

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

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

## LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2010-14)

2010-14/1	<u>SPEAKER'S BUSINESS</u>
2010-14/2	<u>PRESENTATIONS</u>
2010-14/3	<u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT</u>
2010-14/4	<u>BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS</u>
2010-14/5	<u>QUESTION PERIOD</u>
2010-14/6	<u>BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS</u>
2010-14/7	<u>GENERAL ORDERS</u>
2010-14/8	<u>INFORMATION ITEMS</u>
2010-14/8d	James Eastham, VP Academic- Report Please see document LA 10-14.03
2010-14/8e	SU and GSA ask for help Please see document LA 10-14.04
2010-14/8f	LSA Letter of support Please see document LA 10-14.05
2010-14/8g	Information Technology Student Advisory Board Please see document LA 10-14.06
2010-14/8h	Craig Turner, BoG- Report Please see document LA 10-14.07
2010-14/8i	Nick Dehod, President- Report Please see document LA 10-14.08

- 2010-14/8j**      Rory Tighe, VP Student Life- Report  
Please see document LA 10-14.09
- 2010-14/8k**      Bylaw Committee- Report  
Please see document LA 10-14.10
- 2010-14/8l**      CRO – Response to Motion to censure  
Please see document LA 10-14.11

Good Evening Council,

## **COFA**

Much of my time this week has been devoted to the Council of Faculty Associations. Monday, Nick and I met with the LSA to discuss their Dean's proposal regarding tuition. Ultimately the LSA decided to write a letter in support of the proposal, which I have attached as an information item.

Aden and Nick will be working with our provincial lobby group now to try and mitigate any impact this letter may have, and I am trying to help concerned law students as they respond to the letter.

## **IT Student Advisory Board.**

Are you interested in Gmail, Moodle or other campus tech issues? Vice Provost IT Jonathan Schaffer wants five students to provide input on campus IT issues. If you or anyone you know is interested, let me know. Please see the attached item for more information.

## **Assessment and Grading**

Dr Luth would like feedback on the principals of assessment that he included in his report. I will be conducting a focus group in the near future to answer the attached questions. If you are interested, please contact me.



Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

2-10 University Hall  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2J9

www.ualberta.ca  
www.ualberta.ca/provost

Tel: 780.492.3920  
Fax: 780.492.1438

**Date:** 20 October 2010

**To:** James Eastham, Vice President Academic, Students' Union  
Andrea Rawluk, Vice President Academic, Graduate Students' Association

**From:** Robert W. Luth   
Provost's Fellow

**Re:** Next steps on Assessment and Grading initiative

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Dear James and Andrea,

I respectfully request your help. In my report on Assessment and Grading last spring, I suggested that the next step would be to discuss the purposes and principles of assessment and grading as widely as possible throughout the Academy, in order to think about whether our current policies need to evolve as we transition them into the brave new world of UAAPOL. I also made the point in that report that any University-level policy has to be sufficiently high-level to ensure we are respectful of disciplinary differences and the diversity of programs we offer. A one-size-fits-all approach, given the complexity and diversity of our institution, seems to me to be unrealistic.

Exactly how to move this conversation forward is the question. To that end, I brought together a sub-set of Associate Deans from ASC to discuss this issue in late September. They were kind enough to do so at extremely short notice, and we had an excellent and most helpful discussion. As a result of that discussion, we concluded that the most appropriate way to proceed with consultations amongst the faculty is to ask the Associate Deans to act as two-way conduits, to take this issue to their Faculties, consult and discuss in the manner they (and their Dean) see fit, and to bring back the responses from their Faculties to me. We need an analogous process for consultations with the students, and I am asking for your help.

I ask that you take the report, specifically the suggested purposes and principles of assessment and grading (below), to your respective groups, which represent undergraduate and graduate students, and consult with your colleagues in the manner you and your Executive deem appropriate. The feedback I need from you would address the following questions:

1. Are the purposes of assessment and grading articulated properly? Have we missed anything? Are they all appropriate?
2. Given those purposes, are the principles of assessment and grading as stated appropriate? Sufficiently general? Too specific? Are we missing any?
3. If these purposes and principles as expressed are the basis for University policy on Assessment and Grading, do the current policies and practices you have experienced align with these? If not, in what respects would they need to change?
4. Should the University-level policy contain default "templates" for practice – such as the current policy around suggested grade distributions?



