

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

6:00PM

Zoom

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-2019-22)

- 2019-22/1 SPEAKERS BUSINESS
- 2019-22/1a Announcements - The next meeting of Students' Council will take place on **Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 6:00PM** in Zoom.
- 2019-22/2 PRESENTATIONS
- 2019-22/3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
- 2019-22/4 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORT
- 2019-22/5 OPEN FORUM
- 2019-22/6 QUESTION PERIOD
- 2019-22/7 BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS
- 2019-22/7a **STATT/BADESHA MOVE**, on behalf of Bylaw Committee, to approve the First Principles of Bill 11.

See SC-2019-22.01.
- 2019-22/8 GENERAL ORDERS
- 2019-22/9 CLOSED SESSION
- 2019-22/10 INFORMATION ITEMS
- 2019-22/10a First Principles - Bill 11.

See SC-2019-22.01.
- 2019-22/10b President - Report.

See SC-2019-22.02.

2019-22/10c Board of Governor - Report.

See SC-2019-22.03.

The Creation of Bylaw 9000, The Emergency Procedures Act.

1. The University of Alberta Students' Union Bylaws serve an important role in ensuring good governance and due process of our legislation and activities.
2. Legislative bodies have emergency protocol legislation to help streamline decision making in times of crisis.
 - a. The Students' Union does not currently have such legislation.
3. Even with intense planning and research, it is impossible to determine when or how the Students' Union can deal with an emergency scenario which puts the existence of the Students' Union at risk.
 - a. During these times, timely responses are necessary for the safety of students and continuation of the Students' Union.
4. Any piece of legislation which would allow the Students' Council to suspend its own bylaws, policies, or operating policies, cannot be used lightly and must have clear limits to its power.
5. A piece of emergency protocol legislation is required to ensure the SU can act quickly to make necessary decisions and to prioritize taking action in order to address the emergency. This emergency action requires authority over normal bylaw requirements during emergency situations.
6. To enact Bylaw 9000:
 - a. A unanimous vote of the Executive Committee to enact Bylaw 9000 accompanied by demonstrated cause,
 - b. This motion would then be sent to Students' Council to be passed through a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote,
 - c. The motion at Students' Council must include a timeline for Bylaw 9000 to close. This timeline must be less than 2 months.
7. To extend Bylaw 9000
 - a. To extend Bylaw 9000 past its original timeline, a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote of Students' Council to extend to a specific date must pass.
8. To close Bylaw 9000
 - a. Bylaw 9000 can be closed through one of three (3) ways:
 - i. A simple majority vote of Students' Council,
 - ii. The timeline listed at the time of enacting of the bylaw ends,
 - iii. consensus vote of the Executive Committee.
9. The boundaries of Bylaw 9000 are such that:
 - a. It cannot be used to extend the terms of the Executive committee or Students' Council.

- b. It cannot override the results of any Students' Union General Elections, By-Election, or impact the voting power of the student body.
 - c. It cannot override Bylaw 100 or Bylaw 1500 except in their mention of other bylaws, political policies, operational policies, or committees.
 - i. Under Bylaw 9000 the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement (DIE) Board has authority to discipline the Students' Union in reference to Bylaw 9000 or bylaws and policies which are not suspended.
10. When enacted Bylaw 9000 must have a timeline for its closure.
- a. All motions passed during the implementation of Bylaw 9000 must receive a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote of Students' Council.
 - b. This Bylaw can only be enacted in three (2) month periods.
 - i. Any extension longer than three (2) months requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote of Students' Council.
11. During the period where bylaw 9000 is active Students' Council can meet with as little as twelve (12) hours notice.

Date: March 5, 2020

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Executive Committee 2019/20 Report #17 - **The COVID-19 Edition**

Dear Council,

I am writing this report on behalf of the Executive team. Joel, Jared, Luke and Adam have been showing some intense leadership during these unprecedented times, and although this is now how I thought we would end our term together, I continue to be incredibly awed by their resilience. It has been an all hands on deck situation at the UASU. We and our staff have been working around the clock to ensure the best outcomes for students. Below is an update on behalf of the Executive regarding the COVID-19 Crisis.

