

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday, April 8, 2008
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2007-26)

- 2007-26/5 **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- 2007-26/5b Council Administration Committee- Report
Please see document LA 07-26.01
- 2007-26/5c University Policy Committee
- 2007-26/5c(i) **JANZ/SUMAR MOVED THAT** Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the University Policy Committee, approve the Language of Instruction Political Policy (2nd reading)
Please see document LA 07-26.02
- 2007-26/6 **GENERAL ORDERS**
- 2007-26/6c **DOLLANSKY/VANDERSLUIS MOVE TO** appoint Brittney Bugler, Michael Schwake, and Paul Chiswell to the University of Alberta Senate.
- 2007-26/6d **MCKINNEY MOVES TO** hire James Bond to monitor the University Administration
- 2007-26/6e **MCKINNEY MOVES TO** form a private army for the 2008/2009 school year to enforce compulsory voting in the SU elections
- 2007-26/7 **INFORMATION ITEMS**
- 2007-26/7e Michael Janz, President-Report
Please see document LA 07-26.03
- 2007-26/7f Bobby Samuel, VP Academic- Report
Please see document LA 07-26.04

University of Alberta Students' Union
Report to Students' Council

2008-04-08

Council Administration Committee

Hello Council:

Since my last report, CAC has met three times. We discussed Council remuneration prior to its removal, approved an updated Binder for the new Council and went through a prelim schedule for Council Retreat 08. We also put together logistics for the Council Photo.

Following the passing of Bill 10, we put appropriate provisions in Standing Orders to guide the Political Policy process—see below.

Unfortunately, we did not conduct a review of Committees for the final trimester. We do not have an effective method or metric by which to judge performance—any attempt to review committees (prior to getting this metric in place), I feel would be futile.

I have encouraged all Chairs to create a hand-over document for the future Chairs of their committees. I included my hand-over as an attachment.

It has been my pleasure serving Students' Council as the Chair of CAC, and serving students as whole for the 2007/2008 session. I wish you all luck in your future endeavors.

Yours,

Prem Eruvbetine

Additions to Standing Orders – Mar 18, 2008.

Expiration of Political Policy

17(4) Political Policies adopted within a particular session of Students' Council shall expire three (3) years after the end of that session

17(5) Upon expiration, a Political Policy shall be reviewed by either the External Policy Committee or the University Policy Committee as per their respective mandates and can be forwarded to Students' Council as a recommendation to renew.

**Principles
approved**

The Students' Union should lobby the University of Alberta and its faculties and departments to strengthen their communications requirements for all instructors and teaching assistants, with a special emphasis on oral skills.

The Students' Union should lobby the University of Alberta and its faculties and departments to provide free support and resources for all existing instructors and teaching assistants who struggle with their language abilities.

THE STUDENTS' UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

POLITICAL POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Number: **12/07**

Effective Date:

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Expiration Date:

Responsibility for Policy:

University Policy Committee

Subject Matter - *Category:*

POLITICAL POLICY (GENERAL)

- *Specific:*

Language of Instruction

- *Topic:*

WHEREAS the communication between instructors, teaching assistants and students is paramount to all teaching and learning; and

WHEREAS instructors or teaching assistants who struggle with speaking the language of instruction cannot deliver the quality of education the University of Alberta should stand for; and

WHEREAS the improvement of language skills is a time- and resource-intensive process, and instructors and teaching assistants who struggle with language skills cannot invest their full attention into the instruction of their students, their own education, and their research;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union lobby the University of Alberta and its faculties and departments to strengthen their language proficiency requirements for all instructors and teaching assistants, with a special emphasis on oral communication skills;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union lobby the University of Alberta and its faculties and departments to provide free support and resources for all existing instructors and teaching assistants who struggle with their language abilities.

Policy History:

Reference/Vote
Created 2007-23/5b(i)

Board/Committee
UPC

Date of Council Approval
March 11, '08 1st reading

Dear Council

Stay tuned for my Final Presidential year end shout from the soapbox! Live from Council Chamber. Hope you are there to hear it! Since you will be hearing me speak I will keep this written report brief.

I have filed my last monthly newsletter, my last board report, and I look forward to finishing writing my year end report. I still have a few active files with the University (student groups, health centre, Powerplant, residences etc.) that I am looking forward to following up on. The second major project I hope to get going on right away is transitioning Janelle. Right now I have only been able to give her about 6 hours of transition time and I hope that number drastically increases.

Our exec and members of the new exec will be getting together to sort out a GM transition plan.

I hope all of you have a chance to check out Jane Goodall next week.

I will be going to the CAUS Changeover in May as outgoing SU President.

Below is a letter that I wanted posted on my President profile. I have found this job to be very rewarding and a very exciting opportunity. I would urge any of you who are interested to get in touch with me, especially if this is something you would like to do in the future.

MJ

Hello Everyone,

Almost eleven months have elapsed since I took office as your Students' Union President. Almost eight months have elapsed since you began your term on campus. Feel like the year went by in a flash? Tell me about it... It seems like yesterday my parents were dropping me off at Lister hall in Sept. 2003. I had just taken a year off and was excited to get back to school and see what the wide world of university had to offer. I didn't think I would stay at the U of A long-- my heart was always on the west coast-- but after a year of classes, some great new friends from Residence and a few crazy adventures on Debate and Model United Nations trips, I was pretty confident I would be sticking around for a little longer. I had no idea that I would eventually find myself sitting here in RATT writing this letter to you. Moral of the story? If you are reading this, you could be next year's, or the year after's, Students' Union President! (Facebook me), and I'll tell you how...

I hope that this year has been everything that you expected it to be and more. University is about so much more than just the classes we take and the homework. Sure, aiming for the almighty 4.0 is important, but more and more these days employers are looking for

something else that sets us apart from the other hordes of fresh-faced graduates looking for work. Maybe this time you were too busy with work or studies to explore some of the opportunities available to you on campus, but September brings another term and another chance to try new things.

This year through these newsletters we have tried to promote different opportunities on campus available to you. From volunteering ([link](#)) to groups ([link](#)) to opportunities to run away from home for real (U of A International), we have tried to bring opportunities to you to help you reflect back on this year and-- I hope-- be just as thrilled as I have been with my experience here.

What would I say I have learned about this year? If I could do it all again, despite everything (tuition scandal, rent increase, Lister's elections scandal, credit card scandal, etc) I would. This University belongs to us; not just because we are students, but because this school is owned and entitled for the *uplifting of all Albertans*. That's why we (fight the good fight). Equally important however, is to remember that there are many good people here who care a tremendous lot about this community and there are many people working 'round the clock to make it better!

I'm not trying to tell all of you to run for SU President, but if you have a beef with the University or this province, speak up about it! Like something? Love something? Email the (President Samarasekera)! She reads all of your emails and will write you back. The newly elected SU Exec will do that too, when they take office May 1st. Decisions should not be made in this province or on this campus, regarding post-secondary education without input from students. So unless you pipe up and speak out, *no one else will*.

Thank you all for your confidence in me and my team this year. Thank you for reading my emails and I hope that through our work this year we have showed you that your small investment of \$35 is worthwhile. This is the cheapest political representation you will get in your life, and I hope that you have made the most of it! Still want to know more? (email) me and I'll buy you a beer and fill you in on the nitty-gritty.

Now, to you from graduating hands I pass the torch. Keep the SU flame burning and keep on building up that U of A pride.

It's been a great privilege and an honor.

Yours,

Michael Janz
President

Michael Janz

April 8, 2008
Vice President Academic
Bobby Samuel

Dear Council,

So here's my final report. Rather than talk about what I've been up to the last couple weeks, I figured I'll give an overview of the year, how much progress I've made on my campaign goals, and issues that required large action.

GOALS:

Enhance Technology – Technology is, without a doubt, one of the most complex issues the VPA must deal with. It comes in a variety of ways, whether it has to improve the functionality of class systems (WebCT, Bear Tracks) or deal with policy like online supplementary student fees. Although nothing substantial was done on this front, enough work was done to start moving on this issue.

Improve Teaching – Although I spent a lot of hours on this issue, the most major movement on this issue was the creation of a committee to revise student evaluations. Many of the individuals on this committee are interested in ensuring there is more pedagogical evidence for the process and questions in student evaluations (i.e. we can implement a lot of features from the student evaluations political policy).

Increase Bursaries – For the most part, we spent this year actually trying to build an issue. We combed over financial details from the Bursaries office (we're still trying to get the Awards Office) and we also saw the creation of a political policy on this issue (I like the UPC/EPC mash-up). In addition, hopefully we will see additional scholarship services in our very own SFAIC.

Reward Involvement – Once again, we saw CSL partner up with some of our key services to offer experiential learning opportunities through our services. Another committee that was created will create more headway on this issue as it examines experiential learning opportunities and how we can provide them more support.

Reduce Textbook Costs – CRAM was, by far, the most successful initiative during my year as VPA. We awakened bookstores and student associations across the country of the growing problem of textbook costs as well as creating a forum for actually accomplishing it. I really look forward to what CRAM will do in the coming years.

EMERGING ISSUES:

Faculty Associations (FAs) – They require more help. We've talked about this before, but as our University grows larger it becomes important to empower FAs to be able to handle upcoming issues. Many FAs took advantage of the advocacy goals they laid out this year (CBAS lobbied successfully for student space changes, ESS accomplished their advocacy initiatives, etc.). However, more needs to be done as more operational decisions are left to the faculties to implement.

Bear Scat/Tracks – Obviously one of the largest issues the VPA has had to deal with in the last year. There's a simple end (incorporating Bear Scat functionality into Bear Tracks) that we are still a while from achieving. However, the upcoming upgrade gives us an ample opportunity to achieve this goal. In addition, it may become more beneficial for students to actually go the source (PeopleSoft Oracle) and give them their input about their products' functionality directly.

GFC– It certainly occupies the majority of the VPA's time (with the general body and all of its assorted subcommittees) and is certainly their playground. Many issues have come

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Vice President Academic
Bobby Samuel

up in recent years that have raised a lot of questions (consolidated exams in 2006/07, the practicum intervention policy).

Exam Registry – As many of you have known, the policy about the Exam Registry changed recently with it no longer being mandatory to submit examinations to the SU's Exam Registry. Instead, it becomes okay for exams to be made available online. In addition, we **strongly emphasize** departments and faculties that if they do not want to make their exams available, they provide representative evaluative material (a couple questions from an old exam that indicates how difficult and long the overall exam will be). We're still working on how many examinations are actually made available to students, but by the first couple weeks of May we should have a relatively good answer.

Interviews – The Ombuds position was selected last Friday, congratulations to Chase for becoming the successful applicant. There are still more positions available so if you know anyone interested in the Ombuds position, please e-mail either myself, John, or Norma. As well, we also have a bunch of positions open on ARG and Awards committee, we could really use more applicants so if you know anyone, tell them to apply still.

Pamphlet – All I have to say is I'm sorry for this.

Goodbye.