I thank you in advance for your help and look forward to your responses by **December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010**. I have to stress that I need to hear from all stakeholders on this issue – it is too important for us not to hear from all.

### **Purposes and Principles of assessment**

From: Luth (2010) Assessment and grading at the University of Alberta: policies, practices, and possibilities. A report to the Provost and the University. ([www.ualberta.ca/~rluth/report.pdf](http://www.ualberta.ca/~rluth/report.pdf)):

#### **Purposes of assessment:**

- to evaluate – should produce a judgement about the student’s achievement of the learning goals/outcomes of the course.
- to rank students – for scholarships and advancement (e.g., entry into graduate or professional programs).
- to communicate – the grade in the end is all the outside world will know (or perhaps, all the student will remember) about their achievement in that course
- to improve – both learning on the part of the student, and teaching on the part of the instructor.
- to motivate – general agreement in the literature that assessment drives student learning – what they study, what they focus on, how they approach their learning.
- to encourage self-assessment and reflection on learning by the student.

#### **Principles:**

##### **Assessment:**

- should be integrated into and aligned with the learning experiences and intended outcomes of a course
- must validly and reliably measure expected learning outcomes, both disciplinary content and higher-order outcomes
- should build students’ ability to self-assess and self-reflect, and promote deep learning
- should involve varied assessment strategies, as appropriate for the subject
- should include early opportunities for students to align their understanding of expectations on assignments with those of the instructor
- must be transparent
  - students should know the criteria – both for course and for individual assignments – beforehand. For the former, on the syllabus; for the latter, at the very latest when the assignment is given
  - each assignment/assessment should be linked to stated course learning outcomes
  - the means by which the various summative assessments are aggregated and transformed into a letter grade must be clearly articulated on the course syllabus and applied equitably to all students
- should be guided by a clearly-articulated policy at the department/faculty level that is consistent with university policy
- must have proper oversight to ensure fairness
- should be consistent: an A means excellence, independent of discipline, but disciplinary expertise must define excellence within a discipline, and within a course (especially one with multiple sections).



October 18, 2010

Dear Honourable Minister Horner:

The Law Students' Association, representing the undergraduate students at the University of Alberta, Faculty of Law, has recently been consulted by Dean Bryden on his current tuition increase proposal. The LSA understands that the rationale for this proposal is the University's exceptional financial situation and that government funding will not be available to make up for the fact that faculty expenses are increasing faster than the current revenues. Although we recognise that a rise in costs for students may be unfavourable, the LSA believes that increasing tuition is currently the best solution for maintaining the Administration's commitment to providing an outstanding legal education to the students at the Faculty of Law.

During the past three weeks, Dean Bryden arranged a consultation session with the LSA Executive and made himself available to answer any questions that were submitted. At the beginning of October the Dean sent out an email to all undergraduate law students with a memo outlining the proposal, and also invited all students to attend a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the matter. Students were encouraged to ask critical questions, and were also invited to speak with members of the LSA Executive in order to make their opinions known. After considering the feedback received from students the LSA agrees that the reasons for the proposal are respectful and the Executive voted to support the Dean's tuition increase proposal.

The LSA therefore supports the proposal to have the 2011/2012 tuition increased by \$2000.00, completely grandfathered for current students, so that our tuition will be comparable with similar programs in Western Canada. The LSA understands that for the next two or three years, the increased revenues will only help the Faculty maintain the program and will hopefully prevent cutbacks from affecting the student experience. As the increase generates more revenue in subsequent years, and as the University's financial position improves, we have been told that the Dean and the Administration are committed to consulting with the students in order to decide how to best utilize new resources to enhance the quality of the program.

It is our understanding that 60% of the increased revenue will be returned directly to the Faculty for program maintenance and enhancements, and that another 20% will be set aside for scholarship and/or bursary support. The LSA believes that this contribution will help maintain accessibility to our program and we are currently working with the Faculty to improve the structure for distribution. Overall, the LSA supports this proposal



Law Students' Association  
University of Alberta, Faculty of Law  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6G 2H5

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because it will provide some much needed revenue for the Faculty and will hopefully prevent a decline in the level of excellence maintained by the University of Alberta's Faculty of Law. As current students, and future alumni, we consider the excellence and integrity of the Faculty of Law to be of paramount significance and believe it will help our students maintain their competitiveness in the current market.

We appreciate your consideration of both the needs of the undergraduate law students at the University of Alberta, as well as the Faculty of Law tuition increase proposal before you.

Sincerely,

The 2010/2011 Law Students' Association Executive



## **Information Technology Student Advisory Board**

### **Purpose**

Information technology at the University of Alberta is under considerable pressure. This pressure comes from several sources including rapidly changing technology, increased demand for IT services, greater reliance on IT for teaching, and financial constraints. At the forefront of this technology revolution are our students. Students are increasingly more technology savvy, with most students carrying a cell phone, almost half using a smart phone, and close to 100% having a personal computer. They are quick to adopt new technologies. The University of Alberta needs to keep pace with the changing world if we are to provide a high-quality IT infrastructure (hardware, software, and services) for teaching, student engagement, research, and service.

The creation of the Information Technology Student Advisory Board (ITSAB) reflects the critical role that students must play in determining the future IT directions of the campus. The ITSAB will be a forum for senior university administration to obtain student input, including:

- feedback on the current infrastructure,
- improvements to the current infrastructure,
- consideration of emerging technologies,
- mobile computing,
- new ideas, and
- long-range visioning.

It is critical that students be proactive in helping define parts of the IT vision for the University of Alberta.

### **Membership**

- Vice Provost and Associate Vice President (Information Technology), chair
- Members of the Vice Provost and Associate Vice President (Information Technology) team
- AICT Executive Director or delegate
- Vice Provost and Chief Librarian (Libraries) or delegate
- Registrar or delegate
- AIS Director or delegate
- Students' Union, five members
- Graduate Students' Association, two members

### **Meetings**

Meetings will be scheduled for 1.5 hours and have an agenda that is distributed in advance. Four regularly-scheduled meetings per year (two in the Fall term, two in the Winter term) Additional meetings as needed



Craig Turner, Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative  
**Report to Students' Council**

Hello Council,

A Board of Governors meeting was held on the morning of Friday, October 15, 2010. This meeting was the first full Board meeting after the summer break, and took place following a Board Orientation the evening before.

Highlights from the meeting include:

- The Board Community and Government Relations Committee (of which I am a member) formally changed its name to the University Relations Committee as well as updated its Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference are available at the committee website.
- The U of A's 2009-2010 Annual Report to the Government of Alberta received approval. The final document, along with other key strategic planning documents, can be found on the Department of Resource Planning's website at [www.resourceplanning.ualberta.ca](http://www.resourceplanning.ualberta.ca).
- An external loan of \$7,500,000 was approved for the completion of CCIS Phase II.
- Transfers totaling \$175,000 were made into restricted endowments from other funds.
- An additional expenditure of \$81,000,000 was approved for the shell and core structure of the Chemical and Materials Engineering Building project. Funding will be provided for by the Faculty of Engineering.

I would be happy to discuss at length any of the aforementioned topics, or any other topics relating to the Board, with anyone interested. Feel free to contact me at any point. The Board's annual retreat will be taking place Friday, November 19, 2010, with the next regularly scheduled Board meeting being Friday, December 10, 2010.

Cheers,  
Craig

October 26th, 2010

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Students' Council

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Greetings Council,

I want to congratulate Public School Board Trustee-Elect and former SU President, Michael Janz, as well as former SU Advocacy Director and now Edmonton City Councilor, Don Iveson, on successful campaigns in the 2010 municipal elections. It's great to see SU alumnus continuing to be active in the community-at-large.

### **Academic Plan Town Hall**

I would like to remind Council again that we have set November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 as the date of the Provost's Town Hall for undergraduate and graduate students to give feedback on the new academic plan. The room number is CCIS 1-440 starting at 4pm. I would strongly encourage everyone to spread the word on this event, review the draft of the new academic plan, and come prepared with questions.

### **Board of Governors Orientation & Meeting**

In the evening on October 14<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Board of Governors Orientation session. The orientation material and presentation were a great review of what my role is as a member of the board.

At the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Governors, we dealt with several agenda items including the renaming of one of the Board Committees and the University's 2009-10 Annual Report to the Government of Alberta.

If you have any questions about the Board of Governors meeting please do not hesitate to follow-up with Governor Turner or myself.

### **Chancellor's Reception for International Students**

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Chancellor's Reception for International Students. It was a great opportunity to greet some of our first year international students, hear about their experience on campus so far, and answer some questions about the University, the SU, and living in Edmonton. I spoke after with some of the staff at the International Centre and I am now hoping to have a session or opportunity to speak to some international students about how they can get involved with not only student groups, but also with student governance and the SU (especially Students' Council).

### **Dedicated Fee Units Discussion**

As a follow-up to the emails I sent out last week, for councilors that are interested in discussing dedicated fee units, we will be having an informal discussion on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00am. This discussion will precede Council Retreat. Because there are varying opinions and perspectives on this topic, I hope that we can have an upfront discussion and in turn give councilors a sense of what next steps may be appropriate (if any are necessary).

### **Market Modifiers**

Vice President Eastham and I met with the Law Students Association on Monday to discuss the \$2000.00 market modifier proposal the Dean of Law submitted to them. We provided greater context on the proposal, informing them of our discussions with the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology as well as provided clarification on some of the points in the Dean's letter.

To my disappointment, the LSA Executive did decide to write a letter in support of the proposal for their Dean. Moving forward I will now be working with Vice President Murphy in communicating our concerns to Minister Horner at our next meeting in November. From our perspective, the CPI regulation should continue to be honored and the Minister should be accountable to his promise that market modifiers would only be entertained one year.

As a follow-up to the approved market modifiers from last year in engineering, commerce, and pharmacy, Vice President Eastham and I are having a meeting with the Deputy Provost, Dru Marshall, to discuss implementation for next year. We hopefully will have an update for the next Council meeting.

### **Meeting with Dr. Andy Knight**

On October 19<sup>th</sup> I had a meeting with Dr. Andy Knight to discuss the possibility of the SU sponsoring the Global Youth Assembly conference next July. At this time I am still waiting on more information and details on the conference before we assess how we can be possible sponsors with the conference.

Dr. Knight and I also had a conversation about social justice, social responsibility, student groups, and the role student associations should play on campus with facilitating these kinds of issues. We hope to have a follow-up meeting later this year to further discuss the topic. Dr. Knight brings some interesting insight with the topic in that he was the President of the student association at McMaster during his undergraduate degree.

### **Mental Health Initiatives**

On Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Vice President Tighe and I have a meeting with other health promotion stakeholders on campus to discuss opportunities to coordinate efforts moving forward. Look for an update at Council on Tuesday.

### **Power Plant Discussion**

Although I did not run on this, I have added determining the future of the Power Plant to my list of goals to have complete by April. Last year, Vice President Fentiman and I managed to convince the University to extend our lease on Dewey's for three years. Rather than waiting until the lease ends to start a discussion on what happens to the building after Tory decant is complete, I hope to work with the GSA and Facilities & Operations to come up with an agreed upon vision for what the building will become in two years in the coming months.

### **Strategic Planning Committee**

At the last strategic planning committee meeting, we began our discussion around the mission, vision, and values of the organization. The session was mostly a brainstorming exercise and by the end of our next meeting (on October 17<sup>th</sup>) we hope to have some draft material to work off of.

### **Sustainability Assessment**

We had a really positive Sustainability Assessment meeting this week. The document is starting to come together. Because of the size of the task I am not confident that the project will be completed 100% by the end of this semester but it should be pretty close.

Our General Manager, Marc Dumouchel, attended a conference last week where he had the opportunity to talk with some of his peers at other student associations. There is interest in creating a western coalition of student associations that focuses on sustainability and developing best practices with our operations. Many other student associations are facing similar problems when it comes to "greening" their operations as well as when it comes to operationalizing recommendations from sustainability assessments similar to our own. A coalition would provide an opportunity for different associations to focus on specific areas and sharing their efforts and findings with the group. It is an exciting idea and we will see what comes of it this year.

### **Varsity Athletes**

Vice President Tighe and I had a meeting with the Interim Director of Athletics, Vang Ioannides, and the President of the University Athletics Board, Caity Buckell. At the meeting they gave us a run down on how the Athletics program works at the U of A as well as a tour of some of the facilities our athletes use and have access to. We hope to have a follow-up meeting to get a tour of facilities at South Campus. Vice President Tighe also hopes to have a meeting to discuss how the SU can strengthen its relationship with varsity athletes.

### **Visit to Résidence Saint-Jean**

Councilor Lepage-Fortin has invited the Executive team to check out Résidence Saint-Jean. As luck would have it, the night he picked is also Sloppy Joe's night at Résidence Saint-Jean tonight. Thank you again to the councilor for extending the invitation. We will let you know how are visit went at the next Council meeting.



*Office of the* PRESIDENT

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**If you have any further questions, suggestions, or concerns**, please do not hesitate to follow-up with me, either in person at SUB 2-900, by phone at 780-492-4236, or by email at [president@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:president@su.ualberta.ca).

**Prepared by:** Rory Tighe, Vice President (Student Life)

**To:** Students' Council 2010/2011

### **Programming**

Campus Cup is happening in less than a month and team registration is going very well. We are hoping to get some University Administration teams in and also some groups on campus. Council should definitely be making a team to challenge the almighty 2-900 team.

Antifreeze planning has begun and is going well. This year we are hoping to increase participation and add some evening events to make the week more engaging. We have also started talking about our musical happening second semester so the department is going to be very busy over the coming months.

### **Residences**

The new residence restorative justice policy is going through Campus Law Review Committee on Thursday. The passing of this policy will rescind the old Community Standards Policy with its' passing. We are still working on the residence specific rules and the lease agreement; both of which will hopefully be finalized soon.

### **Alcohol Policy**

There was a discussion at the Alcohol Policy Review Committee about the committees' roles and responsibilities. There will be further discussions about this in the coming months and these discussions will overlap with talks regarding the University's alcohol policy and Pubcrawls on campus.

### **Student Services**

The Services Review is coming along nicely. The Services have submitted their questionnaires and we will be meeting with them each individually later this week to discuss them. We will also be setting up a group meeting with all of the services in the coming weeks and then meetings with stakeholders and services following that.

The Undergraduate student survey has been pushed back a little bit until November. We are currently finalizing the questions and methodology.

### **U-Pass**

There was generally a lot of support from candidates before the election for our U-Pass lobbying. We will be following up over the next few months with City and Municipal councilors to see what is possible for expanding the U-Pass program and when.

We will also be meeting with ETS over the next few weeks to discuss extending the hours of certain bus routes during exam times. If you have any thoughts as to what this could look like please let me know.

As always, 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](mailto:vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca)

# (BY)LAW & ORDER

*“du dunn”*

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Starring: Jenn PARSONAGE, Natalie COX, Farid ISKANDAR, Kim FERGUSON (proxying for Malori STAN), and Petros KUSMU as Chair.

Missing in Action: Zach FENTIMAN and Vanessa JOHNSON

This week on Bylaw:

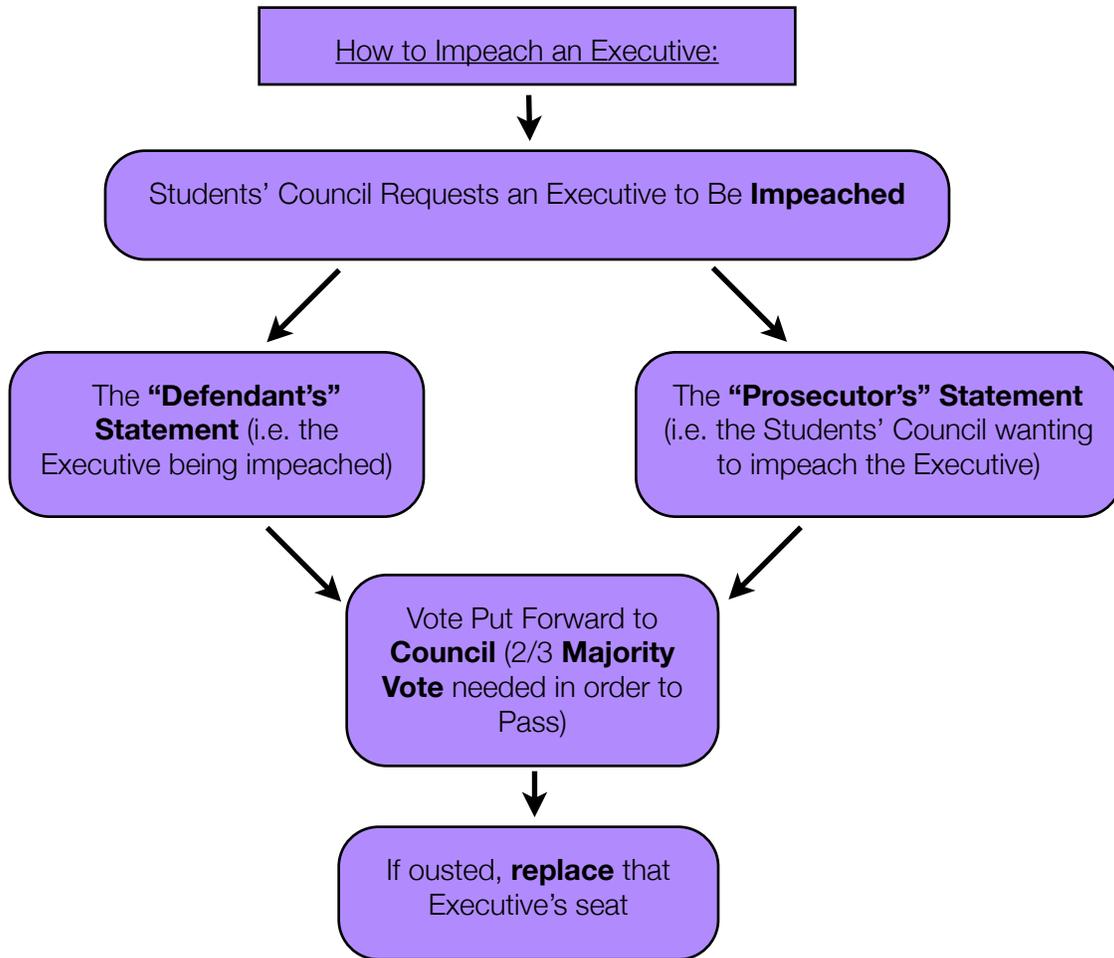
- Bylaw's October 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting didn't have quorum unfortunately, but its October 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting did! Here's what we talked about:
  - We finally agreed on the procedures needed to impeach an Executive and Councillor off of Council.
- Attached at the end of this report are the two procedures outlined of impeaching an Executive and a Councillor. (Props to PARSONAGE for the original sketch-she's an Angel, in case you didn't know.)

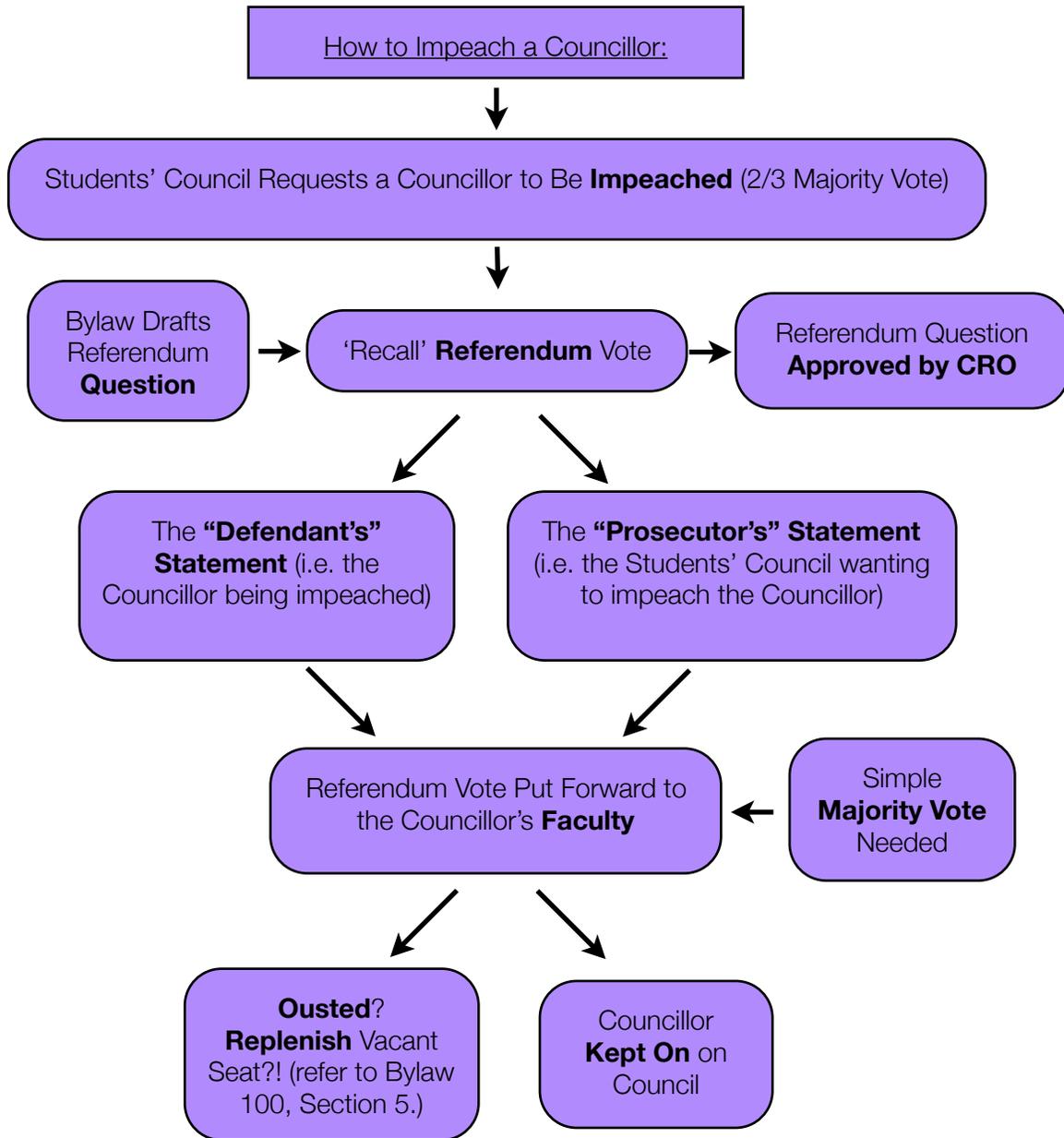
Next week on Bylaw:

- Upcoming Bylaw's Meeting, we'll finally translate our procedures into bills that we can submit to Council in first reading.
- Our next meeting is on October 28 (upcoming Thursday!) @ 5PM (most likely) in SUB 6-06.
  - Also, we decided to have Bylaw on ON COUNCIL Thursdays @ 5PM, for now.
- If you're not a part of Bylaw but want to be a part of this HISTORICAL AND IMPORTANT BILL TO STUDENTS' COUNCIL, then feel free to drop by and give some of your input. We don't bite-I swear.

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*"In the Students' Union, the students are represented by two separate yet equally important groups: the Executives, who get remittances and free food, and the Students' Councillors, who only get the free food (and some scholarship money), too—but that's barely anything. C'mon.). These are their bylaws."*





## Students' Council

Regarding the present motion for my censure, I have several respectful submissions for the Council's consideration.

The motion before the council today calls for my censure as a punitive action in response to a letter-to-editor that I wrote to The Gateway. The underlying rationale behind this motion is that I, in some way, breached my obligations of impartiality in my capacity as Chief Returning Officer. I would respectfully contend that I have in no way compromised my impartiality, or done a disservice to the position of Chief Returning Officer. Quite to the contrary, I respectfully submit that I have been and continue to fulfill my duties as per my employment contract with the Students Union, and that the allegations against me are unfounded and unwarranted.

I have looked upon the Students' Union Bylaw, and it appears there is no official regulation, bylaw, or standing order with respect to motions for censure, or procedural guidelines for how a Council Member or Officer of Council is to defend himself or herself against such motions. When I asked the Speaker of Counsel about the legitimacy behind this motion, it was brought to my attention that Students' Council can pass any motion that it sees fit. I therefore can only assume that any such motion would be based on basic principles of fairness, and due process. Since we have no guidelines for the legitimacy behind such a motion, and no principles for how such a motion should be conducted, I am left with no choice but to make a case for myself as clearly as possible, by addressing the allegations against me, and rebutting them before this counsel.

The principle concern brought up is that I supported voters to cast their ballots for none of the above. Many are taking the closing sentence out of context, and stating that I said only "please exercise your right to vote for none of the above," when in the context of the sentence I was suggesting it as a viable option if one were to not have confidence in any candidates running.

Councilors may argue that none of the above is in fact a candidate, and that I was providing support for NOTA as a candidate. From the perspective of the elections office, NOTA is a candidate that has no ability to represent itself to the general public, and thus the elections office must educate the general population about its viability and role in the current electoral system. In bylaw NOTA is depicted as a candidate, but in bylaw NOTA has no ability to represent itself, no way to make an elections profile, and for students to make an informed and educated decision they must understand all the mechanisms of elections, and NOTA is a crucial mechanism of our preferential balloting system.

Rather than turning away students who sought to make an informed decision, I educated them about a way to participate and provide constructive feedback to

the elections office. It is my obligation and duty to educate voters about what their options are, and to answer any questions that students may have in regards to the elections, both of which were achieved by this letter.

I will acknowledge that perhaps it would have been prudent to seek the Council's advice, or inform them in advance of my intention to write the letter-to-the-editor that I wrote. With that being said, my actions were not illegal, wrong, or in contravention of my employment contract and duties. I have every right to submit a letter-to-the-editor to the Gateway as much a right as any University student or member of this council. Had I submitted a letter-to-the-editor that contravened my duties to the Council, disclosed confidential information, or in some way breached my contract, that would be a different matter, and censure, or some kind of punitive action would certainly be warranted. But I did not contravene my duties in any way. I have not violated my contract, or my duty to the Council. I have not done a disservice to the title of Chief Returning Officer.

My listed duties in paragraph 2 say that I am to perform my duties as prescribed, promote the business and affairs of the Union, devote sufficient time to my position, act in accordance with Bylaws/Policies, and to not bind or commit the SU to 3<sup>rd</sup> party obligations without consent. I also agreed that any material or projects completed while carrying out SU duties remains the property of Students' Union. My letter-to-the-editor was an opinion on the electoral process unrelated to my actual duties as CRO it did not impede my ability to be CRO in any way, or impede the time commitment/efforts I have put into my obligations with this organization. I have continued to observe and act in accordance with SU policies, and my letter-to-the-editor certainly did not bind or commit the SU to any obligations it was not written on behalf of the Students Union, it was an individual comment. Furthermore, I did not even leave the letter-to-the-editor open to the interpretation that it was an SU decree, as I did not favor any candidates, or state any preference for any candidates. There is no rational connection between the content of my letter-to-the-editor, and the allegation that it lacks impartiality.

My actions with respect to sending the letter-to-the-editor that I wrote did not constitute any of the listed offenses outlined in my employment contract in paragraph 5...namely, that letter-to-the-editor did not constitute theft, fraud, the consumption of alcohol/drugs, or any gross negligence in the performance of my duties. Expressing the sentiment that a voter could exercise their democratic rights in a fashion that did not involve selecting a specific listed candidate does not constitute gross negligence... it does not affect my duties as Chief Returning Officer, and it certainly does not demonstrate any lack of impartiality. I have demonstrated no bias for any particular class or group of candidate, I have expressed no preference for any singular candidate... I have remained impartial and neutral as to the outcome of the elections.

I have to re-emphasize this point in the context of my specific enumerated duties and responsibilities, found in Schedule A of my contract. Writing a letter-to-the-editor that encourages voters to exercise their democratic rights on campus, and that makes it clear as to what options they have, does not in any way compromise my impartiality. Since impartiality is the basis behind this motion, perhaps we should define what impartiality means... I would respectfully submit that it means treating all rivals... or in this context, all electoral candidates... equally and fairly. My letter-to-the-editor does not in any way single out a candidate, or expose any biases. It does not inhibit or retard fairness and equality in the election. It does not impact my ability to organize polls, oversee tabulations, and report electoral results fairly. It does not in any way compromise my ability to perform my enumerated functions from my employment contract, and there is no reasonable grounds or evidence to demonstrate that my impartiality as to electoral candidates has been affected in any manner. There is no specific duty in this employment contract or in SU bylaws saying that a CRO can't publish an letter-to-the-editor opinion that provides neutral information as to a voter's democratic rights and options.

Furthermore, I respectfully direct this Council's attention to the final paragraph of my employment contract, paragraph 6... where it clearly states that "This Agreement may not be amended or modified in any respect unless signed by the President of the Students Union, the Chair of the Council Administration Committee, and the Employee." Given this statement, I would respectfully submit that reading any extra duties into my responsibility, or suggesting that I in some way had a duty to not send in the letter-to-the-editor that I sent to the Gateway as a duty of mine would be implicitly amending or modifying my employment contract without prior agreement. There was no explicit or implicit duty for me to refrain from writing that letter-to-the-editor, and as I have demonstrated, it bears no rational connection to my duty to impartiality, so to imply that not writing that letter-to-the-editor was in any way a duty of mine would be an unjustified amendment to my employment contract.

Subject to any questions you have, these are my submissions.

Jaskaran Singh,  
Chief Returning Officer