Within just 5 days, so much has changed, but this information is accurate as of Mar 22nd, 2020 @ 9:00AM. Things will continue to change, so please stay up to date by visiting uasu.ca/covid19 or uab.ca/covid19.

1. Executive Committee

- We continue to meet, less frequently, and online to discuss major operational changes.
- In addition to the regular duties of the job, which have not stopped, here are the areas each VP and I have focussed on:
 - VP Statt has been working on important bylaw amendments, internal staff management and the SU budget.
 - VP Larsen has been working closely with Residence services.
 - VP Brown has been working with CAUS and CASA to shift our advocacy priorities to reflect our current climate.
 - VP Agarwal and I have been working internally with our Core Management to make some large operational changes, working with our Marketing and Communications department to get information out and create a mental wellness campaign, working internally with the University on large campus-wide changes faculty, professors, and truly working tirelessly with the rest of the team.

2. SU Operations Changes

- We took the following hard steps to limit in-person interactions in all of our operations in order to limit the risk within our community. Although this necessarily involves the closure of some spaces and businesses, we're doing our best to keep our most essential services running in ways that are both safe and accessible.
- The **Peer Support Centre** will remain open to support you. Walk-in sessions will not be available, but appointments for a phone session can be made at uasu.ca/psc.
- Safewalk will be closed until further notice.

Akanksha Bhatnagar, President

2-900 SUB | 780 492 4241 | president@su.ualberta.ca

- **SUBmart** will remain open with reduced hours to ensure that students in residence and university staff have access to their basic needs. We are selling \$2 bags of grocery bags, with all proceeds going to the Campus Food Bank.
- **The Landing Society's** drop-in hours and in-person programming will be suspended until further notice. Reach out to thelanding@su.ualberta.ca if you need some support during the closure.
- **InfoLink's** CAB, main-floor SUB, and Student Connect desks will be closed. The International Services Centre (Telus), will close at 4:30 today and remain closed indefinitely. Student Life Central (SLC), and the Onecard Service Centre (HUB) will remain open.
- **Student Group Services'** Winter 2020 Group Leader Orientation (GLO) Skills sessions are canceled. Groups who are only missing GLO Skills will be granted temporary recognition.
- **Sustain SU:** The Student Sustainability Service's bike library will be closed, the Reusable Dish Program will be unavailable, and the SUB Farmers Market will be halted until further notice.
- All **UASU Events** are canceled until further notice.
- **SUB** will remain open 7 days a week, 7AM-11PM, although the food-court vendors may have reduced hours.
- Services such as LEAD and Discover Governance will no longer be conducting in-person programming.
- Our bars, **Dewey's and Room at the Top**, closed as of Wednesday (March 18th).
- SUBprint will remain open for online submissions and in-person project pickups. Order-at-the-counter services have been suspended.
- We are partnering with the Dean of Students to provide **academic resources** within SUB such as computer access
- The **University of Alberta Campus Food Bank's** new hours are Wednesday and Thursday from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

3. Residence Update

- Residents were given notice that they should return home for March 24th if they could. However, we confirmed that those who cannot, for any reason, find a safe way home, or believe that staying in residence is the only and safest place for them, they will not have to leave by March 24th. They will receive a "Request to Remain in Residence" form, where they can describe your circumstances and indicate how long they require housing. For example, if you have decided to go home, but your flight leaves on March 29th - that is fine, and Residence Services will support you and you can stay.
- However, we do ask that if they can, they return home to allow social-distancing space for:
 - International students unable to travel to their home country,
 - Out-of-province students who need extra time to move out,

- Students who are currently self-isolating,
- Students with other exceptional circumstances.
- If you or people you know are unsure of whether their particular circumstance is an “exceptional circumstance”, please contact housing@ualberta.ca and they will be able to address your concerns.
- If you choose to leave, residence and meal plan fees will be refunded prorated to the date of move out.
- **We have worked with Enterprise to get the rental age limit lowered, and a discount code. Information and details at uasu.ca/covid19**

