

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL

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**Tuesday March 10th, 2015**

**ETLC E1-008**

We would like to acknowledge that our University and our Students' Union are located on Treaty 6 Territory. We are grateful to be on Cree, Saulteaux, Métis, Blackfoot, and Nakota Sioux territory; specifically the ancestral space of the Papaschase Cree. These Nations are our family, friends, faculty, staff, students, and peers. As members of the University of Alberta Students' Union we honour the nation-to-nation treaty relationship. We aspire for our learning, research, teaching, and governance to acknowledge continuing colonial violence and respect Indigenous knowledges and traditions.

## **ORDER PAPER (SC 2014-23)**

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>2014-23/1</b>  | <b><u>SPEAKER'S BUSINESS</u></b>  |
| <b>2014-23/1a</b> | Announcements – The next meeting of Students' Council will take place on Tuesday, March 24, 2015. |
| <b>2014-23/2</b>  | <b><u>PRESENTATIONS</u></b>   |
| <b>2014-23/3</b>  | <b><u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT</u></b>  |
| <b>2014-23/4</b>  | <b><u>BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS</u></b>   |
| <b>2014-23/4a</b> | Ruling 2014-2015-03 of the DIE Board (Knox vs. CRO)<br><br>Please see document SC 14-23.01        |
| <b>2014-23/5</b>  | <b><u>QUESTION PERIOD</u></b>   |
| <b>2014-23/6</b>  | <b><u>BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS</u></b>  |
| <b>2014-23/7</b>  | <b><u>GENERAL ORDERS</u></b>  |
| <b>2014-23/8</b>  | <b><u>INFORMATION ITEMS</u></b>   |

**2014-23/8a** Navneet Khinda, VP External - Report

Please see document SC 14-23.02

**2014-23/8b** William Lau, President - Report

Please see document SC 14-23.03

**2014-23/8c** Kathryn Orydzuk, VP Academic - Report

Please see document SC 14-22.04

**DIE BOARD RULING 2014-2015 – 03**

**HEARING DETAILS:**

Style of Cause: Knox vs CRO

Hearing Date: March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Hearing Number: Ruling #03 2014/2015

DIE Board Panel Members: Harvir Mann, Associate Chief Tribune, Chair  
Catherine Fan, Tribune  
Ritika Banerjee, Tribune

Appearing for the Applicant: Blue Knox, candidate for VP External

Appearing for the Respondent: Jessica Nguyen, Chief Returning Officer

Intervener(s): None

**BACKGROUND:**

Mr. Adam Pinkoski, the campaign manager for Blue Knox, candidate in the race for Students' Union Vice President External, submitted an appeal of CRO Ruling 3. In Ruling 3, the CRO ruled that Miss Knox was in contravention of Bylaw 2200 Section 36 subsection 1 wherein no candidate should have more than one banner in any given building at any given moment. Bylaw 2200 section 36 subsection 2 and section 48 subsection 1 were used as the justification for the CRO ordering a counterbalancing penalty to counter any advantage gained. Miss Knox's campaign team appealed the CRO decision to the D.I.E. Board.

The activities in question can be found in CRO Ruling 3. On Monday February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Adam Pinkoski, campaign manager for Miss Blue Knox's campaign, sent an email to the CRO asking for permission to modify an already approved banner posted in the Chemistry East building by cutting it in half (the intended location of the banner had a barrier running down in its middle). That same day, the CRO responded to Mr. Pinkoski's request by approving the use of only half of the banner with the understanding that Miss Knox's campaign only intended to use one half while discarding the other. The following day, Mr. Dylan Hanwell, candidate for Students' Union Vice President External, sent an email to the CRO of Miss Knox's campaign violating bylaw by posting both banner halves separately and simultaneously. Mr. Hanwell noted said campaign was in violation of Bylaw 2200 section 36 subsection 1 which clearly states a candidate is limited to only one banner in a single building at any given point. The same day the CRO notified the Blue Knox campaign team of the contravention of Bylaw 2200 and requested the correction of the problem; either the removal of one banner or the rejoining of both into a single banner within an hour. Within the hour on Tuesday February 24<sup>th</sup>, the banner in question was fixed and photo evidence was provided to the CRO.

