

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 6, 2009
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

ORDER PAPER (SC 2009-18)

- 2009-18/1 **SPEAKER'S BUSINESS**
- 2009-18/1a Announcements – The next meeting of Students' Council will take place on Tuesday, January 13, 2009
- 2009-18/2 **PRESENTATIONS**
- 2009-18/2a 8000 Series Bylaw Review Presentation- Presented by John Braga, VP Academic sponsored by John Braga VP Academic
- 2009-18/3 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**
- 2009-18/4 **QUESTION PERIOD**
- 2009-18/5 **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- 2008-18/5a **DOLLANSKY MOVES TO** award two (2) Council Scholarships for the Fall 2008 term

Please see documents SC 09-18.01
- 2009-18/6 **GENERAL ORDERS**
- 2009-18/6a **JANZ/KUSTRA MOVES** That Students' Council approve Bill #15 in first reading.

Principles:
D.I.E. Board timelines and timelines for rulings by the CRO must be uniform during the election period. When conflicting, the shortest required time period shall take precedence.
- 2009-18/6b **JANZ/KUSTRA MOVES** That Students' Council approve Bill #17 in first reading.

Principles:
During voting, candidates, campaign managers, members of sides and volunteers can encourage members to vote.
- 2009-18/6c **JANZ/KUSTRA MOVES** That Students' Council approve Bill #18 based on the following principles:

Any member (s) of the Students' Union Executive Committee is eligible to serve as a campaign manager or candidate without taking a leave of absence from their position as an executive if the race is uncontested.

Members of the Executive Committee must not use resources that are unavailable to all other opponents when campaigning or dealing with any matter directly related to the election.

2009-18/6d **JANZ/KUSTRA MOVES** That Students' Council approve Bill #19 based on the following principles:

Members of Students' Council and its standing committees are not required to take a leave of absence from those duties when they are contesting a position. Members of Students' Council must not use resources that are unavailable to all other opponents when campaigning or dealing with any matter directly related to the election.

2009-18/6e **JANZ/KUSTRA MOVES** That Students' Council approve Bill #20 based on the following principles:

Elected members of the Students' Union shall be free to act as volunteers for or endorse any candidate, plebiscite or referendum question, or slate.

Elected members of the Students' Union must not use resources that are unavailable to all other opponents when campaigning or dealing with any matter directly related to the Election.

2009-18/6f **JANZ/KUSTRA MOVES** That Students' Council approve Bill #21 based on the following principles:

No slate or slate candidate's campaign budget shall accrue more than four hundred and forty dollars (\$440) in expenses, including both slate and slate campaign expenses, all of which shall be paid by the Students' Union.

2009-18/6g **JANZ/KUSTRA MOVES** That Students' Council approve Bill #22 based on the following principles:

The pre-campaigning period would be from thirty days before the plebiscite or referendum in the case of a plebiscite or referendum being initiated by a member via petition. The pre-campaigning period for Students' Council initiated plebiscites or referenda would begin with Students' Council's initiation of a plebiscite or referendum.

2009-18/6h **MORIN MOVES** That Jian Liu and Miao Qi be appointed to the Awards Committee

2009-18/6i **LYNDE/BRAGA MOVES THAT** Students' Council, as per Bylaw 8461, section 6(c), approve the joint Medical Students' Association and Law Students' Association proposal outlining a Faculty Association Special Fee.

Please see document SC 09-18.02

2009-18/6j **FLATH/DOLLANSKY MOVES THAT** Students' Council approve the following referendum question in first reading:

Do you support the establishment of an undergraduate health and dental plan as

of the Fall semester of 2009, subject to the following conditions:

1. Students have the ability to opt out of the health and/or dental plan;
2. The health and dental plan would cost each student \$192.34 per year for the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 academic year, said fee being assessed by the University with tuition and other non-academic fees;
3. That in subsequent years, any increase or decrease in the cost of the plan will be subject to approval by Students' Council;
4. That the SU Executive be authorized to enter into the necessary contractual agreements with Studentcare.net/works contingent upon the inclusion of acceptable transparency and accountability provisions;
5. That a fee for the undergraduate health and dental plan would continue to be assessed until;
 - a) A duly constituted SU referendum is conducted to rescind the fee and program; or,
 - b) Such a time that Studentcare.net/works terminates the agreement.

2009-18/7

INFORMATION ITEMS

2009-18/7a

CAC Election Review

Please see document SC 09-18.03

2009-18/7b

UASUS/USSR documents

Please see document SC 09-18.04

2009-18/7c

Votes and Proceedings

Please see document SC 09-18.05

2009-18/7d

Jhon Braga, VP Academic- Report

Please see document SC 09-18.06

2009-18/7e

Kristen Flath, VP Student Life- Report

Please see document SC 09-18.07



Council Scholarship Nomination Form

Two council scholarships of \$750 each will be awarded at the last council meeting of the trimester.

Trimester: Fall 2008

Nominee: Councillor Kustra

Nominator: Natalie Cloutier

In one page or less, please describe why the nominee is deserving of the scholarship. Keep in mind that the criteria for the award (excellent attendance, active on committees, ambassador of Students' Council in the campus community, attempts to further empower students, represents their constituents' opinions and concerns in Students' Council matters).

Councillor Kustra has been an enthusiastic and valuable participant on Students' Council since April 1st. She has served as a permanent member on the Council Administration Committee and Budget Finance Committee, proxies on Bylaw and has served as the ARTS Councillor that represents Students' Council to the CBAS Board. She has almost perfect attendance on Council, and has often been an on call proxy.

She organized a get together of the Arts Councillor and prompted them to share ideas and ensure that they are all making decisions with the interest of the arts students in mind. Even though she is new to council, she has never been afraid to speak up on an issue she is passionate about. She does not speak until she understands the implications of an issue and has never been afraid to seek out the advice of an executive or a experienced old hack.

She only opposes ideas, not people, and has helped try to recruit interest in Council from other students who do not know much, or anything about the SU.

She is someone who has taken the job seriously and has shown through both the summer and fall session of council that involved councillors are not just those members pre-campaigning for an executive run, but are students who intrinsically love being a councillor!

She truly represents her fellow students interests, and not her own.

Nominations must include the signature of the nominator and a minimum of two support signatures from Council members. Please include the printed name below the signature.

Natalie Cloutier

Jonathan Mastel

Scott McKinney

Nick Dehod



Council Scholarship Nomination Form

Two council scholarships of \$750 each will be awarded at the last council meeting of the trimester.

Trimester:

Nominee: James Eastham

Nominator:

In one page or less, please describe why the nominee is deserving of the scholarship. Keep in mind that the criteria for the award (excellent attendance, active on committees, ambassador of Students' Council in the campus community, attempts to further empower students, represents their constituents' opinions and concerns in Students' Council matters).



Nominations must include the signature of the nominator and a minimum of two support signatures from Council members. Please include the printed name below the signature.

Jon Mastel

Caitlin Shulz

Tom Janiszewski



Council Scholarship Nomination Form

Two council scholarships of \$750 each will be awarded at the last council meeting of the trimester.

Trimester: Fall

Nominee: Helen Quevillon

Nominator: Nick Dehod

In one page or less, please describe why the nominee is deserving of the scholarship. Keep in mind that the criteria for the award (excellent attendance, active on committees, ambassador of Students' Council in the campus community, attempts to further empower students, represents their constituents' opinions and concerns in Students' Council matters).

Helen is an active and dedicated member of the committees she sits on. She's Awesome.

Nominations must include the signature of the nominator and a minimum of two support signatures from Council members. Please include the printed name below the signature.

Nick Dehod

Scott McKinney

Kristen Flath (?) (signature was difficult to read)



Council Scholarship Nomination Form

Two council scholarships of \$750 each will be awarded at the last council meeting of the trimester.

Trimester: Fall 2008

Nominee: Scott McKinney

Nominator:

In one page or less, please describe why the nominee is deserving of the scholarship. Keep in mind that the criteria for the award (excellent attendance, active on committees, ambassador of Students' Council in the campus community, attempts to further empower students, represents their constituents' opinions and concerns in Students' Council matters).

We nominate Scott McKinney for the council scholarship in the fall term of 2008/2009

Nominations must include the signature of the nominator and a minimum of two support signatures from Council members. Please include the printed name below the signature.

Aden Murphy

Jon Mastel

Tom Janiszewski

Nick Dehod

MSA/LSA Health Plan Proposal

Monday, January 05, 2009

Proposal for a Faculty Association Health and Dental Plan Fee (herein, “the Fee”) for the Medical, Dental and Law Students’ Associations (herein, “the MSA/DSA/LSA”) which serve as the Faculty Associations for the University of Alberta Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

PURPOSE:

The Health and Dental Plan Fee is proposed based on the following reasons:

- At present time there continues to be no university wide health care plan for the undergraduate students of the University of Alberta.
- Whereas, the absence of such a plan does not *generally* affect the undergraduate student population, however, in the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, the absence of such a plan presents a problem.
- Whereas, most undergraduate students are between the ages of 18 and 22, students from the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry have an average age of 25 and higher.
- Whereas, since the general undergraduate student population is younger than 25 years of age and are usually eligible for coverage under their parents’ health plans, most students in the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry are beyond this coverage and thus lack adequate health care coverage.
- In recent years, students have regularly voiced their concerns regarding the lack of satisfactory health care coverage. In order to address these concerns, we have decided to pursue this fee to fund a health and dental plan initiative.

AMOUNT:

The amount of the health and dental plan fee has some degree of variability to it, depending on the number of registered students, but it should be \$250 a student per year. However, the final fee amount has not been finalized as negotiations continue.

The Students’ Union VP-Student Life Kristen Flath will be reviewing this proposal before the referendum is held and the finalized amount (or a maximum limit) will be included on the referendum question. Negotiations are continuing and the LSA, MSA and DSA will continue to keep the Students’ Union updated on their progress.

SCOPE:

A medical, dental or law student is anyone enrolled in the undergraduate M.D./D.D.S./M.L.S./D.H. or LL.B. programs, in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and the Faculty of Law, respectively, and is a member of the MSA, DSA or LSA as per MSA, DSA or LSA bylaws.

The fee shall apply to all undergraduate medical, dental and law students in the Faculty of Law and Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

MSA/LSA Health Plan Proposal

ALLOCATION:

The money received for the fee, will be the exact amount that is tendered to the MSA or LSA by Student Care and will be re-distributed back to Student Care, for the purposes of health plan premiums.

There will be no monies removed from this fee by the MSA, DSA or LSA for administration fees, nor will there be any profit rendered to the MSA, DSA or LSA for their role in collecting these fees.

ELIGIBILITY:

All members of the MSA, DSA and LSA are eligible to receive health and dental care benefits from this health plan, upon successful registration and payment of health care premiums.

REFUND MECHANISM:

The Fee, in its entirety, is available for refund to any student from the Faculty of Law and Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, upon satisfactory opt-out from the health plan provider Student Care.

MANAGEMENT:

Student Care will operate independently of the Faculty Associations. However, representatives from the MSA, DSA and LSA will liaise with the health plan provider in order to ensure that all funds and necessary forms are properly managed. The VP-External for each of the MSA, DSA and LSA, respectively, will liaise with Student Care on this initiative.

CONCLUSION:

The MSA, DSA and LSA thank you for your time and consideration of the Faculty Association Health and Dental Plan Fee for the Medical, Dental and Law Students' Associations. Moreover, we appreciate all of the hard work and support that we have received from the Students' Union. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

John-Ross Bonanni
VP-External, MSA
jbonanni@ualberta.ca

D.J. Lynde
VP-External, LSA
SU Councillor, Faculty of Law
lynde@ualberta.ca

Ryan Gallagher
President, MSA
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Natasha Dubé
President, LSA
ncdube@ualberta.ca

This is an intended rough backgrounder I have written up to help give context to the motions that are coming onto the council agenda for Tuesday.

These motions are on the order paper but I do have to issue a couple amendments on the floor (sorry :-)

Recommendations from Michael Janz: Election Review 2008-2009

Hello Council,

There is definitely need for a full FARCE 2.0 review of our elections system again and I would recommend Council looks into that in the future.

The motions that you see in front of you do not come from CAC but are being moved by me individually. CAC has discussed many topics related to the elections process throughout the year resulting in the motions in front of you. Process wise, this may seem rushed, but this is a result of poor scheduling with the long weekend and the cancellation of the Dec. 9th council in finals. It may seem like a rushed process, but I am doing my best to ensure that these discussions are as transparent and accessible as possible.

If you disagree with how this is being done, I will gladly step down as chair of CAC and allow you to facilitate the committee from here on at our next meeting in January.

CAC did do some trouble shooting with regards to elections on issues such as online voting, polling stations, discussions about adding additional forums (Augustana), the way votes are counted, joke candidates, and much more. Some of these discussions led to the upholding of the status quo, some led to heated debate that the committee felt should be heard by council. At the last meeting I said that I had been asked not to present all of the motions in a filibuster (or one set of motions) but rather introduce them individually so as more transparent discussion in front of students council could take place.

This issue is very time sensitive as the Elections handbooks are being printed on January 23rd. If we waited to recommend these motions from CAC again it would not allow time for the changes to be processed. We want to allow as much time as reasonable for the CRO to implement changes.

I would like to thank the members of CAC and those keen councillors who came out to participate, the previous CROs Turner and Woynorowski who volunteered their time and brains, and of course, our CRO Patrick Wisheu who came to council meetings and lent their previous experience to the matters at hand. They

in no way endorse or do not endorse these motions, but merely have acted as a resource.

The SU is a fluid organization that allows for continuous input of new ideas and should never be afraid of discussion. I am not particularly attached to any of these motions that I am moving, but I feel that because they have to do with our elections, they are best decided in full public view in front of the Gateway and the public at the meeting of Students' Council. I would hate to leave anyone with the impression that SU insiders are gerrymandering the electoral process or something like that.

