University of Alberta Students’ Union

STUDENTS' COUNCIL
LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday, August 5, 2008
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2008-08)

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Hello Council,

CAC had a very eventful meeting.

The ballots were tallied for Council Jackets and we are going with the same sizes as last year. You have two choices of colors: Black or Grey. There will be a jacket sizing soon when we have a couple jackets in so you can try out some sizes and see which ones fit you.

We received an update from the President as to the happenings of the Revolutionary Speakers Series.

We passed the motion that you see in front of you today that- if passed- shows that Council gives it's proverbial blessing to the continuation of the online voting initiative. There will be further meetings between the CRO, VP Ops/Fi and CAC to ensure that our bylaws and organization is prepared for Online voting, but this vote will ensure that the Whitematter team can begin there tech work.

We discussed the Council Scholarship proposal at length. NO ONE on council sent ideas forward to the CAC chair about this initiative so I hope that the members of this body will be supportive of our recommendation.

The Exec Wage review is ongoing, as we are waiting on some information from our survey.

CAC over the next month is going through an in-depth review of our elections bylaws. Please see the committee members, or last weeks meeting minutes for details.

There will be another Council training/in-house retreat scheduled for sometime in September. If you have thoughts about this, please speak to the Speaker or myself for how we can make it harder, better, faster, stronger, than the Summer retreat!

Thanks,

Governor Janz

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Dear Council:

Excitement to follow→

Welcome to our new General Manager!
After a very, very, very lengthy and thorough process, the executive is pleased to welcome Marc Dumouchel to the team as our new General Manager! Marc has a wealth of knowledge of and enthusiasm for the UofASU, and we are incredibly lucky to have him on board. We had the privilege of evaluating and interviewing several excellent candidates, and as such, we are confident Marc is the best choice for the position. Marc will be transitioning until his official takeover on September 30th.

Joint Newsletter
The Registrar has confirmed that the joint University-Students’ Union email newsletter will be a go again for the coming year. Last year’s newsletter had three slots for news and upcoming events, and we are attempting to add a fourth this year to ensure all (or, to be accurate, slightly more of the much?) important SU news reaches undergraduates. Expect the email on the first of every month.

Western comes West
The University Students’ Council of the University of Western Ontario’s executive made their yearly pilgrimage across campus to visit a few of their peers to share best practices, and Beverly graciously planned and facilitated our visit with them. For the better part of two days, we gave these students information, advice and tours.

Saskatchewan also comes West
The VP External from University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union also came by SUB to ask about our experiences with provincial and federal lobbying. We had a very productive meeting about coalition-building within provinces.

Campus St. Jean
John and I have been attempting to meet with all of the Faculty Associations before the end of summer, and we were particularly interested to meet with CSJ; obviously, their locale and language present a recurrent challenge to executives attempting to represent CSJ students. John, Beverly and I had an extremely productive meeting discussing how to best meet these challenges.

CAUS Meeting in Calgary
Bev and I spent the last weekend in July in Calgary meeting with the Students’ Unions of Lethbridge and Calgary about CAUS goals. Of particular importance,
we finalized priorities for the provincial government budget submission. The submission will center on tuition, housing, deferred maintenance and scholarship/bursary increases. We also discussed having a joint housing week with Calgary, perhaps involving an intra-provincial competition for attendance (pressure’s on, UofA!).

**Councillor Coffees**
A reminder to let me know if you would like to grab coffee and talk SU business! And this, my friends, is not a one-shot deal. I’d love to chat hackery with you at any point in the year, and I’m never more than one email, office visit or facebook message away…

**CJSR Meeting and DFUs**
Our campus community radio station had a meet-and-greet with the executive, where we were able to share ideas and formalize some ties with one important DFU. This meeting raised several questions, but specifically: what is the SU executive’s formal relationship with DFUs? I will attempt to answer (and codify the response to) this question to strengthen our future relationships with our DFUs.

**Co-operative Housing**
I met with a university team and an experienced consultant to discuss the possibility of creating cooperative housing on campus: essentially, a complex partially owned by all the students living in it based on a deposit-esque system, autonomous from University and Students’ Union control. I will keep Council updated about the progress of this very early-staged initiative.

As always, I’m open to discussion, feedback, thoughts & concerns!

Cheers,
Janelle
Be Booksmart (The Academic Materials Campaign)
Materials are currently being drafted. Look forward to a presentation to Council at some point in September!

CRAM Steering Committee
Discussions surrounding Academic Materials continue to grow at the national level – over the last week CRAM has expanded the number of Canadian Universities involved from 13 to 20. Progress is proceeding cautiously, to ensure that the structures and solutions that the Steering Committee propose will be realistic and sustainable. Many one-on-one conversations between various Universities, Colleges and Technical Institutes are ensuring that the whole postsecondary sphere in Canada will hear about this issue over the coming year.