The Blue Knox campaign team informed the CRO that the banner in two halves was on display for approximately three hours before they received notification from the CRO that it was in contravention of bylaw. The CRO noted in Ruling #3 that bylaw stipulates no more than one banner may be on display and candidates are responsible for informing their campaign volunteers of elections rules. The banner in its original wholesome form was previously approved by the CRO but its usage in two halves was not, and thus, constituted an unapproved campaign material. While noting the Blue Knox campaign team's contravention of bylaw was unintentional and they had responded in an efficient manner to correct the problem, the CRO levied a penalty as per Bylaw 2200 section 48 subsection 1. Bylaw states that where a contravention provides an unfair advantage, the CRO shall assign a penalty counterbalancing the advantage gained. Subsection 2 in the same clause permits penalties to take the form of fines, destruction of campaign items and/or restrictions on certain campaign activities. As per the Schedule of Fines and Penalties provided by Bylaw 2200, unapproved campaign materials would be dealt with through the removal of the unapproved items in question along with an equal number of materials. The CRO asked the Knox campaign to remove the banner in Chemistry East along with two additional banners (from the buildings of their choice) for a total of four hours, three for the contravention and one hour for the time taken to correct the issue, during the hours of 12:30 and 16:30 on the following Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Pinkoski argued that the CRO had explicitly approved the banner for use in its halved state. The banner in its whole state was approved for hanging along with the banner in its halved state. Mr. Pinkoski stated that the banner in question was a single banner and his communication with the CRO was done with the understanding that the banner would not be hung in its single half state. At the hearing, Miss Blue Knox said the cutting of the banner in half and its displaying in its halved state was a honest lapse in communication between the CRO and Mr. Pinkoski. A volunteer in her campaign, neither her nor Mr. Pinkoski, had changed the whole banner to two separate forms. As soon as she became aware of a contravention she had the problem corrected within the hour. Miss Knox also noted that one half of the banner did not even have her full name on it while the other part did. There was no intent on her campaign's part to contravene bylaw. Mr. Pinkoski requested CRO Ruling #3 be overturned and the penalty which had been levied to be removed.

#### **ISSUES:**

- [1] Should the CRO's decision in Ruling #3 be upheld?
- [2] If the CRO's decision is upheld, how and when should the penalty be enforced?

#### **RELEVANT BYLAWS:**

- [3] **From Bylaw 2200 Section 36:**
  - (1) No candidate or side shall have more than one (1) banner on display in any given building at any given time.

(2) Where a candidate or side contravenes Section 36(1), the offending banners shall be destroyed and the C.R.O. may assess an additional penalty to that candidate or side as set out in Section 48.

[4] **From Bylaw 2200 Section 48:**

(1) Where a candidate, side manager or volunteer has contravened a bylaw, rule, or regulation, regardless of the cause or intent of the parties involved, and that contravention has provided an unfair advantage to a candidate, the C.R.O. shall assign a penalty that

- a. fully counter-balances any advantage gained; and
- b. where the contravention was intentional, penalizes the candidate or campaign manager who was or whose volunteer was guilty of the contravention.

(2) Penalties available to the C.R.O. shall include

- a. a fine, to be counted against the candidate's campaign expenses;
- b. the confiscation or destruction of campaign materials;
- c. limits, restrictions, and prohibitions on any type of campaign activities for any period of time up to the commencement of voting; and
- d. disqualification of the candidate or side manager.

(3) The C.R.O. shall draft a schedule of fines and penalties as an appendix to the rules and regulations concerning this bylaw

[5] **From Schedule of Fines and Penalties (Section F: General Election Regulations and Guidelines):**

Violation: Unapproved campaign materials

Counterbalancing Fine: Removal of said campaign materials plus equal number of materials

Punitive Fine: \$3.00 per material with additional possibility of discretionary fines

**DECISION:**

The following is the unanimous decision of the panel:

[6] Bylaw 2200 section 36 states that candidates may affix no more than one banner on display per building at any given moment in time and where such activities violate subsection 1, the CRO shall order the offending banners to be removed and may assess additional penalties. Miss Knox and her campaign team were aware of these regulations based on attendance at mandatory candidates' meetings.

[7] The CRO approved the banner in its original vertical form. When Mr. Pinkoski contacted the CRO about modifying the banner, the CRO allowed the modification with the understanding that cutting it in half would mean only one half would be displayed. The board is satisfied by the CRO's justification that only one half of the banner was approved for hanging and not both. Hence, the halved state of the banner constitutes an unapproved campaign material.

[8] Bylaw 2200 section 48 and the Schedule of Fines and Penalties allow the CRO to issue a counterbalancing fine, in this case, leading to the removal of the banner in question along with two others for the duration of the hours it was up. The CRO noted that the space between the banner halves was minimal compared to a whole banner. The CRO determined the counterbalancing fine should not be in place for the entirety of the campaign period. The panel agrees with the CRO's interpretation of bylaw and the fairness of the penalty.

[9] The panel determined, as stated by the CRO, there was no intent on the part of Miss Knox's campaign to intentionally contravene bylaw. The fast timing of banner correction following notification was noted by the CRO. The panel concurs with the decision not to issue a punitive fine in addition to the counterbalancing fine.

[10] The CRO and Miss Knox both mutually agreed there was a problem with communication and each side arrived at a different understanding of Mr. Pinkoski's original request to modify a pre-approved poster.

[11] For the reasons discussed above, the panel finds the CRO's penalty against Miss Knox' campaign to be reasonable. The ruling of the CRO is upheld.

[12] In regards to the restriction on campaign activities levied by the CRO to take place on Tuesday March 4<sup>th</sup> between 12:30 and 16:30, the panel recommends the CRO move the counterbalancing fine to Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> at the same time.



March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**To:** Students' Council

**Re:** Report to Council for March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting

Dear Council,

As I write this, I'm aware that our executive elections surpassed the highest voter turnout in seven years – we're at 22.2% an hour before the polls close. Impressive! (Relatively speaking). With the democratic spirit of elections all around us, I'll keep this report short and sweet.

I took a leave of absence from my position as VP External due to executive elections. However, since it turned out that I was running uncontested, I rescinded that leave of absence about half way through so that I could continue to work in my role as VPX and CAUS Chair, specifically for media interviews.

### **In the Media**

On February 25<sup>th</sup>, the Metro first broke the story that the Premier was contemplating eliminating the tuition cap due to Alberta's economic woes. I was fired up. This is a seriously misguided option for the government to even consider!

Since this required a reaction from students, I decided to rescind my leave of absence so that I could provide commentary as CAUS Chair. Since then, I've been in and out of the office alongside continuing with my elections campaign.

The majority of my work has been taking interviews and catching up on emails – I'm not 100% back until the elections are over (which is actually right now). Below are all the articles that I've been interviewed for as well as articles with commentary from my colleagues at CAUS:

1. Feb 25<sup>th</sup>: Metro--[Alberta Government may eliminate post-secondary tuition cap](#)
2. Feb 25<sup>th</sup>: CAUS Press Release—[Students call on Albertans to speak out about the importance of affordable PSE](#)
3. Feb 26<sup>th</sup>: Calgary Herald—[Student leaders worry about future of tuition cap as Prentice set to meet with U of C](#)
4. Feb 26<sup>th</sup>: Metro Calgary—[Alberta premier doesn't rule out killing tuition cap](#)
5. Feb 26<sup>th</sup>: Metro Edmonton—[Alberta Premier Jim Prentice not ruling out cutting tuition cap in face of \\$7 billion budget hole](#)
6. Feb 26<sup>th</sup>: Global—[Lifting cap on tuition? Prentice says students will feel squeeze of low oil](#)
7. Feb 26<sup>th</sup>: iNews880 & 630 Ched—[Cost cutting worries educators and students](#)
8. Feb 26<sup>th</sup>: The Gauntlet—[Student leaders concerned Alberta may scrap inflation-tied tuition cap](#)
9. Feb 27<sup>th</sup>: Calgary Herald—[The government's latest trial blimp – remove cap on university tuition](#)
10. Feb 27<sup>th</sup>: CBC—[Alberta tuition cap needed for struggling students, leaders say](#)

11. Feb 27<sup>th</sup>: Global—[Prentice: University students will be squeezed, staff could face cuts](#)
12. March 1<sup>st</sup>: Metro Calgary—[Warning for Alberta students from a land where no tuition cap exists](#)
13. March 3<sup>rd</sup>: Metro Calgary—[Calgary's Mount Royal University to hike student fees by 65 percent](#)
14. March 4<sup>th</sup>: The Gateway—[AB Government looking at killing the tuition cap](#)
15. March 4<sup>th</sup>: Vue Weekly—[Improvements to education, rather than cuts, will help the economy](#)
16. March 4<sup>th</sup>: The Globe and Mail—[Cuts to Alberta's education will be disastrous for future generations](#)

In addition to these news articles, I also discussed this issue on a Punjabi radio station, Radio Sursangam, which is the largest 24 hours Southeast Asian radio station in Calgary (with a big listener base in Edmonton). I also talked about the tuition cap on City TV as well as CBC TV news. My colleagues were also able to get an interview for the morning news on Global. Metro first broke the news and then CAUS piled onto it. Throughout the weekend and by March 4<sup>th</sup>, we had people outside of CAUS providing additional commentary, such as the Globe and Mail article.

Hopefully this tuition “trial blimp” pops soon. The media attention has been really good since it furthers our goal of making post-secondary education a ballot-box issue.

See you at Council!

Sincerely,



**Navneet Khinda**

Vice President External 2014-2015 // University of Alberta Students' Union

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March 6th, 2015

**To:** University of Alberta Students' Union Students' Council 2014-2015

**From:** William Lau, President 2014-2015

**Re:** Report to Students' Council (for March 10th, Meeting)

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Dearest Council,

We're down to our last three Council meetings now of the year, and quite the busy agendas! From Exec and Senior Management, a few items that are currently in the pipeline are: 1) Ratification of the Strategic Plan, 2) Approval of the SU Budget, 3) Approval of a proposal for Office Renovations, 4) Changes to Senior Management Structure, and 5) Year End Report.

Over the next few days, my priority is to meet with students of all faculties to encourage consideration of nominating their peers for Students' Council. Our high voter turnout this year in the exec elections are definitely worth celebrating, but it's not over yet!

Now like the previous couple reports, allow me to update you on my progress with my goals. First, let me list off other commitments that I spent my time on *outside of my goals*. The largest one of course was the time dedicated to planning our approach to the news outbreak around the potential elimination of the tuition cap. Feel free to ask about them at greater length if any of them catch your attention:

- PLLI Leadership Certificate Meeting
- GFC Academic Planning Committee
- Chinese Benevolent Association Lunar New Year Gala
- Meeting with the Registrar's Office
- University of Alberta Dance Marathon
- Mental Health Week Photoshoot
- Vietnamese Students' Association Belated Lunar New Year Celebration
- Taiwanese Students' Association Red Ram Reception
- International Students' Association Red Carpet Gala

- GovCamp Planning Meeting
  - Business Clubs' Council Fair
  - Association Coalition Meeting
  - University of Alberta Pride Week Reception
  - K-Pop Night at RATT.....
  - Conference Call: Apathy is Boring
  - Relationship building with The Gateway
- 

#### *Students' Union Strategic Plan*

- Finalized the Mission/Vision/Values of our Strategic Plan
- Presented options to the Strategic Planning Committee for Strategic Goals in collab with Senior Managers
- Next steps:
  - Draft Critical Success Factors & Strategic Goals (In Progress); and
  - Ratification of Strategic Plan at Students' Council (April 2015).