4. Academic Changes

- This was a large change and we received and brought forward a lot of feedback, thoughts, and comments forward to the University regarding this piece. We have been working closely with the University of Alberta to ensure that your health and safety are prioritized, while minimizing the impacts on your academics. We strongly believe that students should not have to sacrifice their health in order to complete your classes this semester.
- The University put out communications today here: shorturl.at/avJS6.
- Here are some FAQs with the Registrar, courtesy of the Gateway: shorturl.at/hoxU9
- Here is a summary of the important changes to your grading and classes for the Winter 2020 semester:
 - **FINAL GRADES**
 - All courses will be assessed on a pass/fail basis, meaning that students will receive a credit (CR) or no-credit (NC) grade for all Winter 2020 courses. These will not factor into the calculation of your GPA. No letter grades will be assigned.
 - Deans of programs may make exceptions where grades are required for accreditation or licensure requirements. If an exception is made for a particular program or course, students will be informed by their Dean no later than April 1, 2020.
 - **WITHDRAWAL**
 - The date to withdraw from your Winter term course(s) has been extended to April 8, 2020. No fee refunds will be assessed.
 - **FINAL EXAMS**
 - There will be no in-person final assessments or exams for Winter 2020 courses. Students will be informed by their instructor of the remote format of their final exam or assessment no later than March 27, 2020. If students require alterations in their approved accommodations, please contact arrec@ualberta.ca.

- TRANSCRIPTS

- Post-secondary institutions across the world are trying to respond to this unprecedented situation as well as they can. Transcripts will clearly state that your grades were either a Credit (CR) / Non-Credit (NC) due to the global pandemic - COVID-19.

- URSI's SUSPENDED FOR WINTER 2020

- The Universal Student Ratings of Instruction have been suspended for Winter 2020. This decision was made to ensure that we are making the best use of our academic and administrative resources in these extraordinary circumstances.
- While these are substantial changes, the UASU will continue to work to minimize impact on your degrees, your scholarships, or any further post-secondary opportunities you wish to pursue. We ask that if these changes have a disproportionate impact on you, please reach out to your professors, and/or your Faculty Deans.

5. Phishing Scams are Increasing

- In the rapidly changing COVID-19 situation, and the University's need to work online and remotely, information and cyber security risks are elevated. Scammers are exploiting the COVID-19 situation through urgent appeals for monetary donations and unsolicited/irregular emails or text messages that are supposedly from University senior leaders, management/supervisors, or coworkers. Be very cautious and vigilant.

6. North Campus Buildings

- With the move to remote class delivery and reductions in research to essential activities, **effective Monday March 23, 2020**, entering University Buildings will require card access or keys.
- **SUB** will remain open, from 7AM-11PM, 7 days a week.
- **Cameron Library** has reduced hours: Monday to Thursday: 8 am - 8 pm, Friday: 8 am - 6 pm, Weekends: CLOSED.

7. Research Updates [here](#), provided by the University.**8. External Updates**

- Both the Government of Canada and Government of Alberta announced **six-month, interest-free moratoriums** on student loan payments.
 - [Government of Canada.](#)
 - [Government of Alberta.](#)

Lastly, On March 21st, Alberta Health Services (AHS) confirmed that a University of Alberta member on North Campus has tested positive for COVID-19 and is recovering in isolation. At the rate COVID-19 is quickly spreading through our communities, potentially impacting our

loved ones, and interfering with our normal day to day lives, it's okay to feel scared or uncertain right now. But, I want to reassure you that we are all in this together. **At this point in time, taking actions to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19 are no longer optional—they are necessary.** Right now, if all of us take this pandemic seriously, and follow the guidelines Alberta Health Services has provided, we can minimize the damage that will be done in our communities. We need to do everything we can now.

To minimize the spread of any respiratory virus (including things like the flu/influenza and COVID-19), Alberta Health Services recommends the following:

- Wash your hands with soap and water often. If soap and water are not readily available, you can use alcohol-based hand sanitizer, if hands are not visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Use a tissue when you cough or sneeze and throw it in a garbage bin lined with a plastic bag.
- If you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve.
- Wash your hands immediately after coughing and/or sneezing.
- Stay home if you're sick.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are shared and used often.

