

**Tuesday, September 10, 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-2019-09)

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|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2019-09/1 | <u>SPEAKERS BUSINESS</u> |
| 2019-09/2 | <u>PRESENTATIONS</u> |
| 2019-09/3 | <u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT</u> |
| 2019-09/4 | <u>BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORT</u> |
| 2019-09/5 | <u>OPEN FORUM</u> |
| 2019-09/6 | <u>QUESTION PERIOD</u> |
| 2019-09/7 | <u>BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS</u> |
| 2019-09/8 | <u>GENERAL ORDERS</u> |
| 2019-09/8a | BHATNAGAR MOVES to discuss the University of Alberta Students' Union climate action approach.

See SC-2019-09.17. |
| 2019-09/9 | <u>INFORMATION ITEMS</u> |
| 2019-09/9o | Climate Action Approach, Question Response(s).

See SC-2019-09.17. |
| 2019-09/9p | Board of Governors - Report.

See SC-2019-09.18. |

Dear Council,

First, thank you for engaging in this conversation with us and taking steps to engage with the Executive Committee. We want to keep our answer concise, but if you need further clarification, please do not hesitate to follow up. There is no doubt that our climate is changing, both globally and locally. The impacts of these changes on our future are undeniable, and we do acknowledge this. The question we need to ask ourselves is what is the most effective and appropriate way for the Students' Union to respond? We look forward to a discussion at Council on this matter.

Below are the answers to the questions posed via the letter submitted.

- 1. Will the University of Alberta Students' Union inform students about the general strike on September 27?**
 - a. Please see question two.
- 2. Will the University of Alberta Students' Union inform students about the general strike on September 27 through its campus-wide email lists?**
 - a. This event is scheduled to be integrated into our newsletter content. We would encourage the Climate Justice Action group and other interested groups to advertise the event through platforms such as BearsDen and the Student Group Services newsletter.
- 3. Will the University of Alberta Students' Union inform students about the general strike on September 27 through our social media platforms?**
 - a. Our official "[UASU](#)" social media is tailored to communicate official stances, services and operations of the Students' Union. Currently, the Students' Union does not have an official policy on this issue.
- 4. Will the University of Alberta Students' Union advocate against attendance penalties towards students who miss class to attend the general strike on September 27?**
 - a. We would encourage students to talk to their professors beforehand should they wish to participate.
- 5. Will the University of Alberta Students' Union join dozens of Canadian cities and thousands of universities around the world to declare a climate emergency?**
 - a. The UASU does not make public statements without full and complete discussion as an organization.
- 6. Will the University of Alberta Students' Union Executive pledge to take climate change seriously and take direct action to help University of Alberta students tackle this massive issue?**
 - a. Every member of this Executive takes this issue seriously. We stand by our ongoing commitment to environmental, fiscal and social sustainability.

7. **Will the University of Alberta Students' Union have the courage to do what's right, not what's easy?**
 - a. This question is framed in a way that is disrespectful to the entire organization. Hundreds of staff, volunteers, and representatives work daily in accordance with our [organizational values and principles](#). We encourage you to think about the impact that your words have on this organization, as members of its Board of Directors.
8. **If any of the previous requests receives a 'no' vote, will the Executive Committee of the University of Alberta Students' Union give thorough reasoning as to why this decision was made?**
 - a. Our thoughts are explained above. We are looking forward to discussing this further. VP Brown has also reached out to all of you individually to have this open dialogue and work constructively towards a solution.

Kind regards,
2019/20 UASU Executive Committee

Report to Students' Council
Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative
September 10, 2019

Hello Council,

Welcome back to classes! I hope you are all enjoying your new year so far. I would like to start with a small note about why my report is always on the late additions, in case anyone is wondering. It's because important events on the Board are almost always on Fridays, and I think it's better to be able to give you the most updated news and miss the Thursday order papers deadline, rather than giving you two week old news in the initial order paper. That's why generally my reports will be on the late additions— however, when I can, I try to send them in the WhatsApp chat.

Last Thursday and Friday, myself, President Bhatnagar, and Fahed Elian (the president of the Graduate Students' Association) attended the Board of Governors strategic retreat with the rest of the Board, and had an opportunity to meet our new public members. Some were surprisingly receptive to student needs— in fact, one of the new members helped negotiate the uPass as a MacEwan University Board of Governors representative. Most of the new members agreed to meet with me, and I will hopefully meet most of them in the next couple of weeks. The Minister of Advanced Education, Demetrios Nicolaides, spoke at the retreat and took questions. I would describe his remarks and answers as a mixed bag of good and bad news. On one hand, he made it clear that the government expects universities to make do with significantly less public funding and that his vision for the University of Alberta is closer to the business models of the Universities of Toronto and British Columbia. These universities have much higher tuition, larger class sizes, and have either large endowments or land development projects that give them independent revenue streams. On the other hand, I was able to ask him about the predictability of student aid in Alberta, and I was reassured that he said he recognizes how important student aid is for social mobility, does not think it is appropriate to cut it even in times of significant budget pressure, and that in fact likely new student aid would be announced shortly. The new Board Chair, Kate Chisholm, also spoke at the retreat, and generally supported Minister Nicolaides expectations, saying that we can choose to see upcoming cuts either as a disaster or an opportunity.

On the student side of things, I have scheduled meetings with the President of the HUB community association for this week, I am going to the East Campus Students' Association executive meeting on Friday, and I have reached out to the Aboriginal Students Association and several other Residence Associations to meet with their Presidents or Executives. If anyone has any other suggestions for groups I should talk to about how the Board impacts their

student experience, please let me know and I would be happy to set up a meeting.

Lastly, I have been making good progress on my promise to get Board of Governors meetings livestreamed. I have arranged for a discussion about board live-streaming at the Board Governance Committee on November 27 (unfortunately it could not be fit into the schedule sooner), and will be doing a small presentation to present the case for live-streaming. I am fairly confident that I will be able to convince the committee, especially given that several major university boards, including UBC and U of T, already do this. While it would be a small victory, a small victory for students on the board is still a big deal, and I hope it would make the board more accountable and transparent.

Enjoy the last few snow free weeks!

-Rowan Ley