#### *Vibrant Campus Strategy (Student Mental Health)*

- The creation of a campus wide strategy is facilitated by University Wellness Services and has been delayed due to efforts needed to bring everyone on board.
- Current SU efforts:
  - ~~Hosting an “Open Conversation” on student (mental) health for campus stakeholders to brainstorm and share ideas (January 23).~~
    - Currently brainstorming for follow-up event.
    - Working with Past-GFC Councillor Kang and SU Councillor Zhang

- Exploring changes in the Terms of Reference for the *Board, Safety, Health and Environment Committee (BSHEC)* to include reporting and accountability of student health statistics and efforts to the Board of Governors.
  - ~~▪ Sent initial principles over to attendees, meeting scheduled for Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>.~~
  - Currently in Board Chair's hands. Expected to extend beyond our term, as there are no more BSHEC meetings before May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Exploring integration of *Values in Policy*. Writing values-based policy will ensure that institutional values flow through decision making at all levels and strengthen our institutional culture.
  - ~~▪ Aiming to have a draft proposal by the end of January and approval in April 2015.~~
  - Vice President Finance & Admin, Phyllis Clark currently leading a policy change to ensure that writing of new policies aligns to institutional values.
  - Currently drafting wording for integration into committee ToRs.
- Public Pianos on Campus
  - Piano moving booked for March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Next steps: follow-up with Don's Piano for branding/signage.

#### *Student Participation Protocol (Student Consultation)*

- Documents finalized. Presented to Senior Managers and COFA.
- Next steps:
  - Educate & advocate for the use of the handbook, including but not limited to a presentation to Students' Council and RHA.

#### *Student Life Central (Student Involvement)*

- ~~• Scheduled a meeting on Jan 27<sup>th</sup> with Senior Manager Student Services, Jane Lee, to talk about how we could simply connect students to student groups earlier.~~
- Services staff to lead project for first year students in 2016. Creating customizable involvement materials with Marketing & Communications to be attached to electronic Letters of Acceptance.

- Next steps:
  - Continue communications with Services (scheduling for March); and

#### *Flight & Hotel Deals*

- ~~• Scheduled a meeting on Jan 21<sup>st</sup> to clarify initial vision and intentions with the project lead.~~
- Reassessed goals and timelines. Project lead identified, with short term goal (April 2015) of securing a partnership with a car rental company.

#### *\*Students' Union Alumni Relations*

- Met with Office of Advancement to explore logistics behind setting up an endowment. Partnership may be limited due to their policies.
- Next steps:
  - Draft up two documents: 1) a project proposal, and 2) the terms for the endowment we aim to create.

#### *\*UA-SU Financial Relationship*

- ~~○ Scheduled a meeting to start the conversation between Senior Administration of the University and the SU on Jan 26<sup>th</sup>.~~
- Numbers were exchanged between staff. Intent of the conversation was to simply collect each party's understanding of the facts, and discuss principles for a general framework.
  - Draft principles: Predictability, Process, Clarity, Accountability.
- Next steps:
  - Working groups are meeting every two weeks; and
  - Process may be delayed due to necessity of first sorting out MNIF restructure. May extend beyond my term in office.

All the best,



**William Lau**

[President](#) 2014-2015 | [University of Alberta Students' Union \(UASU\)](#)

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March 10, 2015

To: Council

Re: VPA Report

My dearest council friends and colleagues,

It has certainly been a very interesting two weeks on campus. Between SU elections, a protest in quad, a Pride parade, and the announcement of when the budget will be released (March 26) among various other quotes from the government of varying interest, the media has been something to watch. I just want to take a minute here to commend a few people. Firstly, the people who organized the protest and went out on those (bitterly cold) days to literally stand for what you believe in. I won't comment on pro-life vs pro-choice, but I will say that there are very few people who are okay with being surprised by gruesome images in their faces on their way to a midterm. We represent all types of students with a rainbow (pride pun intended) of values and beliefs, so that can sometimes make advocacy tricky, but our Health and Wellness policy is very clear in it's statements (only the relevant parts to what I'm saying here):

“WHEREAS the health and wellness of an individual encompasses emotional, mental, physical, spiritual, and sexual health;  
 WHEREAS the health and wellness of students may be affected by the physical environment on the University of Alberta campuses;  
 WHEREAS the health and wellness of a student has a direct effect on academic and social success;  
 WHEREAS students are increasingly susceptible to high levels of stress due to heavy workloads;  
 BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Students' Union advocates that the University explore new ways in which to enhance students' mental health;”

Secondly, I would also like to commend those students who are running in the elections right now. As I write this, voting is about to wrap up, but we will know who our successors are tomorrow evening. We all know that as candidates you have to develop a pretty thick skin in order to deal with everything that comes with campaigning, but if any of you are reading this, I want you to know that from my perspective, what you are doing is vitally important to other students and the University, even if it seems like they don't recognize it. We have accomplished great things as a Union, and prevented many more terrible things from happening. There is a scene in that new movie *Kingsmen* where the spy guy has a bunch of newspapers tacked onto his wall where the headlines are all about stupid celebrity gossip because it was clearly a slow news day. The younger guy asks why he has these weird papers on his wall, and he says that each of the papers is from the morning after he prevented a disaster from taking place as a spy. It's a little bit like that, of course not to the degree of preventing bombings or anything like that, but the concept is there. The bad thing never happened so there was nothing to talk about. There seems to be a perception given by a limited number of students who have been given massive platforms by social media that is that students do not value the Students' Union or think that the things you say as candidates are superficial. I think that this comes from us not communicating well enough our challenges and successes, but it does not mean that we are not useful or successful and therefore I want to impress upon you the importance of not doubting yourself as you go forward, instead, trying to understand the



root issues and deal with those. Next year is going to be one of the toughest years we've face as an organization and an institution in awhile, and I commend those of you who are up to the challenge and put your name in the running. There are thousands of people who could have, but chose not to. Best of luck to each of you. You are all winners to me.

On that note – I've spent a good amount of time over the last couple weeks preparing for transition! The retreat schedule is finalized now and I have a report to give to my successor as well as a tracking sheet on every issue that I came across as VPA. It basically says what the issue is, where it was last left off on, what documents are relevant, and who the contacts for it are. I recently found out that we actually have one of the best retreats in the country and I found out a long time ago that we are better at preserving institutional memory than pretty much every other SU because of our governance and research departments, not to mention our massive base of extremely experiences full-time permanent staff. I'm saying this to you so that if you ever hear anyone complain about how we don't transition our people well or how so many things get lost year-to-year, you know that this is actually not the case.

Unsurprisingly, I spent the majority of my work-week in committee meetings. I thought it might calm down towards the end of the term, but I was mistaken.

I'm fairly certain that I have talked about University Writing Committee in my reports before, but in case I haven't, it's a relatively small committee that I sit on as the student representative. Interesting factoid: I sat as Dustin Chelen's delegate on this committee a few years ago when he was in his first term. Anyways, I'm back on it and I could see that the progress of the committee had stagnated and they were having a bit of trouble finding purpose. Everyone agreed that it was important for there to be an authoritative voice for writing on campus, but were doubtful that this committee was that place anymore. However, UWC had the important function of bringing together writing experts from each of the centres of writing on campus, including faculty writing support centres. Previously, UWC reported to TLAT, which was a subcommittee of CLE, but TLAT no longer exists, so UWC became an orphan committee. I raised this issue with the Provost's office a long time ago and that resulted in the committee becoming a report to the Provost. Currently we are working on a report to be sent to the Provost/New President on the importance of writing at the University and how a restructured version of UWC should become the central authority on decisions made around writing on campus. I actually find this committee, and the restructure that I am helping with, really fun. I would be really excited to see the prominence of writing support on campus be improved/increased because 80% of classes of some sort of writing component, and most of them have more than one writing assignment.

I've noticed a general stagnation in the progress of committees in the second half of my term. For example, a lot of meetings for really big committees are getting cancelled, citing 'no business' and many meetings have not too many things of substance to talk about on the agenda. In some rare cases committees are being dissolved. And I mean, I sit on 55 committees and my life would be easier if there were a few less, but every single one of them is important to me anyways. My theory on this is that the university is in a relative state of flux. There is a President-Elect and we know who he is (David Turpin), there is a search ongoing for a new Provost, and there is an announcement on how much our budget will get cut on March 26 looming over us.

I'm having an interesting time on the Provost search committee as well. I spent quite a bit of time on that this week. I can't say too much about it since it is a closed search, though.



The reason why I advocated for formative mid-semester feedback in the fall term is because there is a line in our Quality Instruction policy that says this: “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students’ Union advocate for increased communication between students and professors through informal mid-semester feedback”. Although I would like to thank the student who took the time to write me an email encouraging me to cease my advocacy on this point because I am “annoying to all professors and most students”, the online formative mid-term feedback tool was presented as an option this term and a small number of professors took advantage of it.

There is an issue growing under the surface on campus with regards to grading writing assignments of English as a Second Language students that I think will bubble to the surface soon. I will not be taking any active steps on this one, but since I don't know how soon this will be talked about more openly, I have been gathering information. I have so far met with the Dean of the Faculty of Extension who gave me tons of relevant information on the supports already offered to ESL students on campus. There is a diverse set of resources available, however, I don't know how prominent they are and they can be quite pricey. My sense of the issue is that Canadian universities are somewhat behind in dealing with this issue.

The project of getting rid of the provision of a financial reviewer for FAs and CAs is well underway. There is now a system that has been developed based on the past budgets of Associations and VP Hodgson is doing consultations with every single VP Finance now to get feedback and make additions to the tool.

The SU's new strategic plan is almost done! After months of work we seem to have a product that we agree on and it's incredibly exciting. I feel extremely good about the contents and structure of our strategic plan for the next four years. The main selling point for me is that the goals are much less vague than the last one. When we come back to assess our progress in four years' time, we actually be able to say, 'yes, we accomplished that'.

Committee on the Learning Environment yesterday was definitely an interesting one. There were two things on the agenda: Rubrics and USRIs. For rubrics, it was myself and Ken Cor giving a presentation on the importance of rubrics and the proper use of them. I think the presentation went well and the discussion was productive. No one challenged the basic premise that rubrics could be useful but they cited resource (human and financial) concerns to sideline the issue. They want evidence that this is a real problem at U of A and not simply a student perception. This will help them to get more resources and put forward a persuasive case before instructors. There is some merit in this approach, but the fallacy of this approach is the difficulties in gathering the evidence required (again lack of resource argument). The outcome of the presentation was that the university and us will do further exploration into gathering evidence specific to the U of A and doing an environmental scan of the resources that already exist with regards to the creation of rubrics. The chair emphasized that CTL should continue to do outreach and training with its resources and also review current thinking and research on assessment of performance based learning.

In ASC SOS this morning we discussed two items: the bioinformatics major and some changes to the calendar to make certificates clearer. The program streams related to bioinformatics will no longer be offered starting in 2016. The program has much lower uptake than expected, mostly because the program requirements do not allow for much flexibility in the schedule. The great majority of students



who take intro bioinformatics are honours science students who are not in the program. Nothing will change for the students who are already in the program, the last degree will be handed out 2020. Students will be able to take bioinformatics as a minor after 2016. There was no consultation done with current students, they deemed it unnecessary because they were working for the benefit of prospective students, not current students. I was disappointed in the lack of consultation with ISSS, but overall I think this proposal opens the program up to more students so I mentioned the consultation problem, but didn't dwell on it. The other item was from the Registrar's Office and is in relation to some calendar changes that are intended to make certificates clearer to students. It actually looks really good. This item was accompanied by a discussion on how to make what certificates are available more transparent to students. Recruiters are talking about them to high school students and it's agreed that faculties need to make the certificates that they offer apparent on their websites.

Live Long and Prosper,  
Kathryn Orydzuk

You speak in favour of a motion	A fellow councilor uses the word fiduciary	A fellow councilor quotes Bylaw or Political Policy	A fellow councilor calls a point of order	The meeting goes longer than three hours
You spot a fellow councilor on Facebook	A fellow councilor uses up their whole speaking turn	A fellow councilor calls for division	You give a presentation to council	You agree with something the wise and wondrous VP Academic says
Plans are made to go to RATT after council	Any presentation is given to council	FREE SQUARE Council has quorum FREE SQUARE	You ask one of the execs a question	The Speaker bangs his gavel
A motion fails	You call to question	A fellow councilor moves a motion	A fellow councilor arrives late	A fellow council gets censured
You challenge the Speaker	You actually read the exec reports	A fellow councilor moves to make an amendment	A fellow councilor moves to make an amendment to an amendment	You speak against a motion