

Tuesday, May 21, 2019
6:00PM
Council Chambers, University Hall

We would like to respectfully acknowledge that our University and our Students' Union are located on Treaty 6 Territory. We are grateful to be on Cree, Dene, 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 and work towards the decolonization of Indigenous knowledges and traditions.

LATE ADDITIONS (SC-2019-02)

- 2019-02/1 SPEAKERS BUSINESS
- 2019-02/2 PRESENTATIONS
- 2019-02/3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
- 2019-02/4 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORT
- 2019-02/5 OPEN FORUM
- 2019-02/6 QUESTION PERIOD
- 2019-02/6a **Councillor DRAPER to Vice-President STATT:**

"Hello Luke,

It recently came to my attention that the Studentcare conference which Vp Statt and Vp Larsen are attending next week provides both the flight to and the accommodations in Montreal. This raised alarm bells for me as this is a gift with a value of over \$1,000. Based on the Government of Canada conflict of interest policy, which I believe is a standard all should strive to exceed, especially those in governance positions, a "conflict of interest arises whenever an employee's private interests, outside activities, receipt of a gift, hospitality, or other benefits, or plans for post-employment, will impair or could be perceived to impair, their ability to make decisions with integrity, impartiality, honesty."

With student care being a major corporation, and with many students using the SU's health and dental plans, the stakes for a conflict of interest are high. Although I believe these VPs would hold themselves to a strong moral and ethical standard, although sadly there is no guarantee all future execs will.

The meat of my questions is this, what are the measures in the SU in place to prevent things like this, will you support stricter conflict of interest policies, can you guarantee this conference will not impact your decision on the provider of the SU Health and Dental plan, and will you be looking for other providers at this time?"

Vice-President STATT to Councillor DRAPER:

"Hi David, thanks for the question!

Travel and accommodations for the StudentCare conference are not considered a gift as this conference acts as an educational tool for Executives to learn about the health coverage and how students can best utilize the plan. With this information, we can ensure our health plan reflects the needs of students on campus. As to your concern that this conference may impact our decision making, we do not make decisions around large scale items alone or without check from the rest of the Executive team and appropriate managers. We have an established Health and Dental Committee, which is made up of students and a StudentCare representative - more information can be found [here](#). Additionally, as per the content of the conference, our Operating Policy, section 4, states that we may "submit a written report outlining the benefits of attendance within two weeks of returning from the conference, what impact said attendance shall have on the Students' Union, and a recommendation on attendance in the future." These conference reports from members of the Executive Committee are included in our bi-weekly reports to Students' Council for information, and Vice-President Larsen and I can make an effort to verbally note them at the Council meeting following the conference for those that may not have the opportunity to review our written report. Also, the last request for proposals for the healthcare provider took place in 2018 and they are re-evaluated every five years. We are not closed to other providers, although StudentCare has consistently been a fantastic partner to work with, with comparatively low rates, and services that reflect what students are using.

Going forward, if you or any others would like better reporting to ensure the accountability of the Executive team on certain items, we can certainly make an effort to do so. Conflict of interest is always something that is worth discussing--and something that I would have likely asked about last year as a Councillor-- but the potential risk is mitigated by the above measures taken by the Students' Union to act with integrity."

2019-02/7

BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2019-02/8

GENERAL ORDERS

2019-02/8a

CHEN MOVES, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, to ratify the appointment to Alana KRAHN and Jonathan MARTIN to the position of Business Councillors on General Faculty Council.

2019-02/9

INFORMATION ITEMS

2019-02/9a

Board of Governors - Report.

See SC-2019-02.10.

Hello Council,

It has been an exciting first three weeks on the Board of Governors. Myself, President Bhatnagar, and GSA President Fahed Elian had our first full meeting of the Board of Governors. At this meeting, we passed new guiding principles for infrastructure on campus, which, among other things, focus on creating a pleasant and accessible pedestrian environment, and considering maintenance costs more during the design phase of buildings. We passed terms of reference for a committee that will search for a new President for the University, which will include two undergraduate students. The agendas and minutes for this last, and all, board meetings can be found here:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/governance/member-zone/board-of-governors/board-open-session-agenda-listings>

Personally, I've had a very unpleasant strep throat for a week now and so have fallen behind on some business I was hoping to complete this week. I have also been forced to change around my flights for some important personal travel plans by this, which means I will have to miss two Board events next week— I will have to miss the Board Reputation and Public Affairs Committee meeting on the 28th and a brief meeting of the Board on May 27th. Fortunately, I don't expect to have to miss any other Board functions this year.

Today I am not at council as I am off starting those same travel plans, starting with visiting my elderly grandparents on Vancouver Island. Much as I regret missing several great governance events, family is of course always the most important thing. Have a good meeting and I will see you all in June!

Rowan Ley
Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative