLER/NEARINGBURG MOVED THAT Students' Council remove Councillor Mathewson from the Bylaw Committee.

2006-21/5c (ii)

BUGLER MOVED THAT Students' Council appoint one (1) member to the Bylaw Committee.

2006-21/6

GENERAL ORDERS

2006-21/6a

BLAIS MOVED THAT Students' Council direct the University Policy Committee to create a Political Policy based on the following principles:

1. Teaching evaluations are an important resource for students to help them select courses taught by excellent instructors.
2. Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) provide students with the opportunity to provide anonymous, confidential, and helpful feedback to instructors.
3. Date(s) of USRI distribution and other teaching evaluations (if any) must be included on the course syllabus. If this date is changed, instructors shall notify students a minimum of two weeks in advance. This would allow students to prepare their comments before the date of the teaching evaluation.
4. Numerical results of USRI must be made viewable to students in written and electronic format within 6 weeks of the end of a course.
5. Instructors are encouraged to solicit mid-course feedback from their students. This allows the instructor time to react to such feedback before the completion of the course and the subsequent formal assessment of the instructor's performance.
6. Teaching evaluations are an important component for determining promotion, tenure and rewards for faculty and the University should endeavour to ensure that they are considered as such by all University units and personnel.
7. The University should encourage faculties to include additional USRI questions when the addition of these questions is appropriate to further the purpose of USRI.

2006-21/6b

POWER/HENRY MOVED THAT Students' Council adopt a Political Policy based on the following principle:

Attendance at the U of A should be based on academic merit alone, and not the financial status of a prospective student. Currently, the maximum allowable tuition increase is the annual average of Alberta July-June CPI – decision to increase tuition lies with the BoG. The Students' Union holds that the current level of tuition is too high and will advocate to the Board of Governors that

tuition be rolled back to a level based on what students can earn, on average, in the summer months. Furthermore, the Students' Union holds that increases serve as ever mounting barriers to beginning and completing an education, and will not vote in favor of any increase in tuition.

2006-21/6c

COURNOYER MOVED THAT Students' Council adopt a Political Policy based on the following principles:

That the University of Alberta Students' Union advocate to the Government of Alberta to:

1. Provide provincial funding to pay residence property taxes to municipalities, or close the loophole allowing municipalities to assess those taxes, and diverting those funds (some \$900,000 per year at the U of A) to preserving affordability.
2. Provide a large-scale one-time infusion of capital funds to address deferred maintenance in existing residence facilities.
3. Provide capital funds toward the development of additional student housing stock.

Please see document SC 06-21.03

2006-21/7

INFORMATION ITEMS

2006-21/7a

Amendment to item 2006-21/6b from Councillor Kirvan

Please see document SC 06-21.04

2006-21/7b

Tobacco Free Campus-Question and Answer

Please see document SC 06-21.05

2006-21/7c

Student Groups Restructuring Initiative

Please see document SC 06-21.06

2006-21/7d

Votes and Proceedings – February 13, 2007

Please see document SC 06-21.07

2006-21/7e

Omer Yusuf, VP Student Life- Report

Please see document SC 06-21.08

Executive Committee Report to Students' Council March 6, 2007

1. The following motions were passed at the February 5, 2007 Executive Committee meeting.

- a. HENRY/COURNOYER MOVED TO allow Norma Rodenburg, Senior Manager Student Services, to attend the National Orientation Directors Association (NODA) Spring Board Meeting.

VOTE ON MOTION 4/0/0 CARRIED

- b. HENRY/YUSUF MOVED THAT the Executive Committee approve sponsoring the Nutrition 440 event in the Horowitz by giving them a student group rate.

VOTE ON MOTION 1/0/3 DEFEATED

2. There were no motions passed at the February 14, 2007 Executive Committee meeting.

3. There were no motions passed at the February 26, 2007 Executive Committee meeting.

4. The following motion was passed at the February 28, 2007 Executive Committee meeting.

- a. YUSUF/POWER MOVED THAT the Executive Committee approve an expenditure for the special Project reserve not to exceed \$450.00 for a staff barbeque on April 24, 2007

VOTE ON MOTION 4/0/0 CARRIED

D.I.E. Report to Students' Council March 6, 2007

The Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement Board have made the following rulings:

Ruling # 3

Style of Cause: Appeal of CRO Ruling #1 (re. Killer Coke Materials)

Date heard: February 14 2007

Appearing for the D.I.E. Board: Presiding Chair: Alan Cliff, Tribunes: Sharon Ohayon, Sarah Rossman

Appearing for the Applicant: Darren Lau

Appearing for the Respondent: Rachel Woynorowski, Chief Returning Office

Case summary:

CRO Ruling #1 found that posters and stickers disseminated by "Students' Against Killer Coke" constituted campaign materials and therefore illicit pre-campaigning, and fined the Coke No election side \$900. The applicant argues that the CRO erred in ruling the posters and stickers to be campaign materials; the panel disagrees. Mr. Lau further submits that even if the materials were in contravention of the bylaw, the fine was too high. The panel finds that the fine was permissible under Bylaw 2000 and was not unreasonable, and therefore upholds the CRO's ruling.

SUMMARY OF ALLEGATIONS

Mr. Lau alleges that the Chief Returning Officer's decision in CRO Ruling #1 was erroneous in its classification of the SAKcoke materials as "campaign materials". Lau argues that the dissemination of the materials should not be classed as campaign activity under Bylaw 2000 because they were not "[p]lanned or organized by or on behalf of [the Coke No side, and] calculated to convince members to vote in a given way". He suggests that only actions committed by individuals who have deliberately set out to influence the vote should meet this criterion, and that the materials in question did not.

Mr. Lau further claims that even if the SAKcoke materials did violate Bylaw 2000, the penalty was excessive and should be reduced. He suggests that the need for counterbalancing the effect of the infraction was limited because of the time lag between the propagation of the material and the vote itself, and because the material did not mention the dates of the election, or indeed the plebiscite itself. He argues that any infraction of the bylaws was unintentional, and that a punitive fine would be inappropriate. Even were a punitive fine justified, he suggests that the costs of the material were likely around \$100, and that the punitive portion of the fine was disproportionately large. Finally, he challenges the CRO's authority to levy an additional fine to compensate for costs associated with sticker removal.

FACTS

The applicant did not contest the facts as laid out in CRO Ruling #1.

RELEVANT LEGAL PROVISIONS

Bylaw 2000 s.62(2) gives all Students' Union members the right to "appeal a ruling of the C.R.O. to the D.I.E. Board". Under *Bylaw 1500* s.3.(a), actions brought before the board must be based on "a contravention of Students' Union legislation".

Bylaw 2000 s.22.(1) prohibits volunteers and campaign managers from "[engaging] in campaign activities between [...] Students' Council initiation of a plebiscite/referenda and the commencement of the campaign." S.2.(r) defines a volunteer as "any individual who assists in campaign activities". Campaign activities are defined in s.2.(q) as "any act, planned or organized by or on behalf of any candidate, slate or side, that is calculated to convince members to vote in a given way". Under s.2.(t), campaign materials are "physical or electronic media produced or distributed as part of campaign activities".

Bylaw 2000 s.60 provides for the C.R.O. to "assign a penalty" in instances where a contravention of the bylaw has resulted in "unfair advantage to a candidate". (The panel and the parties agree that this clause should be read to include plebiscite sides as well as candidates, because s.61(4) refers to the C.R.O. using s.60 penalties against sides, and because a narrow reading would result in the absurd conclusion that the C.R.O. is not permitted to use any penalties short of disqualification for campaign sides.) Such penalties are exercised under s.60(1)(a) to "fully counter-balance any advantage gained" and under (60)(1)(b) "where the contravention was intentional, penalize the candidate or campaign manager who was or whose volunteer was guilty of the contravention."

s.60(2)(a) provides for the C.R.O. to levy fines "to be counted against the candidate's campaign expenses". (Again, this is read to include campaign sides.)

ANALYSIS

A very narrow interpretation of *Bylaw 2000* s.2(q) would suggest that only activities pursued at the request of or with the coordination of an election side would constitute campaign activities. The problem with this interpretation is that it would allow for unrestricted campaigning by third parties without consequences. It would be clearly problematic if SAKcoke or any other group were permitted to distribute posters or other materials explicitly encouraging voting one way or the other the two days of balloting. The panel prefers to adopt a broader interpretation: activities are "on behalf of" a campaign side if they are intended to influence the outcome of the vote in a manner benefiting that side.

The appellant argues that activities only constitute campaign activities where "the individuals conducting the actions were doing so *deliberately* in order to assist the referendum or plebiscite side, and that such assistance was not merely a side effect." The panel would not necessarily rule out activities that assist a plebiscite side as a secondary effect, provided that the effect was calculated and deliberate. However, even accepting his analysis as correct, the panel agrees with the CRO's finding that the SAKcoke

activities were deliberately calculated to convince students to vote against the Coke plebiscite.

We base this determination on a number of grounds. The anti-coke posters and stickers were proliferated on campus immediately prior to the start of the campaign. Such materials had not been present previously. While the appellant suggests that the materials were spread following the SAKcoke I-Week event, rather than in anticipation of the election, the former rationale does not obviate the latter one. SAKcoke was eminently aware of the plebiscite, having presented to Students' Council on the issue. Indeed, Steph Shantz, a prominent member of SAKcoke, had expressed interest in serving as campaign manager for the plebiscite No-Side. Despite her retraction, this speaks to a general disposition not only against Coca-Cola in general, but also against the passage of the plebiscite in particular. The appellant argues that because posters had appeared off campus as well, the intent of the materials was not primarily to influence the vote but rather to mobilize social opposition to the Coca-Cola Corporation in general. However, when it comes to the on-campus material, it strikes us that such mobilization is in large part calculated precisely to influence the vote.

The CRO argues that the posters and stickers with their invitation to "Campaign for a Coca-Cola Free Campus" are interpreted by students as references to the election. This connection is particularly strong when some of the materials appeared on or in close proximity to SU Election posters, and at a time when the plebiscite was receiving attention in the Gateway. Given that the materials were disseminated by a group with a record of opposing the plebiscite, spearheaded by an individual intending to campaign against it, and presented in a manner that implied connection with the elections, the panel upholds the CRO's findings that the posters and stickers were "calculated to convince" voters to turn against the plebiscite, and were therefore illicit campaign materials and subject to sanction.

Furthermore, the panel finds that the CRO was correct in ruling the infractions to be intentional. SAKcoke ignored repeated requests from the elections office to remove the material, and in fact expressed intent not to remove it. Once SAKcoke was notified that the materials would violate *Bylaw 2000* if they remained after the Students' Council vote, failure to take steps to remove them constituted wilful contravention. While the panel would by no means advocate slavish devotion to the CRO's whims, our system is founded upon a degree of deference for both the bylaws and the elections' office's applications thereof. Blatantly ignoring requests to remove campaign material is unacceptable, and clearly merits application of s.60(2)(b).

The appellant goes on to argue that the penalty imposed by the CRO was unreasonably high. In the first place, he claims that the costs of the materials was likely less than \$100, and that their effectiveness would be reduced because of the delay between their dissemination and the vote itself. However, because the materials were posted prior to the start of campaigning, there was no opportunity for Coke Yes (which did not exist at the time) to effectively refute their claims. As well, postering during campaigning is a fraught business, with many posters vying for attention. In the panel's view, it would cost significantly more than \$100 for Coke Yes to generate a similar amount of attention and electoral effect once campaigning begins.

The appellant argues that “punitive fines in the amount of eight or nine times the counterbalancing fines is plainly excessive.” In the first place, the multiplying factor in this case is significantly lower than eight or nine. Beyond that, the panel does not see a large multiple as inherently unreasonable. When it comes to establishing the appropriate magnitude of a punitive fine, the board sees the Chief Returning Officer as having been invested with considerable discretion by Students’ Council. While this discretion is subject to oversight by the Board, we do not have the same competency to determine the precise effects of a given fine. Accordingly, we would apply a standard of reasonability in evaluating CRO determinations of appropriate punitive fines. While the panel may not have chosen the precise number that the CRO did, we are not convinced that the fine was unreasonably high.

Finally, the appellant posits that the application of an additional fine to compensate the elections office for the costs of sticker-removal was not within the scope of the CRO’s authority under *Bylaw 2000* s.60. The panel did not hear sufficiently compelling arguments to undermine this latter analysis. Even in s.33, which was not applied in this case, penalties for permanently damaging property are effected through the punitive and counter-balancing mechanisms specified in s.60(1), rather than a new compensatory mechanism. Accordingly, the panel rules that the fourth penalty section in the C.R.O.’s ruling, “the cost of [the removal of the stickers] being applied against the Coke No campaign budget,” should be considered as part of the \$900 fine rather than added on top of it.

DISPOSITION AND REMEDY IMPOSED

The panel affirms the CRO’s finding that the SAKcoke activities constituted illicit pre-campaigning, and upholds CRO Ruling #1, with the exception that the cost of removing the posters not be levied as an additional fine.

RECOMMENDATIONS

If third parties disagree with a CRO’s warnings to remove campaign materials, they would be well advised to initiate a complaint with the D.I.E. Board to challenge the C.R.O., rather than waiting to appeal.

The panel would remind all election participants of the Board’s finding in Ruling #4, 2003-4 that “it is a candidate’s responsibility to ensure that they comply with all the requirements and regulations listed in Bylaw 2100. Candidates should err on the side of caution if confronted with possible breaches.”

The Discipline, Interpretation And Enforcement (D.I.E.) Board functions as the judicial branch of the Student’s Union, and is responsible for interpreting and enforcing all Students’ Union legislation. If anyone has any questions regarding the D.I.E. Board, feel free to contact the Chair, Guillaume Laroche, at ea@su.ualberta.ca .

Students and the Housing Crunch

Submission to the Alberta Affordable Housing Task Force

February 21, 2007



Post-secondary students, and university students in particular due to the high cost and length of their programs, are adversely affected by the housing crunch. Because earning power is limited by the demands of study, it follows that students are not able to increase their buying power at the same rate as the market. Further, students do not enjoy the same mobility options as other actors in the housing market because of the centralization of learning institutions and limited affordable, effective transportation options. Students deserve special consideration in your thinking as Edmonton strives to become a leading destination for learners, especially given that **U of A's 36,562 students are already equivalent to roughly 3.5% of the greater Edmonton area's estimated population.**

This fall, only 58.7% of freshmen full-time undergraduates had home addresses from Edmonton; 24.5% of new enrollments came from elsewhere in Alberta; 9.5% came from elsewhere in Canada and 7.3% came from other countries. Other new undergraduates, primarily from transfer programs, were even less likely to come from Edmonton: 37.4% originated here; 37.2% from elsewhere in Alberta; 17.3 from elsewhere in Canada and 8.2 from abroad.¹ Put another way, **last fall over 3,800 new undergraduate students arrived in the city, primarily from other parts of Alberta**, all needing housing of one kind or another.

We submit that there is an opportunity to relieve general market pressures by specifically addressing the housing needs of post-secondary students, a defined constituency with an existing, successful housing program: student residences.

STUDENTS IN THE EDMONTON RENTAL MARKET

Edmonton vacancy rates fell to 1.2% by fall of 2006 according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), an alarming 3.3% drop from 4.5% the year before.² Of even greater concern, from a student perspective, are the CMHC findings for the areas immediately proximate to the University itself, where **vacancy rates are critically low:**

Vacancy by Area	2005	2006	Change
Zone 3 (University)	1.5%	0.2%	-1.3%
Zone 7 (South West)	2.3%	0.3%	-2.0%
Zone 1 (Downtown)	4.5%	1.0%	-3.5%

From looking at the vacancy data it should come as no surprise to find also that the monthly **rental rates in areas proximate to the university are among the highest in the city:**

Apartment Rent/mo	Bach	1Bdr	2Bdr	3Bdr	Total
Zone 3 (University)	\$621	\$695	\$883	\$825	\$737
Zone 7 (South West)	\$656	\$748	\$864	\$999	\$826
Zone 1 (Downtown)	\$592	\$715	\$911	\$1022	\$758
Edmonton CMA avg.	\$561	\$666	\$808	\$902	\$727

This would seem the result of a "perfect storm" of rising demand and shrinking supply: our surging economy is attracting an in-migration of people who often need transitional and affordable housing, and in the background fast-rising purchase costs are making it harder for people to transition from renting to owning; meanwhile, we have seen an absolute reduction of supply after a net loss of 533 rental units in the Edmonton area (a 0.8% loss in inventory) primarily as a result of rental to condominium conversion and slowing rental unit construction. **CMHC notes that as a result of the confluence of market constructions, rental rates rose 9.8% in 2006. Troublingly, the CMHC predicts a general increase of between 12 to 15% in 2007, and further that citywide vacancy to submerge under 1.0%.**

RESIDENCES: A SAFE, RELATIVELY AFFORDABLE ALTERNATIVE

University residences are meant to provide an affordable, proximate housing option for students; they also add value to the university experience for the students through peer interaction and support, and improve the campus-wide sense of community; students in residence tend to perform better academically as well; **most of all, residences are a safe place for families to send their children when they leave home to attend university.**

According to the University of Alberta, there are currently 3,919 Edmonton residence bed spaces, or enough for roughly 11% of the Fall/Winter corps of enrollment (36,562 in Fall of 2006)³. This includes all the residences on the main campus and the 100-bed facility at Campus Saint Jean.

The U of A wrapped up its Residential Capacity Task Force in May of 2000 by, among other things, setting a short-term goal of increasing that ratio to 13.5%, the mid point of the Canadian average of 12.5-15%, and a long-term goal of reaching 15%. At the time, the following universities bested the U of A in housing ratios: UBC at 16.3%, the University of Western Ontario at 17.1%, and Queen's University at 21.4%.⁴ **Reaching the long-term goal will require a minimum of 1400 more spaces at current enrollment, and yet more spaces should enrollment continue to rise.**

For the most part students are satisfied with the facilities, and vacancy rates are very low at 1.2% overall, illustrating the need for more housing. This coming year will be a challenging one as the University's Board of Governors has approved a 10% increase in rental rates effective May 1st. The increase is partly inflationary (3.6%) and partly to deal with accumulating deferred maintenance issues in the residence facilities approaching to \$50 million. **Students opposed the supplemental rent increase on the basis of the injury to ongoing affordability and the fact that these deferred maintenance challenges are part of an institution-wide capital challenge that can only realistically be addressed with government funds.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. The Government of Alberta consider providing provincial funding to pay residence property taxes to municipalities, or close the loophole allowing municipalities to assess those taxes, and diverting those funds (some \$900,000 per year at the U of A) to preserving affordability.*
- 2. The Government of Alberta consider providing a large-scale one-time infusion of capital funds to address deferred maintenance in existing residence facilities and protect affordability.*
- 3. The Government of Alberta consider providing capital and favorable financing toward the development of additional student housing stock:*
 - Affordable student residence facilities well-connected by public transit could conceivably serve students from multiple campuses, as the MacEwan residence currently does.*
 - Additional residence spaces would immediately relieve demand pressure on the general market, especially in the critically low-vacancy areas around the University.*
 - Building residences may be a superior alternative to generic public housing because student housing does not carry the same stigma.*

¹ University of Alberta, *Summary of Statistics, Academic Year 2006/2007*, "Table 7.12 Fall Term New Full-Time Students – Geographic Location," December 2006 (<http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/sosfiles/2006-2007/Tabl712.pdf>).

² Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, "Rental Market Report: Edmonton CMA," December 2006.

³ University of Alberta, *Summary of Statistics, Academic Year 2006/2007*, "Table 1.1: Summary of Enrolments," December, 2006 (<http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/sosfiles/2006-2007/Tabl01.pdf>).

⁴ University of Alberta "Task Force on Residential Capacity Report," May 2000 (<http://www.ualberta.ca/~univhall/vp/vpa/Committees&TaskForces/ResidentialTF.pdf>).

Amendment to motion 2006-20/6b

Remove everything after "based on the following" and replace with:

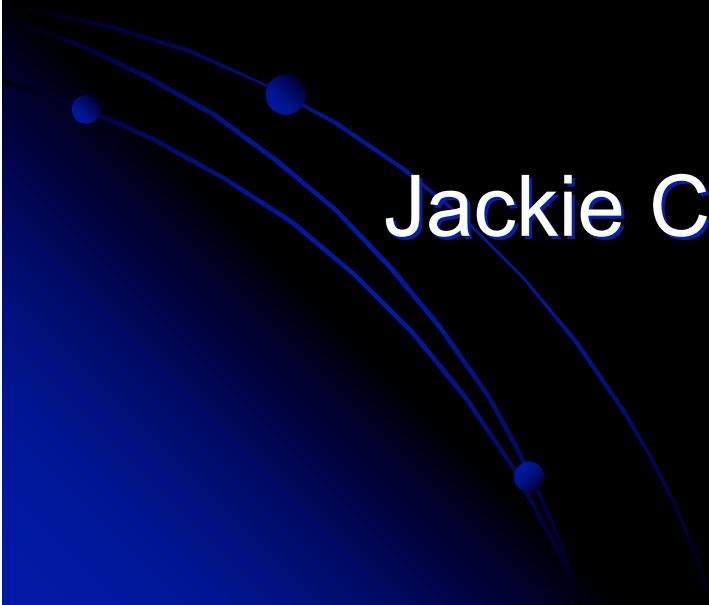
principles:

- 1) Post-secondary education is expensive to provide, therefore it should be a privilege reserved for those with the necessary academic merit to benefit from it.
- 2) The various levels of government contribute extensively to the well-being of post-secondary students by providing them with subsidized health care, education, transportation, and security.
- 3) As post-secondary students are heavily dependent on public funds, students should not have the *expectation* of a luxurious lifestyle and should make an effort to live within their means. Luxuries include all-inclusive vacations, personal automobiles, portable music players, and electronic gaming systems.
- 4) Extensive experience in Quebec and Manitoba has shown that low tuition policies do not increase the quality of education nor do they increase participation by lower income students.
- 5) It is right for students to make a significant and meaningful contribution toward the costs of their education. Current levels of tuition achieve this without posing an unreasonable burden on the average student.
- 6) The provincial government and the University of Alberta should commit to maintaining the current tuition policy of annually increasing tuition by no more than CPI for the foreseeable future.
- 7) There should be ample scholarships and bursaries available for students who are in financial need.

Tobacco Free Campus

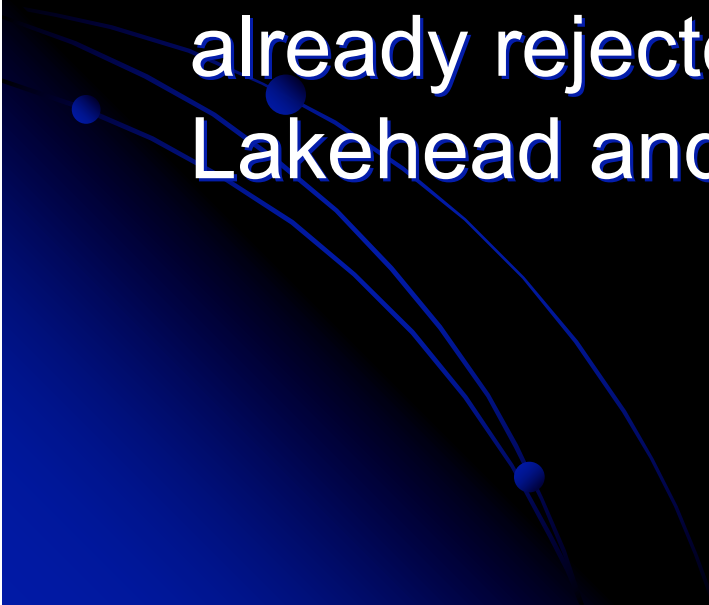
Question & Answer

Presented by
Jackie Crooks and Kim Harder



“It is well documented that the tobacco industry has a long track record of suppressing incriminating data regarding the toxicity of its products, of undermining objective research, and of mounting major campaigns of misinformation. Any institution committed to the pursuit of truth should avoid any hint of association with such an industry.”

“Where would we find replacement funding?”

- Of the top 500 companies in Canada, only one is a tobacco company
 - Other institutions and organizations have already rejected tobacco funding (ie. Lakehead and Dalhousie University)
- 

“By taking tobacco money, organizations are directly benefiting from the industry’s successful manipulation of the public, and of young people in particular.”

-Coalition Quebécoise pour le Control du Tabac

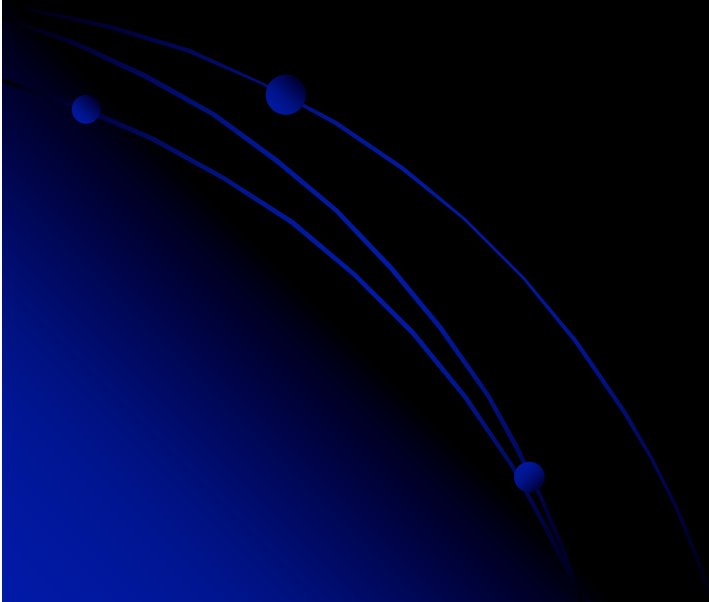


“What items will stores be able to sell in place of cigarettes?”

- AB Campuses that do not sell tobacco:
 - University of Lethbridge
 - LCC
 - Grant MacEwan College
 - Grande Prairie Regional College
 - Red Deer College
- Pharmacies who have banned tobacco sales are selling more vitamins and supplements, healthy alternatives for students, Nicotine Replacement Therapies, herbs, Echinacea, ColdFX etc.

HOWEVER, The SU should not be concerned with finding replacement revenue for stores in HUB. The SU should be pushing the BOG to ban tobacco campus wide. From an economic perspective, the SU should be requesting an equal playing field.

The University of Alberta's Students' Union
and the Board of Governors have a legal
responsibility to protect the welfare of their
students.



Let's continue the positive trend...

- In November of 2000, the University of Alberta turned down nearly \$500,000 from the tobacco industry
- In March of 2006, the plebiscite regarding the campus-wide tobacco ban garnered over 60% of student support

4 Objectives

- A completely smoke-free campus by 2008
- A 2-year phase-in program, starting with smoking designated areas in no more than 4 locations around campus
- A complete ban on the sale of tobacco products in any University-owned or leased building or on University property
- A pledge from the U of A to neither solicit nor accept any financial contributions, sponsorships, or gifts from any tobacco company, executive or front group.

Student Groups Restructuring Initiative
Final Report and Recommendations
Compiled and Written by: Liz Bolivar

Introduction

The emergence of “*Dare to Discover: A Vision for a Great University*” has highlighted the University’s desire to provide an “exceptional and life-changing university experience for students”. Student groups are a large component of student life, and thus must be properly supported by the UofA. The concerns about the current Student Group system have been voiced by a variety of stakeholders, including employees of the Student Group Services Office, representatives from involved University departments, and other representatives from within the Students’ Union (SU). In 2005-2006, an initiative was begun to address these issues. It was found that the project would require a time commitment beyond what the current staffing would allow. Before the year-end, a proposal was put forward to create the temporary position of the Student Groups Initiatives Assistant in the Office of the Dean of Students (DS). This individual was to work part-time to initiate the complete review of the Student Group Structure, and to research the structures implemented at other North American institutions. The project was to conclude with an official report detailing recommendations for a revised Student Group Structure.

As the Director of Student Group Services for 2005-2006, I have experienced the current system first hand and have an in-depth knowledge of the relationships and functions of each of the Student Group stakeholders. This inside knowledge was deemed to be crucial in the success of this position under the strict timelines required for the project. The following pages offer a complete review of the current Student Group structure at the University of Alberta (UofA), including feedback gathered from individual stakeholders, a summary of research collected from other applicable academic institutions, an outline of the foremost concerns with the system, and a list of recommendations and plan for implementation of these recommendations.

Review of the Current Student Group Structure

The Student Group system at the UofA is run centrally through the office of Student Group Services (SGS). This office was created as an attempt to offer student groups a ‘one-stop shopping’ experience, whereby they could register with multiple organizations through one process. The service is run by the SU, with financial support from various University departments. These departments include Ancillary Services, Insurance and Risk Management (RM), and DS. Beyond this financial contribution, each department dedicates additional personnel time and resources to assisting SGS. Campus Recreation is also very involved in the registration and regulation of Student Groups. The specific responsibilities of each department/organization are detailed below. (For a physical representation of the current relationship and responsibility structure, please see Appendix A.).

Student Group Services

SGS is the central location for anything to do with student groups. It assists both student groups (pre-existing or not), and students at large looking to get involved in campus life. All applications for registration are submitted to and reviewed by this office. The employees in this office are required to have at least a basic level of knowledge regarding risk management and insurance. In addition to registration, SGS is often the first point of contact for student group complaints or concerns. The office is responsible for forwarding these items on to the appropriate parties (DS, SU, ect) depending on its nature. SGS handles the distribution of resources to student groups, especially those of the SU. Groups receive benefits based on their registration level and which organization they choose to register with. Where other departments are involved in allocated resources to groups, SGS usually has a role in the distribution (e.g. Student Extra-Curricular (SEA) grants given out by DS).

SGS have four main focuses in dealing with student groups at the UofA. These focuses are listed and explained below:

1. Administrative

- a. The majority of the responsibility for this area is the registration of student groups.
- b. It also includes insuring that groups have submitted all necessary documents, checking that their constitutions are satisfactory, upkeep of the Student Group Services webpage, and upkeep of all Student Group files and historical documents.

2. Risk Management

- a. This includes all areas in which Student Group Services currently works with the University's RM department.
- b. Including but not limited to, issuing and collecting waivers, sitting on the Alcohol Policy Review Committee, running Alcohol Awareness Seminars, keeping groups up to date on developments in municipal, provincial and University legislation dealing with the hosting of events and alcohol, and reviewing the risk of groups with regards to their application for registration.
- c. Work with Campus Recreation to determine the appropriate levels of oversight for sports activity groups.

3. Student Group Resources

- a. This area deals with all issues relating to the distribution of resources to groups and the support structure for both existing and potential groups.
- b. This includes but is not limited to granting of funds to groups, allocating lockers, mailboxes and office space, creating resource documents to aid in student group activities, booking of space and classrooms, equipment rentals, and renting tables for the September Clubs Fair.

4. Student Group Advising

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- a. This area concentrates on dealing with student groups directly and in an advisory role.
- b. This includes advice on how to run efficient activities, how to present granting applications and find other sources of funding, how to start up a group, disseminating information on the available resources, and dealing with Student Group issues on a case-by-case basis.

Students' Union

The Students' Union is the organization that officially runs SGS. The Director of SGS reports to the Manager of Student Services for the SU and the service falls into the portfolio of the VP of Student Life. The SU commits resources towards ensuring the success of the service. Areas such as the marketing of the service, office supplies, strategic planning and budgeting are facilitated by the SU. The SU provides considerable resources towards groups that choose to register with them including office and locker space in the Students' Union Building (SUB), \$45,000 towards Student Group grants, and the ability for groups to book space in SUB. SGS is integrated into the SU's portfolio of student services and is supported in areas such as the SU website and joint service marketing campaigns. The SU has begun the process of becoming more involved in the RM area for SU registered groups, including assigning the role to a full-time staff member.

The Office of the Dean of Students

The DS is most involved with student groups when enforcing University student group policies, procedures and guidelines. The Code of Student Behavior (Section 30.8) outlines the UofA's Policy on student groups, including requirements for registration, responsibilities and benefits, and authority for the denial of registration, re-registration, or suspension of registration. The Director of SGS works with the Student Affairs Officer when dealing with student group complaints or concerns. In the end, the Student Affairs Officer is the individual who sanctions actions or punishments towards student groups. The DS offers resources to student groups, including offering a Fraternity advisor position on staff and the Student Extra-curricular Activities grants. Although there is currently no official reporting relationship between the Director of SGS and the DS, the two work closely together throughout the year on various issues.

The Student Group Registration process has recently moved online. The DS provides the technical support and infrastructure to host the Student Groups Database and ensure that all appropriate departments are granted access.

Campus Recreation

Campus Recreation (CR) is involved with Student Groups in that they directly register groups who have a mandate specific to recreational and competitive physical activity. In recent years, CR and SGS have begun working together to advise groups and ensure that both the University and CR requirements are met. CR is highly involved with their groups and is able to offer the level of oversight necessary for the safe operation of these types of student groups. CR also works with RM to ensure that liability concerns are addressed, and that any needed insurance coverage is obtained.

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Ancillary Services

Ancillary Services (AS) deals with Student Groups in several capacities which mainly involve the use of alcohol. Groups need to apply for a liquor license in order to run alcoholic events on campus. As well, AS takes part in the Alcohol Awareness Seminars and keeps a list of registered social conveners and SIPS trained individuals for reference against liquor license applications.

In another facet, they encompass Residence Services and are therefore involved with the Residence Associations (e.g. the collection and distribution of Residence fees). The current system requires that residence associations register before they are able to access the fees collected on their behalf.

NOTE: There has been a recent change in the position that deals with the liquor licenses, social convener and SIPS status. Due to the loss of a staff member, this area will soon be taken care of by conferencing services.

Insurance and Risk Management

The Department of RM works with student groups in a number of ways. The first is through consultation with the Director of SGS. During the registration process especially, the level of risk of groups and their activities are analyzed. The Director flags groups whose activities or mandate may need further analysis and notifies RM. RM also participates in Alcohol Awareness Seminars.

In a second role, the department works directly with student groups in an advising role. When student groups have questions about insurance or the risks of activities they would like to run, they can contact RM to find out which steps need to be taken. RM currently offers a service where they will create waivers for groups to use to limit their own liability when their activities are exempt from the University's insurance policy.

Graduate Students' Association

Currently, the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) does not have a strong interaction with the SGS office. The GSA offers resources to graduate student groups and student groups have the option of registering with the GSA at the SGS office. However, the communication of the registration status of groups and other information that might prove to be relevant in the GSA's activities is fairly weak. The main resource offered by the GSA to its groups is in the form of a limited number of grants for student group activities.

Facilities Management & Exams and Timetabling

These departments have very distinct roles when it comes to student groups. Facilities Management mainly interacts with groups for events or activities that groups want to hold outside. They have the ability to grant bookings to groups for outside venues, and also have

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jurisdiction over advertising done outside on campus. Currently, they do not have access to the Student Groups Database.

Exams and Timetabling is responsible for booking out rooms to registered student groups. They have recently been granted access to the Student Groups Database and are utilizing the list of registered groups and executive members to confirm bookings by student groups.

North American Academic Institutions – Research Summary

During the course of the project, research was conducted to determine potential alternative Student Group structures. The research was based on the current student group systems of other North American Universities and Academic Institutions. The data and applicable findings are described in this section.

Throughout this research, several common elements between institutions in the handling of student groups were found. The first is the active involvement of the University office dedicated to student issues and concerns. For example, at the University of California (Berkeley), an institution that boasts almost 700 registered student groups, the Office of Student Life is the central registrar and regulator of student groups. Due to this involvement, the registration process is able to utilize information such as student ID's and passwords for access to the groups registration system.¹ The student government on campus, the Associated Students of the University of California Berkeley (ASUC), is heavily involved in the allocation of resources to groups. These resources mainly include budgeting assistance, funding and space allocation.² In the case of the UofA, the equivalent of Berkeley's Office of Student Life is the DS, while the ASUC is the equivalent of the UofA's SU. This is in sharp contrast to the UofA's student group system, which sees the SU as the main registrar and regulator. This subsequently places the SU in the place of holding student groups accountable to the University's policies, procedures and guidelines. This may be an awkward situation for the SU in that, while the Director of SGS is hired to enforce these regulations, they officially lack the authority to enforce action and punishment.

Berkeley also offers student group advisors who are able to meet with student groups and discuss issues to do with governance, registration, benefits or group activities.³ This increases the availability of important information to groups and can help to make groups aware of the applicable regulations. While student group advising is a supposed role of SGS at the UofA, the limitations of personnel and time resources often prevent the employees from carrying out this role. Another aspect of the advising system at Berkeley is the incorporation of student leadership positions in the student group structure. These positions are reserved specifically for students and they involve the interaction of these individuals with student groups. The positions assist groups with everything from planning a fundraiser, to creating their annual budget and offer valuable leadership experience to the students in the position. The SU at the UofA does employ students in SGS; however, this aspect has yet to be expanded further to include a volunteer element.

The University of Toronto (UofT) offers a similar system where the registration and administration of student groups with the University is run out of their Office of Student Affairs.

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The Students' Administrative Council (SAC) has an additional clubs policy that outlines specific requirements for groups to register with the Union. This policy includes information such as membership composition, group regulations and requirements, and funding guidelines. The SAC Clubs Policy is able to focus solely on the needs of the Union registered group, while the University offers umbrella registration to all groups.⁴

Several other aspects of the UofT's system are of interest. The appeals of all student group decisions are handled by the Office of Student Affairs. This is similar to the way complaints are handled by the UofA's DS, however, at the UofT, this is explicitly stated in regulations and an official procedure is followed. At the UofA, the appeal of a student group decision may take several routes (from the Director of Student Group Services, to the SU exec) and is then eventually referred to the Dean of Students. This is due in part to the confusion created by the registration of all student groups with an SU run service, the result of which is a blurred representation of where authority and responsibility lies.

The UofT is unique in that the institution operates with three main campuses spread throughout Toronto, all active with student groups. The UofT has explicitly stated in their Club's Policy that the responsibility for recognition of organizations drawing members from only one division should rest with the council of that division. For example, if there is a UofT student group that draws members from only the St. George campus, the St. George council equivalent would be responsible for the recognition, and subsequent regulation, of that group.⁵ This system could be compared to the operation of the UofA and its different campus locations. For campuses such as Faculty St. Jean and Augustana, the UofT's system of delegation could be quite effective. Finally, the UofT has a line in their Group Policy that explicitly states that recognized campus groups may not engage in activities which are essentially commercial in nature. Although the UofA has the same desire to prevent this occurrence, it is not currently stated in our Student Group Regulations. This addition could be helpful in keeping enforcement consistent year to year.

In comparison, the University of Calgary (UofC) operates more similarly to the UofA; however, they have just over 150 groups registered. At the UofC, the Students' Union is the main register of undergraduate groups, but these groups have no choice as to whether they wish to register with the SU or not.⁶ At the UofA, the SU registration is considered an additional registration level, results in increased benefits, and is optional. There was very little information available online about their graduate student groups.

There are a several other differences between the two systems. First of all, every club at the UofC belongs to an additional umbrella organization, on top of the University. These umbrella groups range from cultural/political, to Science or Management. At the UofA, these terms also exist; however, they are simply used as a classification function to assist students with searching online for a particular type of group. The UofC tends to classify departmental groups under umbrella groups as well. The umbrella groups are in existence to keep these categories of groups up-to-date on policy and benefits offered by the SU and the University.

Secondly, The UofC classifies its groups differently than the UofA. Specifically, they group clubs into one of the following categories; 'Unlimited', 'Limited', and 'Fraternity', dependant

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mostly on their membership criteria (whether they are open to all members or not). Currently, the UofA does not have a specific categories such as these, but struggles with the issue of dealing with groups who differ on these types of criteria.

Lastly, it was found that the UofC had several outreach resources available to student groups to assist them in running their activities. One such resource was the Risk Management Handbook (modeled off the University of Guelph's) which offered information on risk management and insurance issues relating to student group activities. While the UofA has begun to disseminate information to groups via resource documents and other means, there is still a lack of comprehensive information made available.

Another institution that was looked at was the University of British Columbia (UBC). This University is home to a student group model that garners substantial positive feedback and recognition. UBC has roughly 280 registered student groups on campus, not including the 17 fraternities and sororities. One of the findings that came out of the research was that UBC clearly states in their club's policy that, in order to be a registered group, the group's policy must be aligned with the University's vision.⁷ Just as the UofA follows the policy on groups of a commercial nature, it has the same commitment to its own vision that UBC demonstrates. The only difference between the two is that the UofA does not have this requirement clearly outlined in its student group regulations.

While the UBC's SU equivalent, the Alma Mater Society (AMS), is quite involved with the registration of non-academic undergraduate student groups, UBC itself is most directly involved with Academic clubs. However, as is the case with the UofA, the degree of involvement by the University is dependant upon the initiative of individual faculties. The AMS remains the central resource for student groups through the Student Administrative Commission (SAC), a group of student representatives who act as the official liaison between the AMS and student groups. The AMS and SAC categorize groups according to the following; AMA Clubs, Resource groups, and additional categories that are comprised of separately recognized groups. All groups are required to submit a one-year plan of activities and a realistic budget with their constitution at the beginning of each year. In addition, all new groups are required to have a 15 min consultation with SAC before submitting their group's information.

Where UBC really tends to stand apart from other academic institutions is with their Fraternity and Sorority system. UBC has managed to foster an environment where Fraternities and Sororities are proud to support and align themselves with their University's vision, and where the University and the groups work together to promote the values of Greek life on campus.⁸ The University dedicates substantial resources to ensuring the success of the groups and promoting their existence to UBC students. In addition to well-maintained web space, University personnel dedicated to serving Fraternities and Sororities, and heavily endorsed recruitment drives, the University has donated an area of living space on campus to constitute the 'Greek Village'. This space is reserved solely for individuals who are members of a Fraternity or Sorority. On the other hand, these groups work very cooperatively with the University, ensuring that they abide by all University policy and regulations, working together with the University Fraternity Advisors, and promoting UBC pride in addition to the pride of their individual group. The Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC) and Pan-Hellenic Council (PHC) are very active on campus, and membership in

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these organizations is mandatory to become a registered Fraternity or Sorority. This assists the University considerably in the governance of and communication with these groups. Currently, the Fraternity system at the UofA is volatile. With each Fraternity having a slightly different role on campus, membership in the IFC or PHC being non-mandatory, and very little in the way of specific Fraternity regulations, it has been a struggle for the UofA to create a strong and consistent Fraternity support structure.

Through the course of the research, several consistencies among the aforementioned institutions arose. On all of the applications for registration, bank account information is required. This is consistent with the UofA's policy on this type of information. Some groups at the UofA have questioned this requirement, but it appears to be common practice with other Universities as well. Another aspect of every student group structure is to have certain membership compositions and a minimum numbers of members for registration. Although every institution varies on the specific number for these requirements, they all tend to vary between 51% and 66.7% for student membership, and 10-15 for the minimum number of members. All of the institutions had an all-inclusive Student Group/Club Policy made available on the web for download by student groups. These policies are a combination of all applicable rules and regulations for groups, and information on benefits available to them. It places all of the relevant information in one convenient location, and can be updated and re-posted as need be. A mandatory Student Group Orientation was also commonplace, although the number of representatives required to attend differed. Finally, all of the reviewed student group structures made some type of funding available to assist student groups. The UofA offers funding through both the SU and the DS, however, it may be worth reviewing both of these programs to highlight any voids that cause certain types of student groups in need to be ineligible for any type of funding.

Crucial Concerns and Deficiencies

In this section, three main areas are touched on, each representing an area of shared concern. These areas are further broken down into the underlying issues comprising them. These concerns were highlighted through consultation with the individual stakeholders of the student group system.

Organization of Student Group Registration

Currently there is some confusion as to who groups are actually registering with when they submit their form to SGS. While they may not fit the criteria to be registered with the SU, most groups are under the impression that SGS is a service run solely by the SU. Especially for graduate groups, this system does not seem logical. This requirement may in fact lower the interaction graduate groups have with the GSA, as they are not required to visit the GSA office to register. In thinking that SGS is run by the SU, groups may fail to see the link the registration system has to the UofA. Since the University affiliation is the one level of registration that all groups have in common, it is important for every group to realize that they are being held accountable to the University's regulations (especially the Code of Student Behavior). If groups

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do not see the student group system as being directly enforced by the University, they may not come to this realization.

In addition to enforcing regulations to do with student groups, the University is directly linked to some of the automatic benefits of registration. An example of this is the right of registered student groups to use the UofA's name when promoting their group and its activities. The University should be directly involved in ensuring that groups who are given this right are those that the UofA wishes to be associated with. Presently, while the DS plays a role in the student group system, they do not view group's applications prior to registration. These facts enhance the chance that a group with a vision not compatible with the UofA's may gain registration status and thus earn the right to associate with the UofA. Considering that the reputation of a University is quite valuable, this is not a desirable outcome. Groups also need to realize that by registering they are associating themselves with the UofA and must act accordingly, a requirement that should be seen as coming directly from the University itself.

The registration of student groups requires the involvement of many departments and organizations at once. Although communication between the various stakeholders has been improved over the past few years, it is not yet at a level high enough to ensure efficiency in the system. For example, in cases where a group needs to consult with RM before registration, there tends to be a period during which SGS does not know where the group stands. Even though this information can eventually be found out, the process can be quite time consuming for all parties. As SGS is usually the first contact for student groups, there are times when the Director may consult with a group on the risks of an activity. While the Director may have a basic knowledge of these issues, there are concerns about the accuracy of the information being conveyed to the group. As well, there are situations where groups are required to visit various departments multiple times when trying to resolve a single issue. This is an inefficient use of time and can cause the student group system to be viewed as overly bureaucratic and unfriendly to its users.

Through the evolution of the original agreement between the University and the SU, a system has resulted that attempts to encompass all facets of the administration and support of student groups on campus. While it is beneficial to offer groups a one-stop shopping experience for most things to do with their operation, it is evident that the SGS is now trying to handle too many activities with too little resources. While this issue will be discussed in more detail in the section on resources, it should be said that the system would benefit from the specialization of functions among the various stakeholders. This would enable each stakeholder to concentrate on developing their specific interest instead of trying to stay involved in every aspect of the system.

Concentrating on the Office of SGS, the system currently sees this office left responsible for reviewing the applications for 370+ groups and determining their eligibility for registration. This is expected of the SGS employees, although they are given very little training at the beginning of each year on what constitutes an eligible group. Considering the number of student groups, the office has quite limited personnel to carry out this task. Expanding on this issue, there tends be inconsistencies in the service due to several factors. The first is that SGS falls under the Vice President of Student Life's portfolio. This position is elected annually and each year the new VP has specific priorities for which services are to be at the forefront of their initiatives. This means that SGS may see a high involvement from the VP in one year, and then receive very little

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attention the next. This makes it difficult to rely on a consistent role for the VP in the operation of the service. The second factor is that the SGS office has almost 100% annual turnover in employees. Thus any training that the outgoing Director has received with regards to risk management or the analysis of group applications is lost and a training session will need to be conducted for the incoming Director. This is a fairly time consuming process as it can take anywhere from 2-6 months for the Director to feel comfortable in their role.

With the involvement of many different departments and organizations in the system, the result is that there is no defined leadership for the direction that the service should be taking. The only central figure is the Director of SGS and they are rarely left with enough time to contemplate the strategic direction of the service. Even with the time available, the Director would have a hard time constructing this vision as SGS is constantly pulled in many directions. For example, the SU might benefit from creating an identity for SGS within the umbrella of all SU services, whereas the University may prefer to create awareness about the place of student groups on the UofA campus. These conflicting goals would make it almost impossible for the Director to create and carry out a vision for SGS.

There are a few special cases that bring up additional issues for the student group registration system. The first is that of Campus Recreation and the registration of groups that relate to physical activity. While history has seen CR work with the potential groups to register them, recently complications have arisen. First, CR has begun to reach the limits of its resources, forcing them to turn down potential groups. As well, there have been cases where groups who compete directly with CR run activity programs attempt to register. Both these issues identify shortages in the current student group system. In particular, the need for policy on how to determine when a group is duplicating a group or service that is already offered, and the determination on whether there is a way to register physical activity groups outside of CR. For the latter, policy on what exactly constitutes a physical activity group to be high risk and what level of oversight is required for these groups is lacking and needs to be created. SGS, CR and RM have been working together to determine what is to be done with these groups, but it has been on a case by case basis, resulting in the potential for inconsistencies.

The case of CR brings up another unique issue in the system; that of faculty involvement with student groups. There is currently no set role for faculties outlining what their responsibilities are for supporting their Faculty Associations and departmental groups. Although some faculties are very involved with their groups and offer them considerable support, this is inconsistent across the University. There are also groups that wish to limit their membership to students in a particular faculty that try to register with SGS (e.g. certain physical activity groups). While there is potential to allow these groups to register under their faculty, thus addressing the issue of CR resources shortages, the concern of oversight arises. While there are several proposals for how group oversight could be handled in these cases, there needs to be a consistent method that is actually enforced. One such proposal is to require groups to have a Faculty Advisor who works with the group on their activities and watches over their finances (somewhat similar to what CR does with their groups). This suggestion has been put into practice with several groups this year and may have potential. Whatever solution is chosen, there needs to be methods in place to ensure that this requirement is kept constant and enforced throughout all the faculties.

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It should be noted that CR is currently undergoing a review process of their own for CR specific groups. One of the main challenges they have been experiencing is to try to keep their groups as student run and student focused. The unique nature of the involvement of their alumni is causing considerable problems as to the leadership of the clubs. The results of this review and any recommendations should be implemented in conjunction with the findings of the CR review.

Finally, the UofA has two distinct cases to deal with; that of Augustana and the Faculty St. Jean. No policies, procedures or guidelines exist as of right now for how these two campuses should deal with their distinct set of groups. Again, this issue has been dealt with on a case by case basis. While some of the current methods of allowing these two organizations to run their individualized student group system have many merits, the procedure for doing this should be analyzed to ensure that the UofA these groups are all being held accountable to the UofA's regulations. Ideally, the University should work hands on with these campuses to assist them in creating an efficient student group system that resembles that of the main UofA campus. If a policy on how these situations are to be dealt with can be created now, the University will be experienced and ready to extend this method to future expansions of the UofA.

Student Group Regulations

As it currently stands, the regulations for student groups are quite broad; this includes the Code of Student Behavior, other University regulations, and the applicable SU policies and bylaws. Unfortunately, none of these deal with some of the most common issues facing SGS. These include preventing the duplication of groups and stopping groups from developing a commercial nature. There is no requirement for groups to have some sort of student development model as a basis for their group's vision or purpose. The regulations do not even say that groups must align their vision with that of the University. There is no statement requiring groups to somehow enhance the UofA campus, instead they simply tell groups that they cannot run activities that are against the University's policies. The lack of a positive requirement does nothing to develop the connection groups feel toward the UofA. This could perhaps be a partial explanation for the disconnect that some groups feel towards the University; these groups have strong allegiances towards their own group or their parent organization, but feel very little association with the UofA. The student group system should strive to promote a feeling of cohesiveness where groups can easily see where they fit into the bigger picture of the UofA campus.

The argument can be made that student group regulations, specifically those in the Code of Student Behavior, need to remain broad so they are applicable in most all situations. In this case, the problem lies in the lack of a comprehensive student group operation policy to supplement the University's regulations. This policy would include policy relating to all operations of student groups, from risk management to granting procedures. This would also be the place to include the different requirements for the various categories of student groups. The creation of the student groups operating policy could also help address the problems in disseminating important information to individual groups. Presenting this information in an easy to read format, whether online, via a student group orientation or both, may increase the understanding of groups as to their responsibilities as UofA student groups.

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Revisiting a previously mentioned topic about CR and physical activity groups, the level of oversight required for various categories of groups needs to be established. The main issue to be decided is what level of involvement the UofA is comfortable with for monitoring groups and their activities. A strict policy of maintaining a high level of oversight will require substantially more resources and may not be necessary as most groups tend to run lower risk activities. Another alternative is to require groups to submit a proposal for their planned activities for approval and then trust groups to independently act appropriately and honestly. The latter is similar to the current system; however it would make the stakeholders more comfortable in taking this route if it was considered operational policy, consistently enforced by all departments.

Even with the regulations in place, there is no check and balance system for ensuring that the regulations are continuously enforced. This deficit is fueled by the lack of personnel, meaning that there are limited hours available for checking into group histories and standing. As well there is no formal information record keeping system. Combining these factors, there is a definite chance that groups with prior discipline or financial issues could become re-registered before the error is caught.

In centralizing the group registration system within the SU, groups tend to confuse which organization is responsible for enforcing the various student group regulations. As groups tend to link all aspects of registration to the SU, many misconstrue the SU as the body they are being held accountable to. While groups registered with the SU are held to their standards as well, groups need to understand that the University is directly enforcing the group regulations with regards to basic registration.

Presently, there is only one online registration form for all student groups. It has been identified that there are various categories of groups that have different risk levels and need different support. It may be necessary in the future to create specialized forms for these different categories to gather additional information on high risk groups. In general the relationship between the UofA and the registered fraternities (both male and female) has caused concern over the past few years. While it is acknowledged by both parties that fraternities are a very specific subset of student groups, they are treated the same as every other group. This has presented large obstacles with regards to gathering information on the groups. Fraternities, by nature, are quite secretive and group information is typically private, open only to members and their international organizations. The foundations of this relationship need to be revisited to decide whether the University is going to work with fraternities to ensure a place for them on campus, above and beyond that of a typical student group, or whether they will maintain the current classification. The building of a relationship between the international organizations of each fraternity is an untapped opportunity that has yet to be taken advantage of.

As is the case with the strategic direction of SGS, there is no defined leadership for the creation and maintenance of student group policy. Each stakeholder has specific policies, procedures and guidelines that relate to their interests, but there has been no active central authority, with the exception of the DS when dealing with student group discipline. The Director of SGS deals with the effects of policy on student groups most directly however they typically receive very little training on the procedure for reviewing this policy. As the trends of the student body change and with the effects of current events on risk and liability for organizations, student group policy

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should be reviewed consistently to ensure any needed updates or additions are taken into account.

