

University of Alberta
Students' Union
STUDENTS'
COUNCIL

July 4, 2000, 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

MINUTES (SC 2000-04)

| Faculty/Position | Name | Present/absent |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| President | Leslie Church | Present |
| VP Academic | Christopher Samuel | Present |
| VP External | Naomi Agard | Present |
| VP Finance | Gregory Harlow | Present |
| VP Student Life | Jennifer Wanke | Present |
| BoG Undergrad Rep. | Mark Cormier | Present |
| Agric/Forest/HomeEc | | |
| Agric/Forest/HomeEc | | |
| Arts | Jamie Speer | Present |
| Arts | Brendan Darling | Present |
| Arts | Kirsten Odynski | Kyle Kawanami(p) |
| Arts | Kory Zwack | Present |
| Arts | Christine Rogerson | Present |
| Business | Erika Hoffman | Kevin Leung(p) |
| Business | Paul Chaput | Present |
| Business | Dean Jorgensen | Present |
| Education | Morine Bolding | Present |
| Education | Janna Roesch | Present |
| Education | Rohit Sharma | Don Coles(pp) |
| Education | Robert Hartery | Absent |
| Education | Justin Klaassen | Present |
| Engineering | Jordan Harris | Brian Martin(p) |
| Engineering | Wayne Poon | Present |
| Engineering | David Weppler | Absent |
| Engineering | Justin Lee | Dave Smith(p) |
| Engineering | Kevin Partridge | Present |
| Law | Chris Veale | Present |
| Residence Halls Association | Shannon Moore | Absent |
| Medicine/Dentistry | Andrew Schell | Absent |
| Medicine/Dentistry | Karen Cheng | Nicole Martmilmeron(p) |
| Native Studies (School of | | |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Nursing | Edmund Ledi | Absent |
| Pharmacy | Chelsey Cabaj | Curtis Arie(p) |
| Rehabilitation Medicine | Leah Ganes | Present |
| Faculté Saint-Jean | Wendy Gall | Absent |
| Science | Allen Lim | Absent |
| Science | Aleem Rajani | Present |
| Science | Zaki Taher | Absent |
| Science | Helen McGraw | Lisa Lemieux(sp) |
| Science | Chamila Adhihetty | Matylda Machnowska(p) |
| President Athletics | Tashie Macapagal | Present |
| Gateway / Editor in Chief | Dan Lazin | Present |
| Recreation Action Committee | | |
| General Manager | Bill Smith | Absent |
| Speaker | Stella Varvis | Bill Curry(sp) |
| Recording Secretary | Sarah Kelly | Present |

Observers

Michael Winters, TWO EYES, Managing Editor, The Gateway
 Don Iveson, The Gateway
 Graham Bakay, Systems Administrator
 Kenna Graham, Gold Key Society
 Karen Wichuk, Gold Key Society
 John Dunbar, News Editor, The Gateway
 Jimmy Jeong, The Gateway

2000-04/1

CALL TO ORDER

Church called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

2000-04/2

NATIONAL ANTHEM "O Canada"

Agard led Council in the singing of the national anthem.

2000-04/3

University of Alberta CHEER SONG

Lemieux led Council in the singing of the University of Alberta Cheer Song.

2000-04/4

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Rajani / Zwack moved that the meeting's agenda be approved.

Late Additions:

2000-04/5 – Election of Interim Speaker

Consensus

**2000-04/5
ELECTION OF
INTERIM SPEAKER**

HARLOW/CHAPUT MOVED THAT Students' Council elect an interim Speaker to serve until the return of Stella Varvis, Students' Council's permanent Speaker, at the end of August 2000.

At this point, the floor was open for nominations from Council.

Speer nominated Bill Curry from the Faculty of Science.

Smith nominated Brian Martin from the Faculty of Engineering.

At the close of nominations, the nominees **Curry** and **Martin** were each given one (1) minute to speak on their respective behalfs.

Curry sat on Students' Council as a Science representative for several years, during which time he also volunteered for several boards and committees, including the Financial Affairs Board and General Faculties' Council. He was also the President of the University of Alberta Science Undergraduate Association (UASUS). Finally, he proxied for **Varvis** at a Council meeting in February 2000.

Martin is a fourth-year Electrical Engineering student, as well as the chair of the Engineering Students' Society for the past year. As a result, he understands Robert's Rules of Order (the document by which Students' Council is governed) thoroughly, and has a well-ingrained ethical code concerning the role of the chair at meetings. He believes that the Speaker should govern objectively, and marshal the meeting according to its agenda and procedures.

Congratulations to **Curry**.

At this point, **Curry** took over the chairing of the Council meeting.

2000-04/6

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

**2000-04/6a
EXECUTIVE
GOALS**

Leslie Church, President, gave a presentation on Executive Goals 2000/2001.

Church alerted Council to the existence of a set of goals articulated by each governing member of the Executive Committee over the course of a day-long retreat. The outline of these goals is available alongside tonight's agenda. The Executive Committee welcomes any questions or suggestions.

**2000-04/5b
SU BUDGET**

Gregory Harlow, VP Operations and Finance, gave a presentation on SU Budget 2000/2001.

Harlow suggested to Council that the presentation on the 2000/2001 Final Budget be given in New Business, whose motion 2000-04/11e asks Council for approval. There was no dissent from Council.

2000-04/7

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Harlow / Chaput moved that the minutes of the June 20 meeting be approved.

