

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday May 29, 2007
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

LATE ADDITIONS (LA 2007-03)

- 2007-03/1 **SPEAKER'S BUSINESS**
- 2007-03/1b Announcements – The Standing Orders of Students' Council have been further modified.
- 2007-03/5 **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- 2007-03/5c Council Administration Committee- Report
Please see document LA 07-03.01
- 2007-03/5c(i) **ERUVBETINE/JANZ MOVED THAT**, upon the recommendation of CAC, Council advise the Chairs of the Council Committees adopt the attached Agenda Templates as the official format used to record the business of Committees of Council.
Please see document LA 07-03.02
- 2007-03/5c(ii) **ERUVBETINE/GELLER MOVED THAT**, upon the recommendation of CAC, Council advise the Chairs of the Council Committees adopt the attached Minutes Templates as the official format used to record the business of Committees of Council.
Please see document LA 07-03.03
- 2007-03/7 **INFORMATION ITEMS**
- 2007-03/7g Michael Janz, President- Report
Please see document LA 07-03.04
- 2007-03/7h Eamonn Gamble, VP Operations and Finance-Report
Please see document LA 07-03.05
- 2007-03/7i Ambassador Fund Proposal presented by Chris Jones
Please see document LA 07-03.06
- 2007-03/7j Chris Le, VP Student Life-Report

Please see document LA 07-03.07

2007-03/7k

Bobby Samuel, VP Academic-Report

Please see document LA 07-03.08

University of Alberta Students' Union
Report to Students' Council

2007-05-29

Council Administration Committee

Hello Council:

CAC has met twice since my last report. At the first meeting, we had a presentation from Catherine van der Braak and Astra Aqui on the administrative support available for Council and its Committees. Important points from the discussion were:

- Please copy Catherine on requests to Astra
- Committee Chairs...
 - Please submit requests for preparing agendas and reports *at least* 24 hours in advance
 - Get your mailbox keys
- Setting a regular meeting schedule also makes the lives of admin staff easier.
- In Council, please speak slowly, loudly, and one at a time to make votes and proceedings easier
- Astra's hours are 8:30 to 4:30. Catherine's are variable, but on average are between 7:40 and 4:15.
- Contact info:
 - For Astra – aasc@su.ualberta.ca
 - For Catherine – ea@su.ualberta.ca
 - 492-4236. Or feel free to drop by 2-900 SUB

Based on this presentation, CAC has issued recommendations to all Standing committees to adopt standard agenda, minutes and report templates (contact Astra if you would like a copy). Also, CAC shall change the reporting procedures to only require minutes from committees.

At this same meeting, CAC dealt with a request from Gateway to release attendance of individual Councillors for publication. CAC decided to deal with this problem later.

At our second meeting, CAC adopted a meeting schedule. Also, we made alterations to Council Standing Orders regarding presentations – now presentations require a mover and seconder. We also finalized the Council Retreat schedule. There are other miscellaneous house-keeping matters CAC has or currently is dealing with. Please review our minutes.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask them.

Prem

A G E N D A

Year/committee name/# of meeting

Committee Name

Date

Time

Location

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of *insert date* Minutes
3. Announcements
4. Old Business
5. New Business
6. Discussion Period
7. Confirmation of Next Meeting Date
8. Adjournment

MINUTES

Year/Committee Name/# of Meeting

Committee Name

Date of Meeting

Attendance

Members attending

- 1. Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by *XXXX* at *insert time*

- 2. Approval of
 Agenda** *XXXX/XXXX* MOVED THAT the agenda is approved as tabled.
 VOTE ON MOTION

- 3. Approval of
 Minutes** *XXXX/XXXX* MOVED THAT the *insert date* minutes be approved
 as tabled.
 VOTE ON MOTION

- 4. Old Business**

- 5. New Business**

- 6. Discussion Period**

- 7. Next meeting date**

- 8. Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at *insert time*

President Report

Students' Council: May 29/08

(Submitted before I left for Council retreat)

Michael Janz

president@su.ualberta.ca

Meetings Attended:

AP!RG Board of Directors

Visiting Lectureship on Human Rights

CAC

GFC Student Caucus

Royal Bank Managers

AFHE Meeting

Media Training

Long Weekend!

Exec Goals Meetings

Powerplant and SU Spaces Meeting

SU Communications Plan Meeting

Governance 599 Presentation- aka how the Uni works

Alumni Council BBQ

Lunch with the Chaplains

Lunch with Councillor Krushell

Public Service in the 21st Century Roundtable

NO COUNCILOR MEETINGS THUS FAR

Summary:

The past couple weeks have provided many informative meetings and many chances to network with people who will no doubt be friends to Students and friends to our cause. I'm very pleased with the way our goals have transpired and I feel that they implement many of our campaign goals and are reflective of what we would like to accomplish this year. I am very excited to see what the Exec will accomplish and so far we have not voted Bobby off the Island so we are doing pretty good!

I have had the privilege of sitting in on some council committees and I look forward to continuing to see the progress that Council is making. Remember Council to take advantage of your opportunities to ask questions not only of the executives but of other council committee chairs!

As noted in the Gateway we are moving on fixing the wireless in SUB. RATT should be fully wireless now and a new access point has been purchased for the main floor of SUB to provide more students with better coverage.

COUNCIL: WHO IS YOUR SPORTSCENTRE SU 'EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK'?

Janz: Well my award is going to our honourable Speaker Amanda Henry, former

Speaker Greg Harlow, former VPSL/ (just call him 'V' and remember, remember the 5th of September) Kehoe and Councillor Eruvs for putting together a wonderful Council retreat. For those of you who were unable to make it we will no doubt be holding a retreat again in September, though it will probably be here.

VP Operations & Finance Report

May 28, 2007

Note: In an effort to keep council more fiscally aware, I will be including in my reports significant budgetary issues that previously only Budget and Finance Committee would have been aware of. My aim is to ensure that when the formal budget process comes around in mid-February, council will be fully aware of the issues that have come up, and hence reasons for changes to budget principles. This should also help lower the amount of debate necessary during council hours, and encourage discussion of the issues outside of the confines of Robert's Rules of Order.

- Last week in executive committee, the purchase of a 4-barrel slurpee machine was approved, which should fit in the spot where our 25 year old machine currently sits. The decision was made after the machine broke down and the repairman informed us that it was on its last legs. The price tag on that was approximately \$15,000.
- With our tech support partners at Whitematter, we have purchased a new "access point" for SUB along with a few other bits that should hopefully have SUB fully wireless (along with RATT). They should be installed soon. We have also discussed having a help desk set up during the first week of September for students having trouble getting wireless somewhere in SUB.
- Along with senior management, I am looking through the operating policies to make sure that our policies match reality (since in most cases they are extremely dated), and improving the ones that can be, fairly mundane stuff, but they should be showing up in exec committee minutes every now and then.
- Council retreat was GREAT, for the 10 or so councilors that showed up. We will have to evaluate for next year how to increase this number so that the amount that we have budgeted for it (over \$4,000) is more easily justifiable.

Cheers,
Eamonn Gamble

Dare To Involve

Students Supporting Student Involvement

Chris Jones

May 23, 2007

The University of Alberta has recently adopted *Dare to Discover*, a vision of the University's future direction, and *Dare to Deliver*, the University's academic plan. Both documents emphasize student engagement through discovery learning, both formally in courses and informally through "mentorship and peer-based activities such as clubs, athletics, and social events" (*Dare to Discover*, p. 10). Indeed, the Students' Union's submission to the University's Academic Plan explicitly recognizes student engagement as a key aspect of the student experience:

Undergraduate educational quality at universities is generally measured by two standards: knowledge imparted within the structure of academic studies and the experience of engaging the peripheral elements of campus life. It is not enough for universities to produce scholars, they must also produce active, engaged citizens and leaders.

These elements include (but are no means limited to) participation in student groups, discipline clubs, university governance, conferences and general socializing. Such experiences allow students to foster relationships of all kinds, debate and exchange ideas and expand upon what they learn in the classroom in a less rigorous environment.

This recognition of the importance of student activities as a means of engaging students in their communities has also been recognized as a key aspect of education through the University of Alberta Senate Task Force on Student Engagement. Particularly notable are recommendations 1.4 ("Support the creation of social cohort groups [...]"), 2.4 ("Minimize financial burdens on students in order [...] to increase the time available to engage with the campus community."), and 3.2 ("Invest in our current students as ambassadors for the University. With the assistance of these ambassadors, expand institutional links to rural and urban communities in Alberta, across Canada and around the globe.").

As the representative of undergraduate students, the Students' Union has an important role to play not only in advocating that the University support student groups but also in

directly facilitating involvement in them: the Students' Union engages in major funding and support initiatives through Student Group Services. However, as the SU's Academic Plan submission notes, "The obstacles to extra-curricular student engagement at the University of Alberta continue to mount"; gaps remain in the overall framework of support for student group activities at the University of Alberta.

This document, *Dare To Involve*, sets out a schema for filling some of those gaps in a student-led and student-focussed process. The responsibility for facilitating student engagement must rest not only on the University of Alberta, but also on the undergraduate community, as represented by and through its Students' Union.

Supporting student activities that represent that University of Alberta to the world — and vice versa — through attending or hosting conferences and competitions brings more opportunities for student engagement with both the campus and broader communities. Because many of these activities are now primarily self-funded, they are not readily accessible to students with budgetary constraints. Setting aside the broader benefits surrounding involvement and engagement, considerations of equity argue for increasing access to student activities.

The Students' Union ought to propose a dedicated fee for approval by undergraduates, to provide stable and predictable funding for student activities representing the U of A to the region, the country, and the world. Further, the Students' Union ought to challenge the University to increase its support for such student activities in a comprehensive and long-term fashion.

1 The Status Quo: Existing Support for Student Activities

Student activities cover an amazingly broad field at the U of A: everything from representing students to university bodies, engaging in hobbies or recreational activities, to holding cultural or religious events. Most student activities are organized as student groups through Student Group Services, the major exceptions being recreational athletics (through Campus Recreation) and varsity athletics (through Athletics). The events held by student groups vary correspondingly widely: while some groups, such as Faculty Associations, focus on-campus or nearby, others aim to represent the University of Alberta farther afield, at conferences or competitions on a regional, national, or international level. Some of these "ambassador groups" include Happnin' (the U of A jazz choir), Engineers Without Borders, U of A Model United Nations Club, the Debate Society, and the Autonomous Robotic Vehicle Project.

Because ambassador groups must necessarily travel out of town in order to represent the university beyond campus, they need stable and predictable sources of funding. While funds can be derived from personal sources and community fund-raising, neither of these means

are satisfactory due to the limited resources typically available to students and the equitable access concerns set out above.

Recognizing the importance of student activities to undergraduates and the campus as a whole, the University provides grants through the Dean of Students (discussed below) and, at the discretion of individual academic units, through faculty and department offices. The Students' Union provides funds both through an allocation from its operating budget through Student Group Services and through dedicated fees supporting campus recreation (Campus Recreation Enhancement Fund, \$3.39 per student per term) and varsity athletics (Golden Bears and Pandas Legacy Fund, \$3.64 per student per term).

While these funding sources are adequate for most student groups' needs, the limits on grants through the Students' Union and the Dean of Students are inadequate for ambassador groups: what distinguishes these groups is that traveling to or hosting major events, such as conferences or competitions, is integral to their activities. The cost of travel to national or international venues (for instance, attending the World Universities Debating Championship or the Intelligent Ground Vehicle Competition) easily exceeds the funding presently available.

Students are frequently discouraged from or unable to participate in these activities due to financial constraints. These constraints not only reduce the benefits available to the campus community through student engagement, but also unfairly penalize students on the basis of their own financial needs. While regional activities are somewhat more affordable, the greater numbers of participants involved can also exceed funding caps.

1.1 Student Group Services and Dean of Students

The existing Student Group granting system provides a total of \$45,000, distributed at five granting sessions annually. Existing groups may receive up to \$1,500 in a year to fund up to half the cost of an event or conference¹. The Dean of Students provides funding through the Student Extracurricular Activities grants, up to \$3,000 per year (subject to matching conditions); the SEA grants have on the order of \$30,000 per year available². Putting these two funding sources together, the maximum any given student group could receive in grants is \$4,500.

As an illustration of the limits of the existing funding scheme: the World championships in debating were held in Vancouver over December 2006 / January 2007. Taking advantage of the high calibre of competition and the proximity, the University of Alberta Debate Society sent twenty members to the championships. Given a registration fee of \$540 (including accomodation and food) and estimated airfare of \$350 per person, the total expenditure was \$17,800 — leaving each student to cover 75% of the cost, or about \$670, on his or her own. This clearly presents a financial barrier to undergraduates accessing valuable extracurricular

¹Start-up and capital purchase grants are also available in limited circumstances to some student groups.

²Per M. Mustafa Hirji.

activities — and the barrier could have been even higher had it been further away. Other ambassador groups face similar burdens in trying to carry out their activities, and it should be noted that many groups have multiple events per year, only one of which will typically qualify for grants.

1.2 Support for Athletics

The Campus Recreation Enhancement Fund (CREF) and the Golden Bears and Pandas Legacy Fund (Legacy Fund) were created by referendum in the 1990s to ensure funding for athletic activities on campus: CREF is targeted to “ensur[e] that programs, equipment, and facilities [...] remain of high quality, diverse, convenient, accessible, and affordable to undergraduate students” (SU bylaw 6000), while the Legacy Fund supports varsity athletic teams, particularly with travel. Each is funded through a mandatory dedicated fee included in the SU fee levy — CREF charges \$3.39 per term per student, while the Legacy Fund charges \$3.64 per term per student. Given enrollment of 30,511 (as of 1 December 2006), the funds receive \$103,432.29 and \$111,060.04 per term, or approximately \$225,000 and \$250,000 per year to support student athletic activities.

2 Filling the Need

Given that the University and the Students’ Union recognize that extracurricular activities offered by student groups are valuable, and given that the resources currently available are incapable of providing equitable access between groups and between students, a need exists to increase the resources provided: distinguishing between the needs of most student groups and those of “ambassador groups” would allow for a more effective allocation of resources. Simply increasing the resources available for all student groups, while it would alleviate a portion of the problem, doesn’t address the problem that ambassador groups typically have multiple grant-worthy events, and that their events tend to require more financial assistance than do, for instance, a group dedicated to promoting open-source software, promoting a particular religion, or promoting fellowship among a particular ethnic group.

Accordingly, a better approach is to target funds to the unique needs of ambassador groups, thus allowing them to more effectively carry out their activities — engaging and involving students from across the campus in the process — and in the process relieve funding pressures at the Dean of Students and Student Group Services levels which necessarily affect other student groups’ grants.

Creating a dedicated fee, which students could opt out of, to support ambassador groups achieves not only goals set out in *Dare to Discover*, *Dare to Deliver*, and the SU’s input to *Dare to Deliver*, but firmly places the Students’ Union in a leadership position on student engagement and provides more impetus for undergraduates to become involved in such

groups.

3 Fund Implementation

Creating a dedicated fee requires the following steps:

- Identifying criteria for funding eligibility (*e.g.* “student groups representing the U of A to the region, the country, and the world in competition and conferences”).
- Approval in principle to send a dedicated fee referendum to students, by Students’ Council.
- Estimating funding need among eligible groups to derive a fee amount (preliminary estimate of approximately \$100,000 per term suggests a fee of approximately \$3.50 per term).
- Referendum text drafted by Bylaw Committee.
- Referendum held in March 2008.
- Drafting amendment to Bylaw 6000 establishing Ambassador Fund.

Accountability in funding can be achieved by adopting existing Student Group Services and Dean of Students granting procedures and accountability requirements (reports and receipts submitted). Efficiency in allocation can be achieved by using existing funding channels, which have established some level of expertise in funding grant proposals: rather than create an entirely new bureaucracy, ambassador groups could have higher funding limits and apply more frequently to an existing mechanism for ambassador events (non-ambassador funding requests, such as for minor capital equipment *e.g.* printers, presentation displays would continue to be funded via the existing grant funds). It may be desirable to divide the new funding pool between the existing Student Group Services and Dean of Students mechanisms on an interim basis, as the SU granting infrastructure develops expertise in analysing ambassador grant proposals.