Resources

In responses to SGS surveys and through discussions held with various student group members, it has been found that many groups do not feel there are tangible benefits offered by registration with SGS. This is partially due to a combination of limited service offerings by the different organizations, and a lack of awareness of the benefits that are actually being provided. While many groups utilize the benefits such as booking space and funding, they fail to make the connection between these resources and the University and SU. There are also groups that only require access to a low level of resources and are not interested in learning about additional offerings. These include groups that only wish to book space on campus and who do run activities beyond regular gatherings. In these cases, groups may see registration as simply a way to gain access to these resources, instead of placing value of the relationships and support gained through registering.

For the resources that do exist for groups, there is a considerable amount of resource duplication between departments and organizations. For example, most levels of registration (SU, GSA, ect.) offer a type of funding to groups, however there is no coordination between programs to ensure that groups' needs are actually being met. With funding specifically, there are substantial funds available for certain type of programming, while groups with different types of funding needs are not being addressed. The resource offerings are also fairly disjointed between the stakeholders, meaning that there are times when different departments are attempting to address the same need of students groups, but it is being done in inconsistent ways. An example of this would be in relation to insurance and liability for groups. Where the RM department may have specific concerns about a group that is registered with the SU, they are first sent to the SU for insurance coverage. In this situation, there is no guarantee that the SU will have addressed all of the same concerns as RM when giving the group approval for the event. Considering that the group is still registered and associated with the UofA, this raises concerns over consistency between stakeholders, and may also increase confusion for student groups.

On this same note, groups do not seem to have a clear understanding of what benefits each registration level offers them. There are a noticeable number of groups who are eligible to register with the SU, but who choose not to because they do not see it as value-added. In addition, groups who register with the GSA at the SGS office are never given clear information about what the GSA registration level offers to them. This may be a sign that there is not a clear enough distinction between the benefits offered by the different stakeholders, and that there is confusion among groups about who they are registering with when dealing with SGS. Considering that SGS is striving to offer services to assist student groups in their operation, negative perceptions and uncertainty about its service offering is a crucial issue.

Many of the resources being offered to groups are to assist them in running various types of programming. The topic of risk management and liability for organizations is a detailed and complicated one. In trying to communicate this message to student groups, it is imperative that supporting documentation and reference materials are provided. This is an area where there is a

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definite deficit in the SGS service offering. As groups are trying to gather information about what requirements there are with a specific event, they often feel the need to come into the SGS office for consultation. With the limited amount of personnel, the time available for this type of consultation is quite restricted. Groups may not be receiving all of the information that they should be aware of, and they may become frustrated to the point where they stop actively seeking information and run the event to the best of their knowledge. This is a liability concern and undermines the purpose of offering this type of support to groups in the first place. This is not an area that can be taken half way, but instead requires a full commitment from all stakeholders.

One of the biggest critiques about the SGS office is that the service is extremely administratively demanding. The four focuses of the SGS office were previously described; administration, risk management, resources and student group advising. The man hours in the office are almost completely taken up with the areas of administration and risk management, leaving the other two focuses to suffer. In a service where offering resources and advising groups to assist them in their operation should be at the forefront, having the service tied up in other ways is unacceptable.

In order to assist in the development of additional resources, the support given to student groups by the University and the SGS office needs to become more defined, in particular their role with unique categories such as academic (faculty associations) and residence groups. Groups such as these have a special standing with the University in that they are officially recognized by the UofA. These groups tend to have access to additional resources, and have defined, formal relationships with other departments within the University. SGS needs to address what support these groups may need from outside their current support structure, and aim to provide that support.

The final point for this section addresses an overarching issue for the student group system. The question that needs to be answered is “at what level does the University begin supporting student groups?” Should they immediately be given attention and resources when an individual student approaches with an idea for a group, or should the University step in when the group has its minimum of 10 dedicated members and a concrete plan for the first year of operations? While this question may not seem as important by itself, it is instrumental in identifying what resources are required by student groups. It also sets a standard for the level of resources that must be dedicated to ensuring the success of the service.

Recommendations and Implementation

In order to address the concerns raised in the previous section, a list of proposed recommendations for a revised student group administration and support structure is detailed below.

Role Redefinition

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Recommendation #1: Redefine the roles of the student group stakeholders to encourage each to take an active role in the student group system. This involves a shift from the term ‘stakeholder’ to ‘partner’ with all members held collectively responsible for the success of the system.

Perhaps the largest change to the system is in the definition of each previous stakeholder. Before outlining the specific responsibilities and roles of each of the departments/organizations, a change is needed with regards to the characterization of the student group system as a whole. Whereas previously, all departments and organizations involved with the system were referred to as individual stakeholders who worked cooperatively to achieve a common goal, the new system will see each of these stakeholders as a partner in the system. Instead of simply having an interest in its well-being, as the term stakeholder would suggest, members of the student group system will be collectively held responsible for its success. It is necessary to break down the divisions between departments so that members can work together and communicate as seamlessly as possible. The members of the student group system are: the Office of the Dean of Students, Campus Recreation, the Students’ Union, Insurance and Risk Management, the Graduate Students’ Association, Ancillary Services, Exams and Timetabling, and Facilities Management. The specific changes to the role definitions are detailed in the next few recommendations.

Recommendation #2: Create a Student Group Board made of up representatives from each of the organizations and departments who are members in the student group system.

In order to facilitate the discussion of concerns and further recommendations for the new student group system, the creation of this type of board would ensure that all partners in the student group system were fairly represented. It would also help ensure that discussions on proposed changes continued throughout the year, as meetings could be held at set intervals.

Recommendation #3: Shift the registration system from the SU to the DS so that DS will become the sole registrar of all student groups.

This is perhaps the largest shift in responsibility. The DS would maintain its current role as the authority for all University student group regulations, and in addition, they would take and review applications for registration for all categories of groups. The support and maintenance for the student group database would continue to be a responsibility of the DS, including modifications and additions that may be required as per this recommendation.

Having the DS act as registrar of student groups addresses a number of concerns mentioned in the review of the current structure. Specifically, it would help to clear confusion for groups as to who they are registering with and who they are held accountable to. The SU (through SGS), previously prevented from expanding their service offering due to time consuming administrative duties, would be given the opportunity to research, review and expand the services it should be offering to the SU registered groups. The separation of the registration system from the SU will also help differentiate between the various affiliation options. The SU and the GSA would both benefit from this and, combined with their new found freedom to expand their service offerings, both organizations can create additional value for their specific segments of groups. Those groups who had previously opted out of this extra option for

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affiliation may now be able to clearly see the benefits of doing so. Thus, the SU and GSA could benefit through improved relationships with their groups. As well, the GSA would be more involved in the student group system, becoming an active and contributing partner.

Recommendation #4: Allow the DS to retain the ability to delegate authority to approve and monitor groups to other organizations as they see fit. A policy outlining the procedures these organization are required to use should be drawn up by the DS prior to implementation.

This recommendation would help address the issue of Augustana and Campus St. Jean student groups where the power to conduct their own registration and support structure for student groups would be delegated to the appropriate body in each case. The procedure for delegating and the resulting responsibilities for the chosen organization will assist in keeping the system consistent and avoid the use of a case by case analysis for these situations. Once a group has been officially delegated the authority to conduct an independent student group system, they will become an active partner in the student group system. All dealings with regards to their specific structure or groups issues will be dealt with through the designated representatives for the delegated organization.

Recommendation #5: Between the DS and CR, explicitly define the relationship between the two departments. Below are two recommended options for this relationship

- 1) Apply the ability of DS to delegate the authority of registering student groups to the CR situation, with a key difference; CR would not operate independently from DS, rather would be seen as a specific category of groups with specific requirements.**
- 2) Remove the governance of CR activity clubs from the student group structure altogether. CR groups would be registered and overseen independently from the DS and would constitute a separate system.**

Option 1) has several benefits over the current system, the first being that it eliminates having CR as an affiliation option, a situation which created confusion for groups who did not realize what requirements were necessary to be a CR affiliated group. In addition, the term of 'CR affiliated' seemed to indicate a casual distinction in comparison with the strict difference between CR groups and other student groups. CR is not an additional organization that groups can simply affiliate with to receive increased benefits, rather, under this option they are a University department who have been delegated the authority to register groups of a specific nature. This option allows for this distinction to be made and identifies the unique situation of CR and their registered groups.

However, there are also several challenges with this option. The supposed delegation of authority to CR by DS would seem to indicate that the staff at CR is accountable to the DS. This is not the case, as these staff members are held first and foremost to the authority of the Dean of Physical Education. This creates concern for situations when a CR groups is being challenged to the DS and no real authority to govern the situation lies in the DS hands. A second concern is that the current CR membership requirements for registration violate those set for all University groups (1/2 students required for CR versus 2/3 students required for the University).

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Option 2) brings up the issue that CR activity clubs may actually be so different from other student groups, that they cannot be incorporated into the same structure. The concerns over authority and registration requirements are addressed by this option, as CR groups would be held accountable to the University through the Faculty of Physical Education and not the DS, thus allowing CR to set their own requirements and oversight levels as best addresses the needs of their groups. For this option a policy outlining the separate structure for CR groups needs to be placed into University policy. This option also leads into the issue of faculty specific groups which is discussed in the next recommendation.

Recommendation #6: Create a mechanism for the registration of Faculty specific groups and place it into University policy.

In recent years, there have been instances of groups wanting to register with the purpose of providing a service to the members of a specific faculty only. As this is not consistent with the requirement of student groups to maintain an open membership (with very few exceptions), they have had trouble registering, even with support from their own faculty. The creation of a mechanism which allows Faculties to register and support student groups specific to their Faculties membership subject to meeting specific requirements (e.g. Faculty liason assigned to each group), allows for these groups to form and operate without compromising the set requirements for University student groups. It is recommended that these groups would not be eligible for benefits awarded to registered groups with the DS, but would have to seek needed resources and funding from their Faculty alone.

Recommendation #7: Incorporate certain RM functions into the DS, if resources are adequate.

RM management will still be an active partner in the student group system, especially in the areas of high risk group consults and insurance issues, but the incorporation of certain RM functions into the DS should help to relieve the demand on student group requests on RM staff. The aspects that could be carried out in the DS are the distribution of waivers and event approval. The communication between student groups and the University on risk management issues could be increased with this addition, as groups could address issues of registration and risk management during a single trip to the DS office.

Recommendation #8: Form operating policies, procedures and guidelines for all departments detailing their interactions with student groups.

Recommendation #9: Ensure all active partners of the student group system are given adequate access to the student group database.

The departments of Ancillary Services, Facilities Management and Exams and Timetabling will have very similar roles as in the past, however it is important that they are fully integrated as active partners of the student group system. This includes having access to the database and applicable information. As well, it is crucial to have operating policies, procedures and

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guidelines detailing the necessary information on their interactions with student groups (Recommendations #7 and #8).

Registration Specifics

This section will offer additional details on how the registration system will operate once it is centralized in the DS. As stated previously, the DS will be responsible for creating, maintaining and hosting the online registration system. They will also review registration applications and have the final authority to approve student groups.

Recommendation #10: Create a system within the DS where the SU and the GSA are notified if a group is interested in affiliating with them in order to assist them in providing benefits to their groups.

In order to facilitate the affiliation of a group with either the SU or the GSA, the DS will provide the group information on all of the benefits for affiliating with the applicable organization. If a group chooses to affiliate with either, it will be marked in their registration application on the student group database and an automatic email will be generated to the appropriate organization. Both the GSA and the SU will have full access to the list of groups requesting affiliation with their organization. Once the DS has granted a group registration status, either the GSA or the SU will then have the final say on whether the groups request for affiliation is approved. The only regulations restricting the SU and the GSA will state that they abide by all Freedom of Information and Privacy Act restrictions, and that they will not allow a group to affiliate with them if they are not a registered group with the University.

Recommendation #11: Change the online registration form to an online application for registration and create different forms for different categories of groups.

Another detail to discuss in this section is several changes to the online registration form itself. First of all, complications have arisen due to the wording of the form. It will be changed from a student group registration form, which implies guaranteed approval, to an application for student group registration. This will help to reinforce the fact that all groups will remain pending until a review of their application is complete and they have been either granted or denied registration status. The registration forms will be altered for the different categories of groups. Included in these changes will be one form that is an application for student group registration, and another that is an application for student group recognition. (The distinction between these categories is outlined in the next Recommendation #12). The details on changes to the registration form will need to be formulated after consultation with the student group system partners to ensure that all necessary information is being gathered.

Recommendation #12: Require all groups applying for registration status to submit a written proposal detailing their planned activities for the year.

This written proposal will be more useful than previously gathered information with regards to conducting a risk assessment on a group applying for registration. It will also be easier to classify

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groups into categories and offer them consultation with the more in depth knowledge of their activities.

Recommendation #13: Create a categorization system for student groups; the categories will be Recognized groups, Registered groups, University Mandated Groups, Fraternities and Unique Mandate Groups.

It has been agreed upon by all partners of the student group system that, within the pool of currently registered student groups, there exists several categories, each with different needs and different risks associated with them. The following is a recommendation for student group categorization.

Recognized Groups:

These are groups that will only really be registering to secure space on campus. They tend to be smaller gatherings of people who have known each other previous to forming the group. The groups are not looking to actively recruit members, will not charge membership fees, and will not be taking part in activities beyond regular gatherings of members (no high risk activities). These groups would have no access to any benefits beyond the ability to book space. They would not be eligible to request affiliation with additional organizations (SU or GSA). These groups are subject to the minimum University student group registration requirements.

The addition of this category is to assist the DS, the SU and the GSA in identifying which type of groups require additional benefits from them, and just as importantly, which groups do not need this support. There have been many instances where small groups of students form groups, have no plans for expansion of membership or activities, and require only the ability to book space on campus. This category offers the University a method of supporting these groups of students, while freeing up time and resources for concentration on groups in the other categories.

Registered Groups:

These are groups that hold regular activities, actively recruit members and need access to additional resources. These groups would be eligible to request affiliation with additional organizations upon meeting the specific requirements. They will have access to benefits equivalent to University registration and their level of affiliation (SU or GSA). These groups are required to meet the minimum University student group registration requirements. They will need to meet additional requirements if they choose to affiliate with additional organizations.

University Mandated Groups

These are groups that have a formally defined relationship with the University. These groups are cited in University policy and part of their mandate is defined by this policy. This category will be mostly comprised of Faculty Associations and Residence Associations. These groups typically have registration and membership requirements specific only to their individual group (e.g. membership comprised of all members of a specific faculty).

Fraternities

These groups comprise the UofA Greek Community and consist of both men's and women's fraternities. This is the first category created out of the Unique Mandate Category (detailed below). All groups in this category are required to have an official affiliation with an international Greek organization. For men's fraternities, membership in the Inter-fraternal Council (IFC) is mandatory, as is membership in the Pan-Hellenic Council (PHC) for women's fraternities. These groups are required to meet the minimum University student group registration requirements. Insurance coverage, whether individually for the group or through their international organization, for any group applying for registration under this category is mandatory.

Unique Mandate Category

This category is more of a process for creating an additional category of groups. Groups eligible to utilize this process must meet several criteria. These groups must demonstrate that they have unique needs, benefits, responsibilities and a distinct relationship with the University. An application must be submitted to the DS office, complete with signed support from a minimum of 5 student groups in good standing, indicating that they are willing to be registered under the proposed category. A central membership organization must be created, through which the University and the individual groups will discuss issues and develop policy. Membership in this organization is mandatory for a group to be recognized under this category. Every group that registers under this category is to be granted representation in the central organization. All groups applying to become members of this category, as well as the central organization, are required to meet the minimum University student group registration requirements.

Recommendation #14: Create an appropriate risk level system through cooperation between the DS and RM.

In addition to various categories of groups, there is also a particular risk level associated with every group. While this does not constitute an individual category, all groups that are granted registration status with the University will be classified with a risk level through a risk assessment. The factors that will be considered in the assignment of risk levels are nature of activities, location of activities (on-campus versus off-campus), frequency of alcoholic events, size of group, and number of activities. The addition of the risk level system will assist both the DS and RM in identifying which groups may need additional support or consultations before being granted registration status or running specific activities.

Staffing

Although the staffing of many of the departments and organizations may not be directly affected by the proposed changes, there will be changes in the relationship and responsibility structures for several departments. For a physical representation of the proposed relationship and responsibility structure, please see Appendix B.

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Recommendation #15: Create a single reporting structure for the SU student group service Director, where they report directly to the Manager of Student Services only.

The office of SGS in the SU will continue to have a relationship with the DS as an active partner of the student group system; however, the Director of SGS will now have a clear and consistent reporting structure to the Manager of Student Services for the SU. This should make the Director's job more manageable as they have a single focus and are being pulled in a single direction. This will also assist the SU in creating a strategic direction for the service and implementing it.

Recommendation #16: Create a permanent staff position within the DS to run the administration and registration of student groups.

The DS office will be taking on considerable more responsibility than it had previous. It is recommended that at least one new permanent position be created within the office to handle the administration of student groups. The new RM functions the DS will play can be handled both through this new position, and through previously established employee positions. The Student Affairs Officer in the DS will now become more directly involved in assessing the applications of groups and granting registration status. This highlights several more benefit to this new student group system. Currently, the SGS office can only be open when the student Director is able to be in the office. With registration centralized in the DS, groups can access resources and ask questions about their registration status from 8:30-4:30pm everyday, consistently. As well, concerns or complaints regarding student groups are more likely to be brought directly to the DS, instead of traveling through several other points of contact previous to the DS. When these issues are presented, the DS will have a first hand knowledge of the status of groups and their reported activities. This is currently not the case, as the DS often has to consult SGS to gather information needed to proceed on the issue.

Recommendation #17: Maintain and fill the Fraternity Advisor position and encourage that individual to take an active role in the operation of fraternities through relationships with their international organizations, and through involvement with the IFC and PHC.

Even though the DS currently has an existing fraternity advisor position, it is not filled. It is recommended that there be a permanent fraternity advisor on staff, and that this position will become actively involved with the groups. They would be a required representative on the Interfraternity Council and the Pan-Hellenic Council. This position will also be responsible for contacting and maintaining a relationship with the international Greek organizations of the UofA fraternities. This will assist the University in building a relationship with the fraternities, help to create a policy for the role fraternities will play on campus, and can address the issue of fraternities' secret nature. Considering that fraternities are held to the same standards at the University as they are with their international organizations, the UofA could utilize the internationals to verify that the private information for each fraternity is in fact within regulations, thus not requiring groups to submit it against their will.

Funding

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Recommendation #18: Continue cost sharing in areas where there is mutual benefit for the University, the SU and/or GSA.

When focusing on areas of shared interest between the SU, the GSA and the University, there is still opportunity for cost sharing. Examples of these types of situations are during September Clubs Fair, the introduction of a mandatory Student Group Orientation (to be discussed in Recommendation #24), and for training sessions such as Alcohol Awareness Seminars. The types of events where cost sharing can be used and the dollar amounts to be given in such instances will need to be discussed.

Additional Recommendations

This section includes additional suggestions that have not yet been included in the report. These vary in content and with regards to which partners of the student group system they affect, but all of the recommendations fit into the previously presented system.

Recommendation #19: Create a comprehensive Student Group Policy that is supported and enforced by all partners of the student group system.

This Policy would be issued by the DS and would include all University regulations on student groups, including a detailed Risk Management Handbook, much like that issued by the University of Guelph. In addition to these sections, there would be sections specific to SU affiliated groups, GSA affiliated groups, and CR regulations. The Policy would also include details about benefits available to groups, and steps to take to access them.

Recommendation #20: All active partners of the student group system review the minimum group requirements and recommend changes to ensure consistency.

Specifically the DS, the SU and the GSA need to review the requirements specific to their groups to ensure that there is consistency throughout, that all requirements necessary are included, and that all requirements in place are actually necessary. An example of change that may need to be made is to require that 100% of the voting members of a group be students. This would help to ensure that the governance functions of student groups remain within the power of its student members and would also assist groups in following a student development model (recommendation #22).

Recommendation #21: Incorporate a Student Development Model into the requirements for all University groups.

This would help to ensure that groups who apply for registration are doing so for the purpose of enhancing campus life at the UofA. An example of a student development model that is applicable to student groups is Chickering's Psychosocial Theory of Student Development (please see Appendix C. for more details on this model).⁹

Recommendation #22: Change the name of SGS to a name that more specifically relates to SU affiliated groups.

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Although the name of SGS was applicable when that office registered all student groups, it would create confusion among groups looking for benefits who may not be eligible for SU affiliation. As well, considering the volume of changes being made to the student group system, it may make the transition easier for groups if the name of the service changed to something such as the Office of Students' Union Group Services (SUGS), or Undergraduate Group Services (UGS). The latter name may still create confusion however, as not all registered undergraduate groups will choose to affiliate with the SU. Another reason for this change is the fact that all of the previous stakeholders are now referred to as partners in the student group system, or the SGS. The repeat use of this acronym may create confusion for both the partners of the system, and the members of student groups. Overall, it would benefit the SU service to have a name that is more focused to its new role in the student group system, both for simplicity and for marketing potential. It would assist the SU in re-branding the image of the service.

Recommendation #23: Create a mandatory Student Group Orientation with the purpose of disseminating information to groups and orienting them with the responsibilities of running a student group at the UofA.

As can be seen from the research summary of other North American Institutions, the existence of such an orientation program for groups is already in practice in both Canada and the United States. While only two representatives for each group would be required to attend the orientation, this attendance would help to create a connection between student groups and the University, SU and GSA. It would be a valuable experience for distributing the ample amounts of information that student groups should know about running an organization at the UofA. It would also help to separate the groups who are ready to be active on the UofA campus, from those who might only need to be recognized. Recognized groups would either not be required to attend the Orientation at all, or would be required to attend a special, toned down version specific to their groups. As stated before, the orientation would be hosted in conjunction with the University, SU and GSA, giving each group a chance to get the information specific to their groups across. For the SU and the GSA, this would be an important opportunity to show groups the benefits of affiliating with their respective organizations.

