

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

**Tuesday, November 7, 2017
6:00PM
Augustana Campus**

LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2017-12)

- 2017-12/1 SPEAKERS BUSINESS**
- 2017-12/2 PRESENTATIONS**
- 2017-12/3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**
- 2017-12/4 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORT**
- 2017-12/5 OPEN FORUM**
- 2017-12/6 QUESTION PERIOD**

Vice President LARSEN to Councillor CHOI:

Hi Darren,

Thanks for the question! I have prepared a response and small report for you to look over, which is attached.

Cheers,

Reed Larsen

See SC 2017-12.01

Governor SANDARE to Councillor CHOI:

Hello Councillor Choi,

Thank you very much for your question! I am very glad you asked, deferred maintenance is one of the big budgetary topics we discuss at the Board.

For further context, the term 'deferred maintenance' refers to maintenance and repair work on campus ranging everywhere from broken locks, to plumbing and

electrical, up to major renovations and structural changes to our labs, facilities, buildings etc. that has "maintenance that was not performed when it should have been, or was scheduled and did not occur. Therefore it is delayed or deferred to a future period."

Though Associate Vice-President Allen was referring to Deferred Maintenance as a whole he addressed some particular areas of interest. He mentioned that mechanical, electrical, and building exterior work made up the majority portion of the repairs. Regarding the \$450M, he mentioned facilities in dire need of repair such as the Dentistry/Pharmacy Renovation (a \$249M project), the Administration Building, CAB, AgFor, and Hoyme Complex as areas of focus that make up much of our immediate maintenance needs. One of the largest setbacks of renewal is a need for greater funds. In addition, a lack of decant space on campus limits the capacity of the University to perform maintenance (note decant space refers to extra space on campus that is used to relocate students, staff and inventory while renovations are happening).*

"Inventory Reduction" was mentioned as a plan to help combat our growing deferred maintenance needs. It means that the University will prioritize facilities that have utility on campus, and is considering demolishing buildings that do not. (An example of this is the Dentistry/Pharmacy Renovation Project that aims to centralize the administrative offices of the University in Dent/Pharm, while demolishing the Administration Building). In addition to Inventory Reduction, major plans to combat our deferred maintenance needs are focusing funding on areas in dire need of renewal, as well as advocacy for more funds to help combat this issue. It is crucial that we advocate for increased funding to address our Deferred Maintenance needs in order to ensure the highest quality experience for members of our campus community.

Thank you again for your question, addressing deferred maintenance is essential to improving our campus experience and I am glad you are interested learning more!

*Best regards,
Mike Sandare*

(PS. Here is an article you may find interesting:

<https://www.google.ca/amp/edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/cash-flows-in-f-or-u-of-a-dentpharm-building/amp>)

- 2017-12/7** **BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS**
- 2017-12/7a** **SUNDAY MOVES** to appoint two (2) members of Students' Council to the Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Ad Hoc Committee.
- 2017-12/7b** **SUNDAY MOVES** to appoint one (1) member of Students' Council to the Council Administration Committee.
- 2017-12/8** **GENERAL ORDERS**

2017-12/9 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2017-12/9a Vice-President (External) LARSEN Report to Councillor CHOI

See SC 2017-12.01

2017-12/9b Councillor LEFFERSON - Official Resignation

See SC 2017-12.02

Date: Nov. 16, 2017
To: Students' Council, Councillor Choi
Re: Written Question on Deferred Maintenance

Hi Councillor Choi,

Thank you for the question! Below is a full report on the ongoing advocacy directed towards deferred maintenance.

Backgrounder

I believe that the article that you are referencing is the latest to come out of the Edmonton Journal on [October 21st](#). This has been a rolling news story, meaning it surfaces every year ([article from November last year](#)), if not few months. The UASU has been aware of the issue for some time, passing our own [deferred maintenance political policy](#) in April 2015, which is also up for renewal this year. The earliest mention I can find of the issue in Council of Alberta University Students history is 2008.

Recently deferred maintenance has had a spotlight on it because of a few major incidents at the UofA. We had a major malfunction in [ice core storage](#) and in [research including fish](#). Both of these incidents got widespread news coverage.

There has also been some good news. The Government of Alberta (GOA) has invested significantly into the [Dentistry and Pharmacy building](#) on campus recently, to the tune of 149 million dollars. With a bit of license, you could also call the grants received for the Myer Horowitz as costing against deferred maintenance.

Where we receive funding for deferred maintenance is a mixture of provincial and even some federal grants. The most notable are the Campus Alberta Grant and The Infrastructure Maintenance Program, both run by the GOA.

"The Infrastructure Maintenance Program is an annual grant which goes towards maintaining and improving facility conditions. However, this program continues to be underfunded. The Government has committed to increasing this grant from \$101 million in 2016-2017 to \$190 million by 2020-21. This increase must be directed specifically into the most student-focused areas on campus." - CAUS 2017

Advocacy

Student advocacy on this file is something that is gaining momentum, not only here at the UofA, but across Alberta. It is important to note that primary lobbying on deferred maintenance is and should be done by the administration of the University itself. What we can do as students is ensure that the student experience and student priorities are taken into account when there are discussion on deferred maintenance.

This year we mention deferred maintenance directly in our internal advocacy document¹ and have spoken directly with several MLA's on the issue. VP Paches is also working on a internal report of student priorities for deferred maintenance which will serve to bolster our external efforts.

CAUS has sat on the Post Secondary Review since 2015, a part of which has since become the Funding Frameworks. I attended the Funding Frameworks Review Focus group on July 26th ([reported at that time](#)) and presented CAUS priorities there. This was the last Focus Group meeting that the government was going to hold until a formula is released in the new year. We touched on deferred maintenance quite a lot and we largely gave our recommendations that funding be sustainable, predictable, and long-term.

This year CAUS added a new section to its advocacy document, Funding Frameworks, which closes on a statement on [deferred maintenance](#);

"Many of our institutions are in desperate need of campus infrastructure upgrades and, as a result, students' safety and campus experience is suffering due to a lack of investment. CAUS recommends that the Government of Alberta make significant and continued investments into campus infrastructure and deferred maintenance while developing its funding framework."

Further, CAUS will be submitting a budget submission early next week which includes a in depth breakdown of our position on deferred maintenance, the cost of such a ask, and the next steps forward. I will distribute the full submission once it is released, but the current final recommendations will likely include:

CAUS RECOMMENDS:

- Ensuring stable and predictable funding is being provided to institutions on a three year rolling basis so that they can plan appropriately.
- Ensuring that institutions receive back-fill funding for tuition freezes.
- Ensuring that tuition does not make up more than 20% of any institution's annual budget.
- Providing funding to institutions on principles of educational outcomes rather than purely economic outcomes.
- Providing funding to institutions equivalent to 10% of their total deferred maintenance liability so that they may begin strategically addressing the issue.

I will be attending CAUS advocacy days from Nov. 5 - 6th and will be able to update Council as to how receptive the GOA is to these asks going forward.

Cheers,
Reed Larsen

¹ I am writing this response from home and do not have access to that document in an easily sharable format. Please follow up in interested.

Good afternoon,

I am writing to inform you of my decision to resign from Student's Council for personal reasons.

It has come to my attention that my personal goals and that of Student's Council do not align and I am not able to make the impact that ALES students deserve. I have also encountered a course conflict with Student's Council meetings, where one of my Winter semester courses that was initially scheduled during the day has been changed to a Tuesday night class. I need this course in order to graduate next term and there is no alternative, thus not allowing me to be present in Council.

As a result, I believe that it is only fair to the student body and to Council that I withdraw from this position to allow a candidate to apply for the vacancy whom can dedicate more of their energy, passion, and time to make the proper impact that students would like to achieve.

I am thankful to Council for teaching me what it could and for the connections I've made with my peers. Best wishes to all members of the Student's Union. Please let me know if there is anyone else whom I should contact regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Haley Lefferson | Pronouns: She/Her

BSc. in Human Ecology, Faculty of ALES, Major in Family Ecology, Minor in Aging

Student's Union Councillor 2017 - Faculty of ALES

Career Peer Educator - University of Alberta Career Centre