Finally, creating a fund as a dedicated fee unit provides a degree of long-term stability and predictability which would not exist if funding were reliant on usual Students’ Union budgetary processes: SU finances are notoriously volatile.

Chris Lê, Vice President (Student Life)

Council Report 02

29 May 2007

Hello Council,

Here is a look at the VPSL's world. If you have questions, ask me or e-mail me!

- ❑ **Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees:** I met with Dave Hayes, a grad student who was on the Health Services Advisory Group last year. We talked about the HSAG's history and discussed ideas for the coming year.
- ❑ **Campus Food Bank:** The Campus Food Bank Board of Directors named Robin Hao (GSA VP Operations and Services) and me to their Board. There was a lot of talk about the CFB's budget and reserve fund.
- ❑ **WoW:** The WoW Planning Committee has a narrowed list of theme ideas. We hope to finalize a theme by the end of the SLB Retreat, which will happen on 8-9 June 2007.
- ❑ **Campus Law Review Committee:** CLRC wrapped up its revisions to the Student Code of Behavior. An excellent policy change was the protection of students from disciplinary actions until they exhausted the appeal process.
- ❑ **Campus St. Jean:** Mike Schwake and I visited Mathieu Trépanier (CSJ's Animateur Culturel) and Chad Krayenhoff (AUSFJ's VP Externe) to talk about WoW and the SU-CSJ relationship. I hope to increase the SU's presence at CSJ.
- ❑ **ECOS Garden Coordinator:** ECOS recently hired Lauren Thomson for the position. She is very friendly and passionate about plants! She'll be a great addition to the SU's Student Services.
- ❑ **Council outreach:** In response to Councillor Eruvbetine's question at the last Council meeting, I had preliminary talks with the CSD staff about presenting Students' Council at Orientation. We are still working on the details.
- ❑ **Conference fees:** In response to Councillor McKinney's question, I brought to Council the conference proposals from the various Student Services. If you want to see them, talk to me.
- ❑ **Council Retreat:** I was very happy to spend time with the new councillors. We learned a lot and had an involved mock Council for everyone to learn about Robert's Rules. You can see pictures of all the fun on my Facebook account.

Bobby Samuel
Vice-President Academic
Council Report for May 29

Hey Council, so here's a summary of what I've been up since last we met:

-Coffee Meetings Galore – Currently I'm touching base with different people on campus to obtain a concrete understanding of the issues of teaching, technology, and textbooks. So far, things are looking good and we'll be seeing what happens in the coming weeks. So far I've touched base with the AAS:UA, the administration, the Bookstore, and various Deans with more people to come.

-General Faculties Council Student Caucus – We had our first meeting last Thursday and we've also published a schedule for the upcoming year (2 Thursdays prior to). The first meeting was successful with around 10 people attending. However, something that caught us off guard were that agendas were not sent out previously to the representatives on GFC. We'll be trying to get this resolved in the next coming weeks.

-Formative Feedback – At the Arts Faculty Council, Dean Woolfe signed a letter supporting the formative feedback project which is a huge bonus for us, hopefully we'll see participation increase.

-STLHE/ARG – registration complete for Brittney and myself, planning ongoing for our session that will be held on June 14. Remember to send reflections to either myself or Brittney at vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca. ARG will be taking place on June

-SMART – project is still ongoing, currently five student groups were selected to undergo training to operate Smart classrooms. The project will be starting in the Fall once students come back.

-Bear Scat – we signed a memorandum of understanding between the Students' Union and Stephen Kirkham, the owner/operator of Bear Scat which outlines responsibilities on both of our sides.

-Collective Body of Arts Students – yes, that is the new name for the new Arts Faculty Association (I really like it, it describes their philosophy of consensus-based decision making). We are meeting tomorrow to discuss textbook advocacy, in addition we are signing the contract on Friday, which outlines the terms of probation, as well as introducing them around to the Faculty.

-Wireless – Currently just acting as the intermediary between the Students' Union and AICT, more to come...

-24/7 SUB Report – Should be completed and submitted by the time Council is starting. I present on June 5 and June 13, then we'll see what happens.

Any questions? Throw 'em my way and I'll do my best to answer!