I know things feel uncertain right now, and that is okay. Just know that we are always here to support you, if you need someone to chat with, please reach out. I'm happy to co-work together over video if other extroverts like me need the support. In a time like this, tell your loved ones how much you love them, and *let's all act with unbridled compassion.*

Much love from myself, and the entire SU Executive,



University of Alberta Students' Union President
Akanksha Bhatnagar

Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative: Report to Student's Council
March 24 2020

Hello Council,

I hope you are all doing well (or as well as possible) right now, and have found ways to make life in isolation a bit more interesting and pleasant. My work on the Board has not been significantly disrupted by the COVID-19 emergency, as most Board business has been moved online. I apologize that this report is on the late additions, as I wanted to wait to get the most recent updates from President Turpin about the budget situation to make sure it is as relevant as possible in the quickly-changing situation.

Firstly, congratulations to Dave Konrad for being elected to succeed me next year. I have almost finished a transition package for Dave which will I hope smooth the learning curve of Board governance, including bios of board members, advice on how to handle common situations, etc. He also attended the March 13th Board meeting, and will likely attend the next Board meeting and Committee meetings in April by videoconference. I had been planning to set up casual meetings between Dave and other Board members that we have established relationships with, but obviously I am having to reconsider those plans and it seems unlikely that video calls would have the same relationship-building effect.

It is important to note that university admin has been forced to deal with two crises at a time—the crisis of COVID-19 and of the \$110 million in cuts made to the University this year. When we are angry or frustrated at the University's handling of this situation, we need to remember that the institution is stretched very thin and is ultimately made up of people who are doing their best in a very challenging time, perhaps the most challenging in the University's 112-year history. The Board is not directly handling COVID-19 response. We receive updates from Andrew Sharman, the University's Vice-President Facilities and Operations, but the Board does not make emergency management decisions. The Board also does not make academic decisions— so the recent controversy over the credit/no-credit system was handled at GFC and not the Board. The Board's main work is in managing the second crisis of the budget.

We had a Board meeting on March 13th, where normally the budget would be approved. However, administration had to go back to the drawing board when we were given an 11% cut by the province rather than the anticipated 5-7%. This scale of cut was completely unexpected, and the methods behind the decision were extremely simplistic and unfair. The U of A has been singled out to receive by far the largest cut of any institution in this province, and it is not an exaggeration to say that our status as a global top 100 university (in some rankings) and Canadian top-5 is threatened. This impacts all of us, as the value of our degree to employers and graduate/professional programs stems partly from the perception of the U of A as an excellent institution. Needless to say, student services are also going to suffer.

The University is legally obligated to provide a balanced budget to the Ministry by March 31st. Unfortunately, despite the crisis of COVID-19 and its massive disruption to the University and society, the Minister has offered absolutely no relief to U of A. Our very harsh budget goals and deadlines are all remaining in place. Furthermore, the Minister has refused to allow the University to draw money out of reserves to finance severance packages for employees it has to lay off. This means that the University now has to lay off nearly twice as many employees, simply to afford the severance packages of the first half. I cannot begin to describe how appalled and disappointed I am at the Minister's decision. It is cruel and mean-spirited to force people out of their jobs in a pandemic, and worst of all, this is not even in the long term financial interest of the U of A or the Province. The reasons for this decision are short-term and superficial, and now 256 staff will lose their jobs and student services will get worse for no valid reason. If you want to know more about the decision, read President Turpin's post in the Quad here: shorturl.at/csFZ8

Fortunately we do have slightly better news as well. William Flanagan, the Dean of Law at Queens' University in Ontario, has been appointed the next President of the U of A. From everything we have seen, he seems to be a student-friendly leader. He has experience dealing with performance-based funding, has run entrepreneurial programs in Queens' Law, and seems like the perfect person to take on the challenges U of A is facing. I am sure it will be a pleasure for next year's Council and Executive to work with him. If you want to know more about Mr. Flanagan, and hear what he wants to do in his own words, check out this link: shorturl.at/jEJV6

Stay healthy folks, and start preparing yourself. COVID-19 is just beginning, and we are in this for the long haul. When it gets frustrating, remember that we are all making sacrifices to protect the most vulnerable members of our community, and we should be proud of ourselves for doing our part.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rowan Ley', written in a cursive style.

Rowan Ley, Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative