

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday January 26, 2010
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2009-21)

2009-21/1 SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

2009-21/2 PRESENTATIONS

2009-21/3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

2009-21/4 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

2009-21/5 QUESTION PERIOD

2009-21/6 BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2009-21/6b **MASTEL/CSORBA MOVES THAT** Students' Council, on the recommendation of the Vice President (Operations and Finance) Nomination Committee recommend the consideration of Vince Mireau, Ian Clarke, and Jaiman Chin for the position of Vice President (Operations and Finance).

Please see document LA 09-21.01

2009-21/6c **SETH MOVES THAT** on the recommendation of Bylaw Committee that Students' Council reconsider the following referendum question based on the following principles:

1) The fee would be dedicated to the construction of a new Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre on North Campus as well as concurrent upgrades to the Van Vliet Physical Education and Recreation Centre.

2) Students enrolled in at least one course in a term shall be assessed a fee no greater than \$29.00 per term in Fall and Winter terms and no greater than \$14.50 per term in Spring and Summer terms, subject to the following conditions:

- a) The fee shall provide unrestricted use of the Physical Activity and Wellness Centre during its hours of operation to each undergraduate student currently paying the fee.

- b) The fee shall not be assessed until the construction of the facility is complete and the student component is operational;
 - c) The fee will be optional for students enrolled at Augustana Campus and students not registered in at least one off-campus course/program located on North campus.
 - d) The fee shall be assessed for a period no longer than 35 years, or until the costs incurred in (1) have been recovered; and
 - e) Undergraduate students would be unable to alter or rescind the fee.
- 3) There shall be a committee established for the Physical Activity and Wellness Centre that shall:
- a) have an overall student majority,
 - b) provide strategic direction for the student component of the building program, and
 - c) establish budget principles annually.
- 4) A building agreement is established between the Governors of the University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students' Union that is subject to approval by Students' Council.

2009-21/6d

SINGH/COX MOVES THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, renew the Political Policy- tuition, Position of the Board of Governors, in first reading based upon the following principles;

the Students' Union shall campaign that attendance at the University of Alberta should be based on academic merit alone and not the financial status of a prospective or current student;

the Students' Union shall advocate to the Board of Governors that tuition be rolled back to a level based on what students can save, on average, in the summer months;

the Students' Union shall not vote in favor of any increase in tuition.

Please see document LA 09-21.02

2009-21/6e

EASTHAM/SINGH MOVES THAT students' council, upon the recommendation of the Policy Committee, renew the Political Policy- tuition, in first reading based upon the following principles;

the University of Alberta Students Union advocate for a tuition policy that:

- Ensures that no student will ever be denied the opportunity to pursue postsecondary education because of their inability to pay;
- Provides long-term, sustained base operating funding for our universities that will be protected from negative changes in our government's financial situation;
- Protects tuition from increasing due to fluctuations in funding grants to the university from the government;

- Ensures tuition levels are predictable;
- Has as its primary indicator of affordability the ability of students to pay without having to accrue the burden of debt;
- Provides for the fact that tuition is only one of the costs of pursuing a postsecondary education; the University of Alberta Students' Union advocate that the Government of Alberta legislate a policy on tuition fees that:
 - Provides strict guidance to an institution's ability to set tuition, including annual and ultimate limits on the maximum amount of tuition fees that can be levied on students;
 - Requires post-secondary institutions to provide to the Board of Governors of the institution, the Auditor General of Alberta and the Minister of Advanced Education & Technology a detailed and verifiably transparent public plan on how additional tuition revenues will be spent.

Please see document LA 09-21.03

2009-21/7

GENERAL ORDERS

2009-21/7a

DOLLANSKY MOVES TO appoint one (1) member of Students' Council to the Grant Allocation Committee.

2009-21/8

INFORMATION ITEMS

2009-21/8b

Jazz Singh- Resignation from the Grant Allocation Committee

Please see document LA 09-21.04

2009-21/8c

Nick Dehod, VP Student Life- Report

Please see document LA 09-21.05

2009-21/8d

Zach Fentiman, President- Report

Please see document LA 09-21.06

2009-21/8e

Leah Trueblood, VP Academic- Report

Please see document LA 09-21.07

VPOF Interview Questions

January 22, 2010

Prepared by: VPOF Nominating Committee



Questions

1. What are your reasons for applying for this position?
2. What do you know about the Students' Union and the Vice President (operations and finance) position?
3. Of the experiences listed here, on your resume, what do you think will be most helpful in preparing you for this position and why?
4. What qualities do you bring to the table that you believe could set you apart from other applicants? What makes you unique?
5. How do you plan to make yourself known to the student body?
6. If you were somehow able to immediately change any one thing in the Students' Union in regards to the Vice President (Operations and Finance) position, what would it be and why?
7. Tell us about an obstacle which you had to overcome by thinking creatively. What was it and what did you do to overcome it?
8. What do you think is one of your biggest weaknesses and how do you plan to overcome it?
9. As you know, if you are selected for this position you will only have 3 months left in your term. With that in mind, what progress do you hope to attain by the end of your term?
10. Tell us about a time when you had a conflict with a co-worker. How did you resolve it, and is there anything that you would do differently now to improve how you acted?
11. What interpersonal skills do you possess that you believe will enable you to succeed in a management position?
12. We would like to give you one last opportunity to add anything you wish, and to convince us of why you are the best candidate for this position.

VICE PRESIDENT (OPERATIONS & FINANCE) NOMINATION COMMITTEE

2009-2010 II #01

January 15, 2010

ATTENDANCE: Emerson Csorba
Steven Dollansky
Zach Fentiman
Thomas L'Abbe
Jon Mastel

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 15:45.

2. GENERAL BUSINESS DOLLANSKY: There are a few major things to get through. We need to set the application deadline, which I believe should be 4pm next Friday. That way we can have interviews on Sunday evening, and Monday if necessary. Also we need to get moving with an Ad blitz about the position vacancy.

MASTEL: Are we going to get an ad into The Gateway?

FENTIMAN: Well, they don't have an issue coming out this Tuesday due to NASH.

DOLLANSKY: We should get talking to the appropriate people about a campus-wide email.

FENTIMAN: We can talk to Gerry Kendall about that. Also I've put up a blog post and there is a news story about my being appointed President on the website. After this meeting we will be putting up a news story about this committee, and the filling of the VPOF position.

DOLLANSKY: We should also get emails out to the FA's and Students Groups, as well as RHA.

FENTIMAN: We can talk to Leah and Lana about those.

CSORBA: Who will the applicants be handing in their applications to?

DOLLANSKY: Reception at 2-900 by 4PM Friday to give time for any photocopying to be done. What do we want in the application?

FENTIMAN: Resume, cover letter.

DOLLANSKY: There's not enough time to ask for candidates to provide letters of reference as well.

FENTIMAN: I think that the committee will have a good enough idea of the sort of involvement criteria we are looking for.

DOLLANSKY: What about running a loop on SUBstage as well, for advertising.

FENTIMAN: Perfect. As well, we should have that the applicant must include proof of student status.

DOLLANSKY: Yes, that is easy enough to obtain.

CSORBA: So going back to the campus-wide email?

DOLLANSKY: We'll play that by ear, make necessary phone calls if needed.

MASTEL: We should also make an announcement on the Facebook SU group.

DOLLANSKY: Great, and just to confirm, Justin Kehoe will be coordinating all of this?

FENTIMAN: Yes, we just need to fill in the information.

DOLLANSKY moved that that committee approve and pursue the proposed communication strategy outlined in the meeting. (MASTEL seconds)
5/0/0 CARRIED

CSORBA moved that the committee approve and pursue the proposed timeline, including the application deadline for candidates of 4PM on Friday, January 22, 2010. (L'ABBE seconds)
5/0/0 CARRIED

FENTIMAN moved that the committee approve the requirements of applicants that we've discussed in this meeting, i.e. providing proof of student status, a resume and cover letter. (CSORBA seconds)
5/0/0 CARRIED

DOLLANSKY: So our next meeting date will be next Wednesday or Thursday.

MASTEL: I can set up a Doodle poll to determine the best time.

3. ADJOURNMENT: DOLLANSKY to moved to adjourn. (L'ABBE seconds)
5/0/0 CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 16:01.

University of Alberta Students' Union
MINUTES

2009-2010/

Vice President (Operations & Finance) Nomination Committee

Date: January 22, 2010

Attendance: Thomas L'Abbe, Zach Fentiman, Steven Dollansky, Jon Mastel, Emerson Csorba, Bev Eastham

1. **Call to Order:** The Meeting was called to order at 14:50.
2. **General Business:**

FENTIMAN: I have placed the previous meeting's minutes into a standard Students' Council format.

DOLLANSKY moved the approval of the minutes from the meeting on January 15.
(MASTEL seconds) 5/0/0 CARRIED

FENTIMAN: I'll begin with a quick report on our communication strategy. We were very fortunate getting the campus-wide email sent out. We also communicated with a number of Faculty Associations. Unfortunately, the Gateway ad did not appear. It was apparently misplaced, due to a confusion between it and an elections ad which was to run in the Tuesday issue (there was not, however, an issue on Tuesday). Given that we have over 3 application I think that we have done well in the communication aspect, largely due to the email.

DOLLANSKY: That's a disappointment, the Gateway ad.

FENTIMAN: We won't go through the applications we've received yet, as the application deadline has not yet passed. I like the idea of 30 minute interviews.

DOLLANSKY moved that the committee shortlist the applications received, once the deadline passes. Each committee member will receive 4 votes and the four candidates with the most votes will be interviewed. (FENTIMAN seconds) 5/0/0 CARRIED

DOLLANSKY: Zach, can you schedule the interviews?

FENTIMAN: Yes, although Sunday night will no longer work, as CAUS is meeting in Lethbridge over the weekend and I won't be back until Sunday night at 11pm. We could do Saturday morning, Monday, or Tuesday morning.

DOLLANSKY: Let's rule out Tuesday.

L'ABBE: How are you getting there? Could you possibly hop on a flight back to be here for Sunday night?

DOLLANSKY: I'm not sure how many flights there are from Lethbridge.

EASTHAM: (discussed schedule of trip; little leeway in terms of timeline)

MASTEL: Sunday morning sounds like the best bet.

DOLLANSKY: I'm not sure how I feel about Sunday morning for interviews. I would prefer Saturday night, with Zach joining in via Skype. I think we should schedule interviews for Saturday from 18:30-20:30, with the possibility of deferring an interview to Monday, as Sunday night was advertised.

DOLLANSKY moved that the committee hold interviews during the evening of Saturday, January 23, with the possibility of deferring to Monday at 16:30 if needed.
(CSORBA seconds) 5/0/0 CARRIED

FENTIMAN: After 5:30, once I've received the votes of all of the committee members, I will add my own, then call the shortlisted candidates to schedule interviews. As for questions, we should have approximately 12-15 for half an hour.

DOLLANSKY: I can finalize a document with the questions.

MASTEL moved to adjourn at 15:16. 5/0/0 CARRIED

MINUTES

2009-2010/

Vice President (Operations & Finance) Nomination Committee

Date: January 23, 2010

Attendance: Thomas L'Abbe, Zach Fentiman (via Skype), Steven Dollansky, Jon Mastel, Emerson Csorba,

1. Call to Order: 18:00

2. General Business

DOLLANSKY: Here are the finalized questions for the interview, we can rotate asking them.

CSORBA: What is the order of interviews?

L'ABBE: Mireau, Whayman, Clarke, then Chin.

(proceeded with interview of 4 candidates)

(discussion of candidates ensued)

DOLLANSKY: I think we are all in agreement regarding which three candidates we will be recommending to Students' Council

L'ABBE: Yes, due to general knowledge of the organization and the position, as well as experience, we can agree.

MASTEL moved that the committee recommend, to Students' Council, the consideration of Vince Mireau, Ian Clarke, and Jaiman Chin for the position of Vice President (Operations and Finance). (CSORBA seconds) 5/0/0 CARRIED.

3. Move to Adjourn: 20:48

THE STUDENTS' UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

POLITICAL POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Number:17

Effective Date: April 10,2007

Page 1 of 1

Expiration Date: April 30, 2009

Responsibility for Policy:

External Policy Committee

Subject Matter

- *Category:*

POLITICAL POLICY (GENERAL)

- *Specific:*

Tuition

- *Topic:*

Position at the Board of Governors

WHEREAS the decision to increase tuition comes from the Board of Governors;

WHEREAS the current level of tuition is too high;

WHEREAS tuition can legally increase no more than the annual average of Alberta July-June CPI;

WHEREAS increases in tuition serve as ever mounting barriers to beginning and completing an education;

WHEREAS education at the University of Alberta is the right of any individual who meets the academic standards of the institution;

WHEREAS; students are expected to earn an income during the summer months in order to save for the expenses directly and indirectly related to their education.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall campaign that attendance at the University of Alberta should be based on academic merit alone and not the financial status of a prospective or current student;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall advocate to the Board of Governors that tuition be rolled back to a level based on what students can save, on average, in the summer months;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union shall not vote in favor of any increase in tuition.

Policy History:
Reference/Vote
Created 2006-23

Board/Committee
External Policy Committee

Date of Council Approval
April 10,2007/ SC06-25/5c(i)

THE STUDENTS' UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
POLITICAL POLICY STATEMENT

<i>Policy Number:</i> 19	<i>Effective Date:</i> April 10,2007	<i>Page</i> 1 <i>of</i> 2
	<i>Expiration Date:</i> April 30,2009	
<i>Responsibility for Policy:</i>	External Policy Committee	
<i>Subject Matter</i> - <i>Category:</i>	POLITICAL POLICY (GENERAL)	
	- <i>Specific:</i> Tuition Policy	
	- <i>Topic:</i>	

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has shown an increased awareness of the importance of post-secondary education in our province;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has the duty to fund the cost of a postsecondary education system that has the capacity for all eligible individuals to participate given the increased importance of an educated populace and the growing demands of an emerging knowledge economy;

WHEREAS the current tuition levels and costs of obtaining a post-secondary education are contrary to the values of a public post-secondary education system;

WHEREAS it is essential that the Government of Alberta craft a policy recognizing the need to alleviate the financial burdens borne by Alberta's students and families in accessing the post-secondary education system;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the University of Alberta Students Union advocate for a tuition policy that:

- a.) Provides long-term, sustained base operating funding for our universities that will be protected from negative changes in our government's financial situation;
- b.) Protects tuition from increasing due to fluctuations in funding grants to the university from the government;
- c.) Ensures tuition levels are predictable;
- d.) Has as its primary indicator of affordability the ability of students to pay without having to accrue the burden of debt;
- e.) Provides for the fact that tuition is only one of the costs of pursuing a post-secondary education;
- f.) Ensures that no student will ever be denied the opportunity to pursue post-secondary education because of their inability to pay;

Policy History:

Reference/Vote

Created 2006-24/4/0/0

Board/Committee

EPC

Date of Council Approval

April 10,2007/SC06-25/5e(i)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University of Alberta Students' Union advocate that the Government of Alberta legislate a policy on tuition fees that:

- a.) Provides strict guidance to an institution's ability to set tuition, including annual and ultimate limits on the maximum amount of tuition fees that can be levied on students;
- b.) Requires post-secondary institutions to provide to the Board of Governors of the institution, the Auditor General of Alberta and the Minister of Advanced Education & Technology a detailed and verifiably transparent public plan on how additional tuition revenues will be spent.

Policy History:

Reference/Vote

Board/Committee

Date of Council Approval

Created 2006-24/4/0/0

EPC

April 10,2007/SC06-25/5e(i)

Dear Council,

I am resigning from the Grant Allocation Committee because I have become the chair of Policy Committee. I feel that this is the best decision because I will be able to focus all my attention on chairing policy committee.

Jaskaran Singh

Prepared by: Nick Dehod, Vice President (Student Life)
To: Students' Council 2009/2010

Bear Tracks / Student Fees

President Fentiman and I had another productive meeting with the Registrar's Office to discuss what changes could be made to Bear Tracks to make fee information more visible and accessible. Some of the changes that we have requested will likely be made for next September, although it is unclear at this stage what changes will be made as there are costs associated with some of our suggestions. A key focus of our discussion was on how to make the Health & Dental Plan and change of coverage period more visible on Bear Tracks for next year.

Campus Cup / World Record Attempt

Most of my time is being devoted towards making this event happen. Luckily enough many of the other time intensive projects that I've had this year have reached their milestones so I have some time to devote to this event. I expect my time towards the project will only increase in the next couple of weeks. You can expect an increase in the amount of promotion for the World Record Attempt leading up to the event.

The World Record Attempt will be happening on February 5th, 2010. Registration for the event will begin at 11am with the actual 600 versus 600 people game beginning at noon. The current record is 450 people.

If anyone is interested in volunteering for this event please email me at vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca. We need people to help with registering 1200 people.

In other dodgeball news, the Central Administration team has dubbed themselves "Dark Side Delivers", and is practicing this weekend. The Advocacy Department and President Fentiman may or may not have come up with a name to counter Central Admin.

Health & Dental Plan Committee (HDPC)

The Health & Dental Plan Committee had its first meeting last week that was intense but highly productive. Most of the meeting was devoted towards bringing the new committee members up to speed with how the Plan works although some preliminary discussions happened discussing how to improve communications for next year as well as a brief discussion surrounding whether or not to make adjustments to the change-of-coverage period. We have some strong students-at-large on the committee and I am really looking forward to our next meeting.

The PAW

The question will be coming to Council for approval tonight. From there the future of the project will be in the hands of students come this March. On a separate note, I went to the gym for the

first time since getting into this position. Although I will likely not be the most fit VPSL of the last 10 years, I'm still on pace to meeting my goal of being in the top ten list for most athletic VPSL of the last ten years.

Residence Services / Council of Student Affairs

As mentioned in my last report, Residence Services will be presenting to the Council of Student Affairs on Thursday about their current governance structure, how the budget process currently works, as well as all other things residence. If you have any burning questions about how residences on campus work, I'd advise you to get in contact with me so that I can pose it at Thursday's meeting.

If you have any other questions ask during council, stop by the office, or send me an email at vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca. **“No fear, no envy, no meanness” – Some Guy That Spoke to Bob Dylan in a Greenwich Village Pub in the 60s.**

January 26, 2010

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

Tuition/Market Modifiers Update

We are continuing discussions with the university on these topics. Market modifier business cases have been sent to the ministry for review. Discussions are beginning to focus on the implementation of a user fee as a proposal to assist in the short-term budget deficit situation.

In particular, GFC voted to start the CoSSS Fee on its consultative route up to the Board of Governors. I am very happy with our GFC student representatives asking good questions and expressing concerns with the proposal. I pointed out concerns about the lack of commitment to this particular fee, unlike other student fees, moving forward as a referendum. Also, concern was raised about the proposed uses/services for the fee, and the calculation thereof.

Our greatest worry is that this proposal coming forward as a short-term band-aid—a bailout—will become a long-term crutch for the institution to rely on. Thankfully, there are still a few steps the proposal makes on its way to final approval, and we will have more opportunities to express our concerns.

We are intensively preparing to launch a campaign in order to both inform and inspire students regarding the current state of the university's budget woes and the proposed fee hikes we are seeing. I'm hearing a lot of confusion in the student population about how these proposals will affect them, and we have the responsibility to clear the air.

Haiti Relief

The Students' Union has partnered with the Canadian Red Cross for a fundraising effort for the victims of the Haitian earthquake. We've set a goal of \$60,000 (roughly \$2 from every student) and hope that the campus community can come together to offer our support. We hope to also have donation boxes established at all SU businesses and Infolink locations as well. Check out <http://www.su.ualberta.ca/haiti> for more information on this initiative.

CAUS Meeting

Travelled to Lethbridge with the Vice President (External) and the Director of Research and Political Affairs to meet with our partner institutions (U of C, U of L) and discussed the state of affairs on their campuses. We are planning on a "Day of Action" that encompasses all three institutions on February 2, 2010. Also, CAUS is working on a framework for discussions relating to the implementation and regulation of Mandatory Non-instructional Fees.

Councilor One-on-ones

I've had a chance to speak with eight member of council so far, and have greatly appreciated your thoughts on the fee proposals and the direction of the SU. Looking forward to continuing these throughout the week. If you haven't already, please arrange to meet with me by contacting Catherine (ea@su.ualberta.ca).

Revolutionary Speakers and Debate Series

As you'll see advertised throughout campus, the Students' Union is hosting "Does God Exist II," its second debate in a three part series on January 28, 2010, which follows from student group events that took place last academic year. We, in partnership with student groups (theist and atheist alike), hope this respectful, academic debate will engage the campus community as a whole. Tickets are \$2 for students and the event starts at 5:00 PM in the Myer Horowitz.

The Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre

I am excited for this project to be moving into its next phase. A fee to construct the proposed PAW facility will be posed to the student population as a referendum question. Should students approve of the proposal, the PAW will serve as a strong commitment to the growing health and wellness needs of our campus community.

Students' Union Budget Process

It's that time of year again when the Students' Union begins its own budget process. So far, everything is on schedule—our Budget and Finance Committee shall be tabling a proposed set of budget principles to Students' Council before February 15, 2010.

Sincerely,

Zach Fentiman

26 January 2010

Dear Students' Council,

It's been an eventful couple of weeks in the Academic portfolio, and I am very excited to talk about.!

1. Developing the Portfolio:

a) Externally:

- Upcoming Blog posts include: *Teaching Evaluation, Class Size, Lessons Learned II*, I just completed *Important Issues that I wish people knew more about, Who is a Student?* and there was a blog post on the Science Students Advisory Panel. As always, please let me know if there is anything you'd like to see!
- We had an excellent conversation in exec about a new communications strategy to link all of the work the vice presidents do together, and this is a great extrapolation of the work we've been doing.
- We've spent a lot of time promoting the Festival of Teaching and the New Centre for Teaching Learning. Lots of time to talk to students, and get the good word on teaching out there which I've really enjoyed.

b) Internally:

- Working through the budget principles for next year, examining the soft capital we've been able to invest, through positions like the Academic Materials Consultant, and seeing where we can reorganize and grow for next year. I have lots of thoughts about this in terms of conferences for the AVPA, UPIO and the UGAA, all members of the acadream team. Further, I think it is imperative that we figure out a way to connect the Vice President Academics of different institutions, and the Vice President (External) has been very helpful with that project!

2. Increasing the Profile and Power of the Council of Faculty Associations:

- Good Meeting Wednesday 13 January in Council Chambers. The next is February 10th.
- The biggest action item coming out of COFA is that working on a letter from all of the 14 faculty associations to the board of governors outlining the Council of Faculty Associations 7-9 principles of undergraduate education. This is primarily a lobbying the board, and for elevating the lobbying work of COFA.

3. Build Sustainable Student Government in the Faculty of Science

- The “What Went Wrong” report has been completed, and it is very helpful. It’s in marketing for touch ups along with the call for proposals document. Ready to do. governor@su.ualberta.ca tell your friends, and the SSAP meets at 4:00 in the lower level meeting room this term.
- There was successful student representation on the science unit review, are taking iclickers on consignment. Office hours are kept and I receive very lengthy bi-weekly reports from the Governor. I’m very happy with how the process is progressing.

4. Lobby for the creation of a strong, student centered academic plan

- We are in the process of arranging a meeting with the Provost to assess the state of other submissions to the plan. The Graduate Students Association is building one, largely in our style, but otherwise my understanding is that we are still far and above setting the terms of the conversation.

5. Develop Student Government

- We had an excellent meeting on 20 January with the Director of Student Group Services, The Secretary of the University, our General Manager, The Vice President Student Life, Councilor Schultz, the GSA and the Advocacy Department. The biggest message I took away from that meeting was the specificity of different support systems that need to be created. I look forward to continuing the dialog as we talk about budget principles, if this is something you are interested in, please contact Councilor Shultz or myself.

6. Support and Institutionalize the Role of the Academic Materials Consultant

- With Apple releasing information about its tablet, and the kindle coming to Canada I am in many conversations with the academic materials consultant about what the e-book and online market could be changing as early as next fall. It’s hard to say precisely because of copyright legislation if there will be dramatic changes for students, but it really helps to have Kristen on the case looking at what we can do with subtitles, she used to work there, and how we can be ready for fall.

7. Create a Strategy for Transfer, International Students and Campus Associations to change SU Organizational Culture

- In academic plan consultation, I’m making another visit to international house. In other news, I’ve had some fruitful conversations with the libraries about supporting, in particular, transfer students appropriately and increasing the amount of time the University spends in classrooms supporting students. I think it is very important, however, that we find a way as an entire organization to think seriously about who our constituents are and have this strategic conversation at the most macro level.

8. Work with the Committee on the Learning Environment Subcommittee on Teaching Evaluation to approve through governance a new teaching evaluation tool

- The conversation grows about the need to communicate to students about teaching evaluations. The consensus is that students do not know how seriously they are taken, and that it would elevate the whole teaching and learning dialog if we were to figure it out. If you have thoughts about how to communicate to students about this esoteric topic please let me know.

Good Questions to Ask Leah About the Last Couple of Weeks:

- How does the Academic Plan conversation relate to the budget conversation? Is the University working to plan academically in light of these dramatic budget challenges?
- So, if I write terrible things about my instructor on my evaluation at the end of the term, what happens?
- Why should I attend the Festival of Teaching (Happening February 9th from 1-5 in the Telus Centre?)
- What do we hope to gain by building an infrastructure to support students in governance? Isn't that the University's responsibility?
- I read in the Gateway that the University is switching to Gmail. What's that all about?
- I've heard a little bit about the Acadream Team. Who is it? How can I become a part of it?

Thank you so much for all of your hard work for students!

Yours sincerely,

Leah Trueblood