My last caution: Think Big! The SU Should not be afraid of tinkering, changing something and trying out a new process: if it does not work for the elections, next year Council can always restore the process!

So please remember that we are **debating ideas not people, grab a copy of bylaw 2000, and follow along!** If you want to make edits, I will post them on michaeljanz.ca so even the non-facebook participants (Cough DEHOD) can participate.

1.

JANZ/KUSTRA moves Bill # based on the following principles:
Students' Union elections shall have anonymous voting.

The issue here is that nowhere in our Bylaws does it say that the voting should be anonymous. Students should be able to cast their ballot with the knowledge that their decision is a secret.

This bill would allow bylaw to make an addition clarifying that voting should be anonymous. An individual is still forbidden from voting twice, but now with online voting the CRO can remove their votes, without knowing who they voted for.

2.

JANZ/KUSTRA moves Bill # based on the following principles:
The CRO is eligible to vote in plebiscites and referendum in the case of a tie.

WILL BE AMENDED TO:

**JANZ/KUSTRA moves Bill # based on the following principles:
The CRO is eligible to vote in plebiscites and referendum in the case of a tie.**

In the definition of a referendum and plebiscite the CRO is forbidden from

voting, but later on in bylaw they are instructed to vote in the case of a tie.

This bill would clarify the discrepancy between our bylaws.

3.

JANZ/KUSTRA moves Bill # based on the following principles:

D.I.E. Board timelines and timelines for rulings by the CRO must be uniform during the election period. When conflicting, the shortest required time period shall take precedence.

The timeline for all D.I.E. Board rulings (whether in regards to Bylaw 2000 and elections or not) during the election should be uniform. All rulings by the CRO should also be uniform

68. (4) No appeal shall be considered by the D.I.E. Board unless it is received within twelve

(12) working hours of the C.R.O.'s ruling being posted.

(5) Where a complete appeal is received, the D.I.E. Board shall convene a hearing within twelve (12) working hours of the appeal being submitted.

There have been confusions in the past on rulings during an election. If the hearing is in regards to bylaw 2000, there are different timelines than if the ruling is with regards to D.I.E. Board usual practices. What timelines should take precedence on a ruling: should it be the D.I.E. Board timelines? In the world of elections, the difference between 24 and 72 hours is very important and must be clarified. DIE Board is on notice to rule during elections within a shorter period, this is merely clarifying what those timelines are. An ordinary candidate might get quite confused when they can expect a ruling back from the CRO/D.I.E. Board and the hope with this bill is it would clarify this process.

This bill will force bylaw committee to unify the timelines between the CRO Rulings, and all D.I.E. Board rulings to an easily understandable format and when there is a conflict, Bylaw committee is to yield to the shortest required time period for the CRO or DIE Board to issue a ruling.

4.

JANZ/KUSTRA moves Bill # based on the following principles:

Each candidate, campaign manager, **volunteer** and slate shall act reasonably and in good faith, and

specifically shall

a. ensure that each volunteer engaging in campaign activities on his/her/its behalf is aware of all bylaws, rules, regulations, and orders;

b. ensure that each volunteer is in compliance with all bylaws, rules, regulations,

and orders while engaging in campaign activities on his/her/its behalf; and
c. report any contravention of a bylaw, rule, regulation, or order to the C.R.O. immediately.

WILL BE AMENDED TO:

JANZ/KUSTRA moves Bill # based on the following principles:

Each volunteer shall act reasonably and in good faith in accordance with all bylaws, rules, regulations, and orders.

From 2000:

q. "campaign activity" shall be 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;

r. "volunteer" shall be any individual who assists in campaign activities;

This bill will allow volunteers to be held to the good faith principle instead of just candidates, the campaign managers and slates. Rarely do we have organized vandalism to candidates posters or materials, but this suggestion was recommended so that the CRO can hold volunteers of a side accountable for their actions.

If a volunteer for "Coke Yes" and put up extra posters for "Coke No" so that they get penalized, this bill gives the CRO the ability to penalize the malicious volunteers. Its about not just making sure volunteers are AWARE of bylaws, but also that they must be held accountable to them.

5.

JANZ/KUSTRA moves Bill # based on the following principles:

During voting, candidates, campaign managers, members of sides and volunteers can encourage members to vote.

Currently reads:

56. Limitations During Voting

(1) During voting, candidates, campaign managers, members of sides and volunteers shall not encourage members to vote or engage in any campaign activities.

We have despicably low voter turnout and this is one of the most important issues facing the SU. Candidates spend a ton of time and SU money campaigning but when it actually comes to trying to get busy students to turn up at the ballots, we have legislatively tied our hands behind our back. This rule came from an attempt to over-regulate fairness in our process and I believe it is doing more harm than good to the elections.

The reason for this was you didn't want someone to have the chance to go and keep campaigning under the guise of getting out the vote. I do feel however that

candidates and their teams should be able to go and classroom speak, talk to friends, talk to students and generally behave in good faith at trying to get the vote out for the elections. You can control candidates from campaigning because the stakes are too high for them. Just one classroom speech that was deemed not to be getting out the vote but campaigning, could result in me getting disqualified (after weeks of hard work) from the election.

If a candidate still has time and energy to talk to people after the campaign period, they should be able to say "have you voted today?". This is considerably different from a platform speech.

This bill would allow candidates to say "I am not allowed to tell you who to vote for, but I can tell you to go and vote" A few years ago this used to be the case but then was changed to the current system where people are unable to say anything during the voting days about the election, period.

6.

JANZ/KUSTRA moves Bill # based on the following principles:

Any member (s) of the Students' Union Executive Committee is eligible to serve as a campaign manager or candidate without taking a leave of absence from their position as an executive if the race is uncontested.

Members of the Executive Committee must not use resources that are unavailable to all other opponents when campaigning or dealing with any matter directly related to the election.

There is no definition for running unopposed but a win by NOTA or a Joke Candidate is handled as such.

(14) Where "None of the Above" is declared victorious, no further candidates shall be declared victorious.

(15) Where a joke candidate is declared victorious, the seat to which that joke candidate has been elected shall be considered vacant.

If a sitting member of the executive committee wishes to serve the student body for a second time they are required to take a leave of absence, surrender their keys, not check emails, and not come into the office for the three weeks they are contesting a position. When they are in a race with another student or executive, I absolutely agree with this rule as it continues to show fairness and deny anyone an unfair advantage. When an SU exec only has a few months before handing over the keys to their successor, losing 3 weeks of work is a serious hindrance to both the organization and the activities that the Exec can do for the student body.

A formal "leave of absence" is much different than "taking time off to campaign". The former requires a written letter, hand over of keys, complete digital email

lockout, and a ban from the office. The latter requires the Exec to use their discretion when they are working as an Exec or as a Candidate.

While the SU has a "None of the above" option on their ballots, many municipalities and elections run on an acclamation system, where if a person puts their name forward, and is uncontested, they automatically win. I prefer the "NOTA" system that we have.