CoFA Fall Retreat
Craig Turner, Associate Vice President Academic, has the preparations for the retreat well under control. The only thing that we are waiting upon is confirmation of our Key Note Speaker for the retreat. Exciting times ahead!

8000 Series Bylaw Review
Many of you have heard me speak about how out of date our 8000 Series Bylaws are – these are the Bylaws governing the Faculty Associations. As I sit on Bylaw Committee I have been looking into how to update these Bylaws, and have been keeping the committee informed of my progress. Expect two major Bills to come forward in the middle of the Fall Term. The first will be to drastically update Bylaw 8350, The Bylaw Regarding Faculty Associations.

Multifaceted Evaluation of Teaching
More to come in the future! I have been working on this but it has taken a backburner seat in the last two weeks. Much more information will be coming to Council in late September (Hold me to that promise in questions periods in September!).

Academic Advisors
More to come in the future! The Academic Relations Group (ARG) has discussed this issue in detail Janelle Morin and I have a meeting with Frank Robinson tomorrow, after which I will have more detailed information for Council.

Scholarships and Bursaries
More to come in the future! This is a topic where significant headway could be made if we decide to commit the resources to the initiative. While there has been some discussion inside 2-900 surrounding this issue, and it appears as one of my Goals for the year, little has been done on it yet.
**BearsCat and the Beartracks Upgrade**

Over the last five weeks I have been in conversations with Shelagh Hohm (Director of Administrative Information Systems) and Ada Schmude (Associate Registrar of the Registrar’s Office) surrounding the Beartracks upgrade. I have also been in conversation with Steve Kirkham (Creator of BearsCat) surrounding the future of BearsCat after the Beartracks upgrade. There is another round of Beta Testing done on the upgrade, which Janelle Morin and myself will participate in before the next Council meeting.

Please be aware that on the August 19th, 2008 meeting of Students’ Council that there will be two presentations. The first one ‘The Beartracks Upgrade’ will be presented by Shelagh Hohm, Ada Schmude and their guests. I ask you that questions revolve around the upgrade and the Communications Plan that will inform students about the upgrade. The second one ‘The Future of BearsCat’ will be presented by myself and Steve Kirkham, part of the presentation will be in camera. Your questions can be on any topic, but should focus on student satisfaction surrounding the upgrade and grilling me over the future plans for BearsCat. Please ensure that you bring a copy of the BearsCat Political Policy to Council (it is in your Council Binder).
Hello Council,

I hope you all had a lovely long weekend and found some time to relax. There is just one short month before school starts so find some down-time while you still can! I took a few days off myself and will have just arrived back from vacationing in BC for the council meeting at which this report will appear.

**GM Search**

It’s done! I believe that Steve is making the official announcement to council tonight, but just in case that is not the schedule, I shall leave it a mystery for now.

**CAUS Meeting (July 26th in Calgary)**

The CAUS meeting on the 26th went very well. The drive to and from Calgary was uneventful, which I think we can all agree is the best way for a drive to be. At our meeting we passed an amendment to the CAUS tuition policy, adopted a policy on scholarships and bursaries, and discussed a number of other items including deferred maintenance and the CAUS communication plan. The next CAUS meeting is scheduled for August 14th via teleconference.

**CASA Update**

All’s quiet on the CASA front as of this report. Keep posted for more updates at a later date.

**External Visitors**

As you know from reading my last report, the University Students’ Council executive from the University of Western Ontario were in Edmonton on July 23rd and 24th to visit with our executive, members from our advocacy team, and Bill Smith (whom we will miss very much when he retires in just a few short weeks). Although the visit was slightly hectic at times, overall it was successful and allowed us an opportunity to share some of what we are doing with another Canadian Students’ Union and to have some good inter-portfolio meetings.

Nicole Kenny, the Vice President (External) for the University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union, was in Edmonton last week and was able to stop by for a short visit with a few of our executives. Janelle and I had a very interesting conversation with Nicole regarding CFS, CASA and federal lobbying. We also discussed CRAM and academic materials for a short while.

**Services/Exec Lunch**

Our first Service Directors/Exec lunch meeting was held last Wednesday. After introductions were made each of the directors provided an update as to what was going on in their area. This was a great chance to meet all of our wonderful and hard-working service directors, find areas where we can collaborate, and hear amusing stories about coffee coming through the roof of the lower level.

**Affordable Housing Week**

Plans are well on their way for Affordable Housing Week which, as you know, is scheduled for September 29th-October 3rd. I shall provide more information as to what events we will be
running this year in a later report to council. If you are interested in helping out during the week let me know.

**Associate Vice President External (AVPX)**
Karen and I are looking for several SAL’s (Students at Large) to join CPAC. If you know anyone that might be interested please encourage him/her to get in touch with Karen or me. If you are looking for more information on what CPAC will be doing this year so that you are better able to entice your friends to get involved contact Karen or me and we will provide you with whatever you need.

That’s all for this week.

Cheers,
Beverly