Conclusion

It has become evident that the student group system requires changes in its structure and operation in order for it to function efficiently and to be effective in offering a value-added experience for student groups. One of the biggest concerns in proposing a new system is that the one-stop shopping experience now offered to student groups may be lost. The proposed structure thrives on cooperation between all partners of the student group structure. It succeeds at striking a balance between the benefits that come from the specialization of roles among departments/organizations, and the ease of one stop shopping for group's needs. The new system also addresses the major concerns of the old structure and provides a concrete plan that will not be difficult to implement with cooperation from all student group system partners.

To conclude, the UofA has drawn up a strategic goal for enhancing the student experience on campus. Student groups are one of the largest contributors to student life at the University, thus

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highlighting the need to ensure that the administrative and support structure in place for groups will enable their success. Through my experiences as the Student Group Director 2004-2005, and through the research conducted online and with the previous stakeholder of the system, I am confident that the system proposed is the most efficient and productive structure for student groups at the UofA. With the cooperation of all partners of the student group system, the first of the proposed changes can be implemented for the 2007 group registration.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday February 13, 2006
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS (SC 2006-20)

- 2006-20/1 **SPEAKER'S BUSINESS**
- 2006-20/1a Announcements - Please note in the CAC minutes that the meeting schedule has been amended (see attached). Also, there will be an email sent out stating where these meetings will take place, as we're waiting for a response as to whether or not Council Chambers is available.
- 2006-20/1a (i) Nom Com is approaching. Please watch the Gateway and SU website for information about Student Positions within the Students' Union. The deadline for applications is March 12 at 5:00 pm. For more information please contact Catherine at ea@su.ualberta.ca or 492-4241.
- 2006-20/2 **PRESENTATIONS**
- 2006-20/2a Bill Smith, General Manager, presents on SU Financial History
- LEWIS/BLAIS MOVED THAT** Students' Council move IN-CAMERA.
- Motion to move IN CAMERA: CARRIED**
- COUNCILLOR/COUNCILLOR MOVED THAT** Students' Council move EX-CAMERA
- Motion to move EX CAMERA: CARRIED**
- 2006-20/2b Prem Eruvbetine presents on International Differential Tuition
- 2006-20/2c Audit Committee presents on the SU Audit
- 2006-20/4 **QUESTION PERIOD**
- 2006-20/5 **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- 2006-20/5b Bylaw Committee
- 2006-20/5b (i) **HENRY/BUGLER MOVED THAT** Students' Council read Bill #10A for a second time.
- Bill #10A – Audit Committee Mandate**
Principles (second reading)
Audit Committee's mandate shall be edited such that:

1. Audit Committee shall:
 - a. Shall monitor the use by AUFSJ of the funds allocated to it by the Students' Union;
 - b. Shall investigate breaches of Contract with the Students' Union;
 - c. Shall review for compliance funding agreements and contracts between the Students Union and any Dedicated Fee Unit or Faculty Association;
 - d. Have the authority to require before it, in a reasonable period of time, any members of the Executive.
 - e. Not oversee the Students' Union External Audit but shall:
 - i. Review the Auditor's final report and cause to have it tabled on the Council agenda;
 - ii. Have the authority to contact the SU External Auditor with any questions and/or concerns and shall report important communications to Council;
2. The number of organizational units that the committee is required to review monthly shall be removed;
3. Bylaw 100(16)(2) shall be edited and condensed for sake of clarity and conciseness while not changing any principles other than the ones listed above.

Speaker's List (mm): Eruvbetine, Chapman, Lewis

CHAPMAN/LEWIS MOVED THAT Students' Council refer Bill #10 A to the Bylaw Committee.

Speaker's List (ref): Chapman

BLAIS MOVED THAT Students' Council amend the motion to refer by adding "and have the Bill brought back to the next meeting of Students' Council".

Amendment: CARRIED

Motion to Refer: CARRIED

SAMUEL/LEWIS MOVED THAT Students' Council suspend the Standing Orders requiring a recess.

Motion: CARRIED

DOLLANSKY MOVED THAT Students' Council make item 5b(iv) a Special Order.

Motion: CARRIED

2006-20/5b (iv) BUGLER MOVED THAT Students' Council read Bill #20 a second time.

Bill #20 – Council Remuneration Attendance Exemption for Leave of Absences to Run for Office.

Principle (first reading)

1. An exemption to attendance requirements be allowed for students who take a leave of absence from Council to run in a Students' Union Executive and/or Council election.

Speaker's List (mm): Bugler, Kehoe

KEHOE MOVED TO amend the main motion by striking "an SU Executive or Councillor Election" and replace with "a General Election".

Amendment to the Main Motion: CARRIED

Main Motion: CARRIED

CHAPMAN/BLAIS MOVED THAT Students' Council make item 5d (i) a Special Order.

Motion: DEFEATED

2006-20/5b (ii) BUGLER MOVED THAT Students' Council read Bill 18 a second time.

Bill #18 – Eugene L. Brody Fund

Principle (second reading)

1. The Grant Allocation Committee's mandate shall be amended such that the Grant Allocation Committee has the authority to make grants of not more than \$3,500 from the Eugene L. Brody Fund.

Speaker's List (mm): Bugler

Main Motion: CARRIED

2006-20/5b (iii) BUGLER MOVED THAT Students' Council read Bill #19 a second time.

Bill #19 – Audit Committee Mandate (DFUs)

Principles (second reading)

1. External DFUs (as defined in Bylaw 6000, Section 1) must provide Audit Committee with:
 - a. Evidence of compliance with all contracts with the Students' Union;
 - b. Evidence that they are filling their mandate as described in Bylaw 6000.
2. Audit Committee may postpone its disbursement decision if any new inconsistencies or breaches, not previously dissolved/resolved, are found in the required documents (Bylaw 6000 – 2-b) from previous years.
3. Bill 19 will come into effect May 1, 2007.

Speaker's List (mm): Bugler, Eruvbetine, Henry

LEWIS MOVED TO re-amend point 2 (1) (b) (iii) to make it read "evidence of compliance with all contracts with the Students' Union".

Amendment to the Main Motion: CARRIED

CHAPMAN MOVED TO amend the main motion by adding "to come into effect May 1, 2007" (after "read Bill 19 a second time")

Amendment: CARRIED

Speaker's List (mm): Henry

Main Motion: CARRIED

LEWIS/ERUVBETINE MOVED TO adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn: DEFEATED

2006-20/5d Budget and Finance Committee

2006-20/5d (i) **CHAPMAN/DOLLANSKY MOVED THAT** Students' Council read Bill #21 a first time.

Bill #21 – Remuneration Repeal

Principle (first reading)

1. Councillors and the Board of Governors Representative will not be remunerated financially.

Speaker's List (mm): Chapman, Lewis

BLAIS MOVED TO amend the main motion by adding point two "This bill shall come into effect on May 1, 2007."

Amendment to the Main Motion: CARRIED

Speaker's List (mm): Chapman, Samuel, Henry, Cunningham, Yusuf

YUSUF/VANDERSLUIJ MOVED TO adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn: CARRIED

Omer Yusuf, Vice President (Student Life)

Report to Council

March 06, 2007

Greetings Council,

What up!? ELECTIONS!

- ❑ **Student Group Services Review:** You'll notice in the agenda package that a draft document has been included regarding the SGS review. First: these are not the recommendations coming from any particular office, these are the recommendations from the consultant hired for this process. As such, the Dean of Students Office is consulting the SU on how/where to proceed next. We've already looks at some recommendations as unnecessary at this time (ie. renaming to SUGS), while the rest have been reviewed in terms of short, medium long term goals. The short term goals reflect immediate logistical changes, while the medium/long term goals reflect establishing a policy and responsibilities framework for SGS partners. Timelines for short term changes are before my term expires, while the medium/ long term changes will be developed over the summer and ongoing throughout next year. While this mostly pertains to administrative changes, the idea is that this will allow greater oversight and direction from the Student Group Services Director with student groups to develop more comprehensive training for student group executive members and provide additional resources.
- ❑ **COSA:** Remember when I was talking about establishing an oversight mechanism to review mandatory, non-instructional fees? WELL, the Council on Student Affairs, a GFC subcommittee, reviewed the allocation of the Athletics and Recreation Fee (at \$54.88/term for a full time student, or \$27.44/term for a part time student). This amounts to \$3,550,303. Those of you that are budget wonks will realize that \$3,550,303 is roughly 185% of the total revenue generated from our SU fees. Regarding the allocation of this fee, well, the results were FASCINATING! Look forward to a more detailed report.
- ❑ **CCIS Bike Library:** In an effort to garner LEED and as a move to initiate the University Travel Demand Management study, there project managers of the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences have approached the SU to develop a functional bike library in the heart of campus. This would include not only trip-end facilities for storage, but also a maintenance area and shower facilities. In short, the University is looking to adopt a program similar to our own Bike Library, but with greater facilities. Preshani Maistry, the ECOS Director, is taking the lead on this project.
- ❑ **GFC:** Since our resident VPA is on leave, I'll quickly report on the latest meeting of General Faculties Council. The University reported on the upcoming budget, revenue and costs breakdowns. Sam has seen this presentation multiple times, so any questions would be best addressed to her. Also, the University presented an outline of it's Travel Demand Management study, which focused on medium scale initiatives in the areas of parking options, transit options, pedestrian/bicycle options, land-use option and complementary/supporting options.

- ❑ **Responsible Hospitality Panel:** Some councillors may remember how I claimed that I made Edmonton safer. Well, it's an ongoing process, where it's certainly more people than myself attempting to make this city a safer and more vibrant place. The Responsible Hospitality Panel is a multi stakeholder meeting of individuals that represent areas of hospitality (bars, restaurants, hotels), development (transit, City Council, infrastructure), safety (police, AGCL, fire code) and community (community leagues, residents, and students). The idea is to act constructively with multiple perspectives to develop policy, enforcement protocols, development initiatives, safety priorities, etc.
- ❑ **Speed Buddies (or, Speed Dating Without the Dating):** This was an idea developed from our Programming Committee in an effort to build on the campus network. Although this was a minimal investment, I think the returns were fair. We can certainly build on this as a concept.
- ❑ **Songfest:** The University of Alberta Panhellenic Council put on its annual Songfest competition on Monday. Congrats goes out to all the participants, but a special mention goes to Delta Chi (mens fraternity) and Pi Beta Phi (women's fraternity/sorority) for taking the wins.
- ❑ **Mugs Coordinator:** We have a new one! Her name is Alvina Mardhani.

On the horizon!

May 5: Myer Horowitz Forum @ 12:00
 May 7: Responsible Hospitality Marketing
 Access Fund Committee
 May 12: MNIF, scans and assessments
 May 13: APRC
 May 14: Meeting with Indira
 May 16: Greek Formal
 May 19-28 Nom Com (ie: hiring EVERYONE)