What does not make sense to me is when an incumbent exec is running unopposed for a position, that they are forced to take three weeks off to campaign against no one. Let's say there was a VPA running unopposed for BOG. That VPA would still be seen by students as the current VPA, the students would know that the individual was running unopposed. Now the restriction against the use of non-universal resources still applies. The VPA could not use the su.ualberta.ca as a campaign platform or any other non-universal resource. They would have to have separate campaign materials, emails etc, and if they wanted to campaign for BOG, they would have to do it by taking time off of work, just as if they wanted to go and catch an afternoon matinee.

As a personal aside, when I was campaigning unopposed for BOG, students wouldn't believe me why I wasn't at work and they thought that I was just vacationing and taking time off. When I asked them if they thought I should be able to go into work and deal with issues, they said of course because I was running unopposed.

7.

JANZ/KUSTRA moves Bill # based on the following principles:

Members of Students' Council and its standing committees are not required to take a leave of absence from those duties.

Members of Students' Council must not use resources that are unavailable to all other opponents when campaigning or dealing with any matter directly related to the election.

WILL BE AMENDED TO: JANZ/KUSTRA moves Bill # based on the following principles:

Members of Students' Council and its standing committees are not required to take a leave of absence from those duties when they are contesting a position.

Members of Students' Council must not use resources that are unavailable to all other opponents when campaigning or dealing with any matter directly related to the election.

This is another one of those places where I believe council previous was overly attentive to procedure and not to pragmatism. Right now if you are a councillor who is planning on re-running for Students' Council, you are required to take a leave of absence and not come to your council or committee meetings at what can be one of the most vital times of the year.

Should a councillor have to take a leave of absence to re-contest their position? Should a councillor have to take a leave of absence to run for GFC? Right now they would have to take leave to contest either positions.

If a councillor had to vote on something that had to do with their current candidacy, they would have to declare a conflict of interest and abstain. There are restrictions on media that they can use and if in any official capacity as councillor they used their website or anything, to their advantage they would be in contravention of the other bylaws.

This would forbid councillors from using resources unavailable to other students, but would not require the councillor to have to miss committees and Tuesday night meetings.

8.

JANZ/KUSTRA moves Bill # based on the following principles:

Elected members of the Students' Union shall be free to act as volunteers for or endorse any candidate, plebiscite or referendum question, or slate.

Elected members of the Students' Union must not use resources that are unavailable to all other opponents when campaigning or dealing with any matter directly related to the Election.

There is an important distinction between Elected members of government and the Bureaucracy. In the SU there is a big difference between elected members of the Executive committee or Council and permanent staff or student staff positions. The bureaucracy should remain neutral during elections as they are not the elected side of the organization. The elected side of the organization is temporary in nature. serves for a short term, represent one in a line of many leaders, and has has different recall mechanisms and disciplinary structure than a permanent staff member.

One councillor speaks for themselves, not the SU. This is an important distinction must be kept in mind.

I see this as a significant problem for our organization. The elected members of the SU should be able to voice their thoughts regarding this a candidate or platform and if the students think they have credibility, they might listen. Of course on the other hand, the students might disagree with what the current incumbent stands for and then vote for someone else. The "election dissection" every year arbitrarily picks people they think 'know' the SU and readers are influenced by their writings. I do not believe that arbitrary selection should be the only 'informed' advice for voters. If candidates could list endorsements from councillors that would show that they have sought out current decision makers and have support for their ideas.

When I ran for President, there were quite a few former executives who still held sway around campus. Lettner, Power, Blatz, Kehoe, Johnson, D and many more were still around campus. I know that a couple did not support me (at the time. I converted them :-P), but that did not matter to my campaign because other executives were there who balanced out the competing opinions. And at the end of the day, I believe students are smart enough to make up their own minds!

Our SU needs to realize history goes beyond a one year snapshot. Who cares if Bush endorses McCain: if the people want Obama, they will get Obama.

If the VPX chooses to support candidate A over candidate B and C in a race, that is not a problem. With or without the VPX comments, the students are still free to make up their mind how they voted. If they thought that that particular VPX did a good job, they might care about their endorsement, but contrarily if they disapproved of the VPX, they may actively oppose the candidate that they sponsored.

If a VPA and a VPX are running for President and the incumbent President is asked who has done a better job this year, the Incumbent president should be able (but not have to) to answer one way or another who they support. If executives know that they might want their coworkers endorsement for an election, they will be more likely to be amiable in the office- an added benefit for an executive team. If they answer one way or another it has no bearing on the working of the organization, the actions of the CRO, or anything else. If the President feels that someone's platform is a trojan horse, they should be allowed to say as much and campaign against it- *so long as they do not use resources that are unavailable to all other opponents.*

This bill will allow elected members of the students union the freedom of speech they should have at elections time, but it will ensure that the elected members do not use avenues of communication that are not accessible to other opponents. This will make for a more fair and accountable electoral system.

9.

JANZ/KUSTRA moves Bill # based on the following principles:

No slate or slate candidate's campaign budget shall accrue more than four hundred and forty dollars (\$440) in expenses, including both slate and slate campaign expenses, all of which shall be paid by the Students' Union.

Slate financing is very unclear. There are certain advantages to running with a slate: You can pool resources, volunteers, candidates can share resources and plan elections strategy together, and much more. To counterbalance those suggestions and to prevent our SU from falling into a cycle of "Slate vs. Slate"

elections that prevent newcomers from participating, the rules were changed so that slates could still operate and run accordingly, but they would be slightly financially penalized. Because you are promoting all of the candidates for a slate, you do not need to have the same financial resources because there are some economies of scale.

The spirit of the legislation throughout bylaw seems to be that Slates should not be set up to have an excessive advantage over individual candidates, but they should also not be penalized too much. The concern with slates is that too often slate dominated elections can cause problems for individual candidates and the "jane student" who just wants to put their ideas forward and have a shot at winning. The resulting change would be from \$550 to \$440 to ensure our bylaws are reflective.

The question is, how should elections be held that do not stifle an independent candidates ability to compete.

This change was my attempt at giving the slates a slight financial disadvantage while maintaining their ability to compete and campaign.

10.

JANZ/KUSTRA moves Bill # based on the following principles:

The pre-campaigning period would be from thirty days before the plebiscite or referendum in the case of a plebiscite or referendum being initiated by a member via petition. The pre-campaigning period for Students' Council initiated plebiscites or referenda would begin with Students' Council's initiation of a plebiscite or referendum.

For clarification on this timeline please see:

12. Dates - Plebiscites and Referenda

Where the C.R.O. receives a valid petition or where Students' Council initiates a plebiscite or referendum, then the plebiscite or referendum in question shall be held on the dates of the next general election not occurring within thirty (30) days of receipt of the valid petition or initiation by Students' Council of the plebiscite or referendum in question.

13. Plebiscite and Referendum Initiation

(1) Where a member wishes to initiate a plebiscite or referendum via petition, that member shall submit to the C.R.O.:
..... Continued.....

This bill is to clarify when the pre-campaigning period starts for Referendums and Plebiscites. D.I.E. Board has ruled that currently the period is 113 days and I

believe this is contrary to the spirit of the bylaws. This would change the 113 to 30 days.

This would allow you to go around and gather support for your question, but once you turn in the documents to the CRO then this becomes official. For Council initiated questions, the pre-campaign period would be when council initiates the question.

Feel free to email me or contact me anytime with questions that I can attempt to respond to. If you would like to amend them, please email me and I will help you out. I would hope that if we can give them to one another in writing instead of arbitrarily moving them on the floor of council. Like I said, some of these I like, some of these I am moving because CAC discussed them and I was searching to find something that would fit the discussion we had (like volunteer restrictions).

See you at my convocation party tomorrow night in RATT!

Michael Janz

December 19th, 2008

Patrick Robertson
Acting Representative
University of Alberta Science Undergraduate Society

Brittney Pederson
Speaker of Students' Council
University of Alberta Students' Union

Dr. Gregory Taylor
Dean of Science
University of Alberta

Dr. Frank Robinson
Dean of Students
University of Alberta

Dear stakeholders in the Faculty of Science:

The University of Alberta Students' Union is hereby informing you of the following change in the status of the University of Alberta Science Undergraduate Society (UASUS). Effective immediately, UASUS is derecognized as a Faculty Association under the authority of Students' Union Bylaw 8350.

UASUS is no longer subject to any of the rights, privileges and responsibilities afforded to a Faculty Association by any and all relevant Students' Union Bylaws, General Faculties Council Policies, and Faculty of Science Policies.

Please ensure that any keys and other assets that have been extended to UASUS by yourself are retracted and held in trust until a new Faculty Association has been recognize.

Sincerely,

John Braga
Vice President (Academic)
University of Alberta Students' Union

Amanda Nielsen
Director of Student Group Services
University of Alberta Students' Union

December 19th, 2008

Alena Manera
President
Undergraduate Science Student Representatives

Brittney Pederson
Speaker of Students' Council
University of Alberta Students' Union

Dr. Gregory Taylor
Dean of Science
University of Alberta

Dr. Frank Robinson
Dean of Students
University of Alberta

Dear stakeholders in the Faculty of Science:

The University of Alberta Students' Union is pleased to inform you of the following change in the status of the Undergraduate Science Student Representatives (USSR). Effective immediately, the Undergraduate Science Student Representatives is granted Probationary Faculty Association status under the authority of Students' Union Bylaw 8350.

The Undergraduate Science Student Representatives is now subject to all rights, privileges and responsibilities afforded to a Faculty Association by any and all relevant Students' Union Bylaws, General Faculties Council Policies, and Faculty of Science Policies. The Undergraduate Science Student Representatives is further subject to the attached Conditions of Probation. Congratulations to the Students, Faculty and Staff Members of the Faculty of Science.

Sincerely,

John Braga
Vice President (Academic)
University of Alberta Students' Union

Amanda Nielsen
Director of Student Group Services
University of Alberta Students' Union

Conditions of Probation

for

The Undergraduate Science Student Representatives

in agreement with

The University of Alberta Students' Union

December 19th, 2008

Section I: Preamble

These Conditions of Probation shall be the guiding document for the establishment and development of the UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES.

These Conditions of Probation were drafted under the authority of Students' Union Bylaw 8350 – A Bylaw Regarding Faculty Associations. To remain in compliance with Bylaw 8350 the Conditions of Probation must be met by December 19th, 2008.

All determinations by the Students' Union required in these Conditions of Probation shall be made by the Students' Union Vice President (Academic) in consultation with the Director of Student Group Services, the Dean of Students (or designate) and the Dean of FACULTY OF SCIENCE (or designate) where appropriate.

Alterations to the Conditions of Probation may only be made with the joint agreement of the Students' Union and the UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES. If it can be reasonably demonstrated that any of the terms in the Conditions of Probation are not fulfilled due to a failure on the part of the Students' Union, the UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES shall be granted a three month extension to their Probationary status.

Section II: Probationary Period

The UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES must meet the Conditions outlined in this section on an ongoing basis. Failure to do so shall result in the Derecognition of the UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES.

- 1) The UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES must demonstrate that it honestly seeks to be the Faculty Association for the FACULTY OF SCIENCE. The UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES must diligently and faithfully seek to satisfy the Conditions of Probation and requirements of Bylaw 8350.
- 2) The UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES must maintain Student Group Status.
- 3) The UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES must submit Biweekly Reports to the Students Union Vice President (Academic) every second week. The reports must contain the following elements.
 - a) A summary of the progress on and adherence to the points outlined in Section III of the Conditions of Probation.
 - b) A detailed financial summary that includes all incoming revenues with corresponding receipts and all expenses incurred by the organization with corresponding receipts.
 - c) Attached Constitution, Bylaw and Policy updates.
 - d) Attached Minutes of any meetings conducted.
 - e) Attached Summary of any events held or services provided.

Section III: Final Review

The UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES must meet the Conditions outlined in this section by MONTH DAY, YEAR as outlined in Section I. Marked progress towards meeting these conditions must be demonstrated throughout the Probationary Period.

- 1) The UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES must meet the following Conditions with regards to Governance Structure.
 - a) A ratified Constitution and/or Bylaws which contains the following elements.
 - i) All elements required by Bylaw 8350 Part II Sections 1.a. to 1.g.
 - ii) The official name and acronym of the Faculty Association.
 - iii) The procedure for the appointment of a Faculty Association Deputy Returning Officer (FADRO).
 - iv) The determination of which positions will hold financial signing authority and clear requirements of transparency and accountability.
 - v) The procedure for the impeachment of executive members.
 - vi) The procedure for the creation and amendment of Operating Policies.
 - vii) The roles and mandate of the Science Council of Departmental Associations.

- b) A set of Operating Policies which address the following topics.
 - i) Matters Pertaining to Finances
 - A) Access to secured locations (the safe or locked cabinet)
 - B) Deposits
 - C) Signing Authority
 - D) Reimbursement and other payments
 - E) Cheques
 - F) Cash
 - G) Budgeting Process
 - H) Auditing Process
 - ii) Matters Pertaining to Mail and Other Correspondences
 - iii) Emergency Powers
 - A) Incapacitation
 - B) Resignation
 - C) Resignation en masse
 - D) Extraordinary Circumstances
 - iv) Attendance: With vs Without Notification
 - v) Forced Resignation or Impeachment
 - vi) Elections
 - A) Timing and Calling
 - B) Appointment of Faculty Association Deputy Returning Officer
 - C) Responsibilities of the Faculty Association Deputy Returning Officer
 - D) Termination of Faculty Association Deputy Returning Officer
 - vii) Eligibility Criteria for Candidates
 - viii) Candidate Campaign Guidelines
 - ix) Powers of Incumbent Board During an Election
 - x) Transition of Power
 - xi) Matters Pertaining to the Science Council of Departmental Associations
 - A) Regular and Formal Communication
 - B) Monthly Meetings During the Academic Term
 - C) Transition
 - c) A duly elected executive is in place with an appropriate transition of responsibilities process conducted.
 - d) A General Meeting must be conducted which addresses the following items.
 - i) The adoption of the Constitution and/or Bylaws.
 - ii) The presentation of the financial records in a transparent and accountable manner. This must include both a budget for the year ahead and the audited record of the previous years finances.
 - iii) A report of the executive's activities conducted during the year up to the date of the General Meeting.
 - iv) A report of the executive's plans for the rest of the year following the date of the General Meeting.
- 2) The UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES must meet the following Conditions with regards to Operations and Finances.

- a) A budget must be developed which includes all assets and expected income and expenses.
 - b) Operating Policies regarding Finances must:
 - i) Clearly outline security and responsibility surrounding finances as vitally important.
 - ii) Clearly outline mechanisms for maintaining accountability and transparency surrounding finances.
 - iii) Expressly forbid the following:
 - A) The use of petty cash to reimburse executives for expenses.
 - B) The spending of funds by an executive outside their fiscal year.
 - C) Reimbursement for unauthorized expenses.
 - c) For the Probationary Period all expenditures will adhere to the following restrictions.
 - i) Any expenditure between \$200 and \$750 shall be brought to the attention, by email, of the Students' Union Vice President (Academic).
 - ii) Any expenditure over \$750 shall be subject to the approval of the Students' Union Vice President (Academic). If the Students' Union Vice President (Academic) does not respond to the request within two business days of receiving it then tacit approval will be assumed by both parties.
 - iii) Any financial violation of the UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES constitution, policies or Conditions of Probation will automatically trigger that any expenditure over \$200 shall be subject to the approval of the Students' Union Vice President (Academic).
- 3) The UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES must meet the following Conditions with regards to Representation and Advocacy.
- a) A professional relationship must be established and maintained between the UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES and with both the FACULTY OF SCIENCE and the Students' Union.
 - b) Official representation on behalf of the students of the FACULTY OF SCIENCE must be provided by the UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES to:
 - i) The Dean of the FACULTY OF SCIENCE.
 - ii) Any and all committees and councils requiring student input within the FACULTY OF SCIENCE (including but not limited to Science Faculty Council and any and all Departmental Councils).
 - iii) The Science Council of Departmental Associations.
 - iv) The Vice President (Academic) of the Students Union.
 - v) The Council of Faculty Associations.
 - c) Advocacy on behalf of the students of the FACULTY OF SCIENCE must be done towards both the FACULTY OF SCIENCE and the Students' Union.
 - d) Demonstrate that the UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES is in touch with the students in the FACULTY OF SCIENCE and is accurately representing and advocating on their behalf.

- 4) The UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES must meet the following Conditions with regards to Student Outreach.
 - a) Maintain regular office hours during which students at large may contact the executive in their office.
 - b) Establish and maintain services as deemed appropriate for the students in the FACULTY OF SCIENCE.
 - c) Establish and run events as deemed appropriate for the students in the FACULTY OF SCIENCE.
 - d) Establish and maintain a website which contains:
 - i) Information about services provided by the UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES.
 - ii) Information about events hosted by the UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES.
 - iii) Information about representation and advocacy by the UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES.
 - iv) Information such as minutes and the budget that will keep the UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES accountable to the students in the FACULTY OF SCIENCE.
 - v) A mechanism for gathering feedback from students in the FACULTY OF SCIENCE.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday December 2, 2008
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS (SC 2008-17)

2008-17/1 **SPEAKER'S BUSINESS**

2008-17/1a Councillor Scholarship

DUNN/MASTEL MOVED to suspend section 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39 of CAC standing orders.

Motion: CARRIED

EASTHAM MOVED to extend the Councillor Scholarship deadline to the beginning of the January 6, 2009 meeting.

Motion: CARRIED

2008-17/2 **PRESENTATIONS**

2008-17/3 **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Beverly Eastham, VP External oral report

Janelle Morin, President oral report

Kristen Flath, VP Student Life oral report

2008-17/4 **QUESTION PERIOD**

2008-17/5 **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

2008-17/6 **GENERAL ORDERS**

EASTHAM/MASTEL MOVED to make 2008-17/6m, 2008-17/6k and 2008-17/6l special orders to be dealt with before the JANZ/KUSTRA motions.

Motion (friendly): CARRIED

2008-17/6k **FLATH/DUNN MOVED** To rescind Political Policy 13 (Capital Projects) as of January 6, 2008 and replace it with a Political Policy based on the following principles.

Principles:

- A dedicated student fee for a capital project shall not be used to fund the construction of academic or research space.
- All capital projects funded directly by a student fee dedicated to that project must include proportional commitments from other stakeholder groups.
- The Students' Union shall participate in defining the purpose and scope of any project where a student fee is involved.
- A dedicated student fee for a capital project shall not be implemented until such a time as students have the ability to receive benefits from their contribution.
- Tuition revenues shall not be used to support the construction of capital projects.

MELENCHUK MOVED To amend the motion to change 2008 to 2009.

Motion (friendly): CARRIED

EASTHAM MOVED To amend the motion to change the date from January 6, 2009 to January 13, 2009.

Motion (friendly): CARRIED

MURPHY/KUSTRA MOVED To call to question the main motion

Main Motion: CARRIED

FLATH/DUNN MOVED To rescind Political Policy 13 (Capital Projects) as of January 13, 2009 and replace it with a Political Policy based on the following principles.

Principles:

- A dedicated student fee for a capital project shall not be used to fund the construction of academic or research space.
- All capital projects funded directly by a student fee dedicated to that project must include proportional commitments from other stakeholder groups.
- The Students' Union shall participate in defining the purpose and scope of any project where a student fee is involved.
- A dedicated student fee for a capital project shall not be implemented until such a time as students have the ability to receive benefits from their contribution.
- Tuition revenues shall not be used to support the construction of capital projects.

Motion: CARRIED

MELENCHUCK MOVED To recess

Motion: CARRIED

Meeting called back to order at 7:59 pm

2008-17/6l

DOLLANSKY/EASTHAM MOVED That Bill #12 on the recommendation of CAC based on the following principles:

Any member (s) of the Students' Union Executive Committee is eligible to serve as campaign managers of referenda/plebiscite sides without taking a leave of absence from their position as an executive.

Members of the Executive Committee must not use resources that are unavailable to all other opponents when campaigning or dealing with any matter directly related to the referenda/plebiscite question.

JANZ MOVED To amend the motion to read that Students' Council approve Bill #12 on the recommendation of CAC based on the following principles.

Motion (friendly): CARRIED

EASTHAM/MASTEL MOVED to amend the principles to read Any member of the Students' Union Executive Committee is eligible to serve as a campaign manager of a referenda/plebiscite sides without taking a leave of absence from their position as an executive.

Members of the Executive Committee must not use resources that are unavailable to all other opponents when campaigning or deal with any matter directly related to the referenda/plebiscite question.

Motion (friendly): CARRIED

FLATH MOVED To call main motion to question

Motion: CARRIED

DOLLANSKY/EASTHAM MOVED That Students' Council approve Bill #12 on the recommendation of CAC based on the following principles.

Any member of the Students' Union Executive Committee is eligible to serve as a campaign manager of a referenda/plebiscite sides without taking a leave of absence from their position as an executive.

Members of the Executive Committee must not use resources that are unavailable to all other opponents when campaigning or deal with any matter directly related to the referenda/plebiscite question.

Main Motion: CARRIED

2008-17/6m

J.EASTHAM/QUEVILLON MOVED To accept the drafted referenda question.

Do you support the creation of a Students' Union Social Justice Committee subject to the following conditions?

1. The Social Justice Committee would:
 - a) be a Standing Committee of Students' Council;
 - b) consist of five (5) members, at least three (3) of which would be

- members of Students' Council
- c) be chaired by a member of the committee who is also a member of Students' Council
2. The Chair of the Social Justice Committee would:
 - a) attend meetings of the Student Umbrella for Social Justice so long as the Student Umbrella for Social Justice continues to exist
 3. The role of the Social Justice Committee would be to:
 - a) critique the ethicality[†] of the Students' Union's and University's actions and policies;
 - b) research and recommend policies to the Students' Union Executive;
 - c) contribute to the planning and execution of the main events of the Student Umbrella for Social Justice so long as the Student Umbrella for Social Justice continues to exist;
 - d) collaborate with other social justice-focused groups* on campus in the event that the Student Umbrella for Social Justice ceases to exist;
 - e) evaluate the ethicality[†] of the Students' Union's and University's funding sources, resources, and purchases
 - f) research and recommend alternative sources of ethical[‡] goods and funding to the Students' Union and the University; and
 - g) look for opportunities to suggest changes to the University curriculum that would promote the study of social justice issues;

*social justice-focused groups shall, for the purpose of this question be defined as groups that aim to eradicate poverty, create a more sustainable environment, and combat human rights abuses

[†] Ethicality shall, for the purpose of this question be defined as practices that support sustainability, human rights and the eradication of poverty.

[‡] Ethical shall, for the purpose of this question be defined as the support of sustainable practices, human rights and the eradication of poverty.

Motion: CARRIED

2008-17/6a

JANZ/KUSTRA MOVED That Students' Council Bill #13 in first reading.

Principles:
Students' Union elections shall have anonymous voting.

JANZ MOVED To amend motion to read that Students' Council approve Bill #13 in first reading.

Motion: CARRIED

JANZ/KUSTRA MOVED That Students' Council approve Bill #13 in first reading.

Principles:
Students' Union elections shall have anonymous voting.

Main Motion: CARRIED**2008-17/6b****JANZ/KUSTRA MOVED** That Students' Council Bill #14 in first reading.

Principles:

The CRO on is eligible to vote in plebiscites and referendum in the case of a tie.

JANZ/KUSTRA MOVED To amend the motion to read that Students' Council approve Bill #14 in first reading.**Motion (friendly): CARRIED****JANZ/EASTHAM MOVED** To amend the principles to read.

The CRO is eligible to vote in plebiscites and referendum incase of a tie.

Therefore they are not confined to one referendum.

Motion (friendly): CARRIED**JANZ/KUSTRA MOVED** That Students' Council approve Bill #14 in first reading.

Principles:

The CRO is eligible to vote in plebiscites and referendum incase of a tie.

Therefore they are not confined to one referendum.

Main Motion: CARRIED**2008-17/6c****JANZ/KUSTRA MOVED** That Students' Council Bill #15 in first reading.

Principles:

D.I.E. Board timelines and timelines for rulings by the CRO must be uniform during the election period. When conflicting, the shortest required time period shall take precedence.

JANZ/DEHOD MOVED To postpone 2008-17/6c until next meeting.**Motion: CARRIED****2008-17/6d****JANZ/KUSTRA MOVED** That Students' Council Bill #15 in first reading.

Principles:

Each candidate, campaign manager, volunteer and slate shall act reasonably and in good faith, and specifically shall

a. ensure that each volunteer engaging in campaign activities on his/her/its behalf is aware of all bylaws, rules, regulations, and orders;

b. ensure that each volunteer is in compliance with all bylaws, rules, regulations, and orders while engaging in campaign activities on his/her/its behalf; and

c. report any contravention of a bylaw, rule, regulation, or order to the C.R.O. immediately.

JANZ/SHANNON MOVED To amend the motion to say that Students' Council approve Bill #15 in first reading.

Principles:

Each volunteer shall act reasonably and in good faith in accordance with all

bylaws, rules, regulations, and orders.

- a. ensure that each volunteer engaging in campaign activities on his/her/its behalf is aware of all bylaws, rules, regulations, and orders;
- b. ensure that each volunteer is in compliance with all bylaws, rules, regulations, and orders while engaging in campaign activities on his/her/its behalf; and
- c. report any contravention of a bylaw, rule, regulation, or order to the C.R.O. immediately.

Motion (friendly): CARRIED

JANZ/KUSTRA MOVED That Students' Council approve Bill #15 in first reading.

Principles:

Each volunteer shall act reasonably and in good faith in accordance with all bylaws, rules, regulations, and orders.

- a. ensure that each volunteer engaging in campaign activities on his/her/its behalf is aware of all bylaws, rules, regulations, and orders;
- b. ensure that each volunteer is in compliance with all bylaws, rules, regulations, and orders while engaging in campaign activities on his/her/its behalf; and
- c. report any contravention of a bylaw, rule, regulation, or order to the C.R.O. immediately.

Main Motion: CARRIED

2008-17/6e

JANZ/KUSTRA MOVED That Students' Council Bill #16 in first reading.

Principles:

During voting, candidates, campaign managers, members of sides and volunteers can encourage members to vote.

JANZ/KUSTRA MOVED To amend the motion to read that Students' Council approve Bill #16 in first reading

Motion (friendly): CARRIED

EASTHAM/MELENCHUK MOVED To postpone 2008-17/6e until next meeting.

Motion: CARRIED

JANZ/EASTHAM MOVED To adjourn at 10:00 pm

Motion: CARRIED

Dearest Students' Council

The second half of last term was rather interesting – in that I happened to be out of province for each and every meeting of Students' Council. While it was a very productive term with progress made on a lot of fronts it did take much of late December to settle back into the routine of being in 2-900. I have no travel plans for the entirety of this semester and look forward to attending all Council Meetings (barring unforeseen circumstances). Additionally, the 8000 Series Bylaw Review will mean that I shall be rather legislatively active in Council this term; fun times!

***Sincerely,
VP Nerd***

Academic Materials

The December CRAM Conference was highly productive; it was focused more on initiating change on campuses and on concrete things that bookstores and students can do together. Thus it was more focused than the summer conference and led to a greater feeling of accomplishment by attendees. Also, in place of a general steering committee there will be individual schools claiming individual projects, which should greatly ease collaboration.

The Be Booksmart campaign continues to have positive repercussions. In December Craig presented to the Provosts Office on my behalf and received a positive response. I have been asked to update GFC CLE on progress that has been made. A few Deans are in discussion with their FAs and the SU about raising the profile of the academic materials issue within their Faculty. As stated many times before, addressing this topic can only be effectively addressed on our campus by working together to get instructors to think of academic materials in new ways. Communication and collaboration are key.

Bear Tracks Upgrade

It went extremely well; with hardly an issue surfacing. I only received a single email from a student at large regarding the discontinuation of Bear Scat and it was more nostalgic than complaining in tone. This was an amazing example of multi-year advocacy and of the great things that can be accomplished when student consultation occurs. Congratulations and thank you to all parties on campus involved in ensuring the Bear Tracks Upgrade was of a quality that met student expectations.

Education and Research Archive (ERA)

The ground floor of Cameron is now open (since midterms last semester) for your studying pleasure; make sure to check it out! And while you are there you can think about the Education and Research Archive (ERA) – a digital archive project originating out of the libraries. In a committee meeting I attended last semester it was mentioned that the libraries were interested in including undergraduate research in ERA. After meeting with Leah Vanderjagt, from ERA, I spoke with CoFA about the possibility of the FAs working with their Dean and ERA to initiate projects in their faculties. Several were very enthusiastic and have already gotten the support of their Dean; this is a very exciting direction to see CoFA heading in.

Convocation Charge

So GFC Exec has approved a new version of the convocation charge – it will go on to GFC itself for final approval. Look forward to the final vote on Monday, January 26th at 2:00 PM in these very chambers!

Teaching Maters! (AKA Cicero)

A Councillor recently asked me about the Cicero, the Teaching Gnome. Apparently, the Councillor had received complaints from a student at large who felt that Cicero is a waste of student money. Teaching Maters! replaced the Professor of the Week program and everything has moved in positive directions. Last year Bobby spent three times the amount budgeted for Professor of the Week; this year we are well within the budget. We have seen a greater quantity of nominations this year than we have in past years. Also, elements such as Cicero's blog, <http://teachinggnome.blogspot.com/>, and a selection committee involving the Dean of Students, Director of UTS and two students have been incorporated into the program. Cicero is a mascot that has tied together several elements of the quality of education dialogue while doing so well within his budget. In short; I strongly feel that Cicero has been one of the innovate developments in the portfolio that has really paid off.

Science Faculty Association Update

In today's agenda package you will find a pair of official documents relating to the derecognition of the University of Alberta Science Undergraduate Society (UASUS) and the recognition of the Undergraduate Science Student Representatives (USSR) as the Faculty Association for Science. Since that time I have received correspondence from the USSR indicating that they have changed their name to the Science Students' Association (SSA). Based on the interview I had with the *Gateway* I am to understand that today's *Gateway* will have likely included an article regarding these happenings. I look forward to answering your questions in question period; and if requested to do so I shall give a presentation to Students' Council on January 13th providing a more thorough explanation of the events of December.

8000 Bylaw Series Updates

Today's presentation is to provide a high level overview of the current state of the 8000 Series and a broad picture of the consultation behind the proposed updates. My intention is to bring the changes forward in 'bite sized pieces' – approximately a dozen large bills will be brought forward to Council which can easily be separated into three dozen thematic subparts. Should any particular subpart prove to be contentious it may easily be separated into a new bill. The next CoFA meeting is on January 15th, it will be longer in duration than most CoFA meetings to accommodate a final round of consultation.

Evaluation of Teaching

The taskforces report was finalized and submitted to GFC CLE in December. We are pleased that it is the best version of the report and will allow positive change to come over the next few years. Gradually, one comes to realize the timeline is next few years, not next few months however progress is being shown. University Teaching Services is hosting a three-part panel discussion from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM on January 12th/19th/26th about Evaluating Teaching. If you are interested in attending please RSVP uts@ualberta.ca.

Festival of Teaching

You have all received an email invitation to attend the Festival of Teaching. This is a reminder to take advantage of that wonderful opportunity on January 27th. Any student interested in attending may also join; please find the invitation at <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/provost/pdfs/fot2009invite.pdf> so pass the message along to anyone you feel would like to participate. General Faculties Council Student Caucus and CoFA have also received personal invitations.

Council Report 13 – January 6, 2009
Kristen Flath, Vice President (Student Life)

Hello Council,

I hope everyone had a good break, welcome back!

Health Plan – The health plan has been taking up a large portion of my time over the last couple of weeks. After narrowing down the field to a couple providers and meeting with them, we have decided to draw up a contract with one of our providers. I will be bringing a motion forward on Tuesday for a referendum based on the proposed contract.

FA Health Plan – I met with the MSA/LSA to review the health plan proposal they have received. We talked a bit about the plan itself and the procedure going ahead. We will be thoroughly reviewing the forthcoming contract from their provider to ensure that it is something we are comfortable signing. In addition, they have submitted to us an outline of the process they have followed and we are satisfied that they have done due diligence in consulting their constituents.

U Pass – I met with ETS recently to discuss the U Pass and what our timelines will be as they put together a proposal for city council next summer. As we move into the new year we will be ramping up our consultations with students and city council regarding the effectiveness of the U Pass and the renegotiations. There will likely be a survey coming out at the end of January or early February for students.

Antifreeze– Antifreeze is in full swing this week. If you want to help out please let me know!

SU Christmas Party for Kids – SUCPK went off very well and the kids seemed to really enjoy it. Thanks to everyone who came out to help.

PAHC – PAHC discussions have been going well. We will be meeting next week to decide timelines and to talk more about the space program. By changing our political policy we have opened doors and we hope to make significant progress in the next few months.

Exec Retreat – We went on a brief, one-day retreat where we discussed issues related to the January access/tuition campaign, PAHC, and the health plan. It gave us a chance to talk about the issues in more detail than normal meetings allow and to get on the same page about any major events.

Campus Law Review Committee - I have had several meetings with a working group of CLRC debating revisions to the Student Code of Conduct that would include clauses informing students that retaliatory offences were taken into consideration, as were mitigating circumstances. After extensive discussions and a legal opinion we have

decided to leave the Code as is, but provide more detailed information to students who are facing an investigation.

Health Centre Advisory Group (HCAG) – We had our second HCAG meeting in December, and have decided that we will also include Students Counseling Services in our discussions as well. At our last meeting, the Director and Associate Director of the Health Centre presented us with some statistics regarding usage. We will be requesting some additional statistics to get a better idea of how much undergrads use the centre in relation to how much they pay.

Student Groups – I spoke with Amanda Nielsen, the Director of Student Group Services, and she let me know that projectors and tables will be available for groups to rent beginning January 7. We are looking at refurnishing the Student Group Lounge, so please let me know if you have any suggestions for the space.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Ask during council, stop by the office, or send me an email at vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca.