Zwack suggested that an account of the discussion concerning Campus Advantage, which took place during New Business, would have been useful to Council for reference purposes. **Kelly** understood that she was remiss in not providing details concerning Campus Advantage, and these particulars will be available in a report at the following meeting.

Consensus

2000-04/8

REPORTS

a. Leslie Church, President

- A written report was provided with the agenda package.
- **Church** had a lunch with the AAS:UA. Members have articulated that they want more from students regarding their academic concerns at the University. This is a strong step forward.
- University Administration has taken a surprise turn in deciding to hold the tuition vote in November this year instead of the familiar March. The University is trying to consolidate its budget with its fiscal year: as it stands, Administration goes through a period of time every year with no budget. This is an advantage for students, in that it is easier to build support for causes during the first semester of the Fall/Winter term than it is during the second semester. This will get a negotiating block out of the way for the Executive Committee, allowing it to focus on other issues. There is a motion at this meeting to add Council members in the striking of a committee that will work on strategies.
- CAUS has identified several priority issues for the coming year, including tuition debates, the Jason Lang scholarships, and student loans, among others.
- The Students' Union is planning to undergo a complete legal review. This will be brought to Council, as well as the Internal Review Board. We are looking for provincial government contributions to student services.

b. Christopher Samuel, Vice-President Academic

- A written report was provided with the agenda package.
- In General Faculties' Council, a \$10,000 rate for International Student Tuition was approved, with no opposition from the Students' Union. This rate comes guaranteed with varied support services.
- **Samuel's** reports for both SuperCon and CART are available along with the agenda.

c. Naomi Agard, Vice-President External

- A written report was provided with the agenda package.
- Met with the Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfer.
- Met with the Edmonton Transit System.
- CAUS met with representatives from Alberta Learning and the Finance Board to discuss remissions and student issues, as well as co-op students and their status with Revenue Canada. This was very encouraging. This issue is going to be a significant point in the annual CASA document, and **Agard** feels positive that this will get results for co-op students.
- The HRTC recommendations include co-op students receiving interest relief on their student loans during co-op terms in their degrees.

- d. Gregory Harlow, Vice-President Operations & Finance
 - A written report was provided with the agenda package.
 - **Harlow** apologized for the unfortunate miscommunication that led to several councillors being locked out of the most recent meeting. This was the University's jurisdiction, not the Students' Union's.
- e. Jennifer Wanke, Vice-President Student Life
 - A written report was provided with the agenda package.
 - Upcoming meeting with the Dean of Students to discuss direction and timelines for the year.
 - **Wanke** expressed deep gratitude to all members of the Programming Committee planning WOW: students have a lot to look forward to this year.
- f. Mark Cormier, Undergrad BoG Representative
 - A written report was provided at the meeting.
 - With the June 23 Board of Governors meeting past, the summer is going to be relatively quiet. This presents **Cormier** and **Church** with an excellent opportunity to confer with students regarding how they want to be represented to the Board during the school year, particularly with regard to the tuition issue coming up in November. **Cormier** encouraged students to come forward with suggestions and requests.
- g. Law Faculty Report
 - **Veale** represented the Faculty of Law.
 - The schedule for faculty reports to Council was unclear. Faculties report in alphabetical order at a rate of two faculties per meeting. The Executive Committee will make this schedule more readily available to all faculty representatives.
 - At this point, **Veale** had nothing to report, but will report in full at the next meeting.

2000-04/8

QUESTION PERIOD

Once again, a presentation and update on the TravelCUTS lawsuit will be given at the meeting directly following the Budget meeting. (**Chaput**)

Samuel had the opportunity to meet with the editor of Maclean's magazine responsible for compiling the annual University rankings found in a special issue of the magazine. He and several other delegates were given a two-hour meeting during which time everyone present was able to ask a minimal amount of questions. The meeting did not address specific issues due to the time constraint, but Maclean's was able to make clear that the University rankings come directly from the government. **Samuel** suggested several ways of making these rankings more useful to students and university staff members, such as looking at provincial government actions and policies and rates of tuition increases on a nationwide plane. (**Speer**)

SUB Expansion has been a long-recurring issue both at Council and for several incarnations of the Executive Committee. The most recent plans were endorsed by University Administration, who offered help and guidance in developing sponsorship to reduce the load of what could become a considerable loan. Unfortunately, last year's plans for the expansion had to be halted. However, the

University is wrapping up its current fundraising campaign, and will start a new one on January 1, 2001. The Dean of Students has endorsed the Students' Union's idea that SUB Expansion be among those projects pinpointed for fundraising. The Executive Committee is also seeking a capital, one-time grant from the University to renew the plans for SUB Expansion. **(Zwack)**

The Bookstore itself has made an effort to reduce the rapidly increasing prices of textbooks on campus. It has taken steps to activate wider circulation of used textbooks, and wishes to present this as an alternative to buying new books. The Bookstores is currently looking at partnerships with US organizations in order to get price relief. Another matter is that of editions of textbooks: although many courses require the same edition of a given textbook term after term, prices continue to rise. It has been discovered that if publishers are alerted to this and asked to justify it, they will lower prices because they can offer no reason for having raised them. With regard to the Students' Union, a collaborative effort is being made through the erection of a Bookstore Advisory Committee, and from this point, there will be an annual report on this issue. **(Rogerson)**

A new Admissions and Transfer policy will affect all students who took Applied Math in secondary school. High school students looking to apply to the Faculty of Science have been strongly encouraged to take Pure Math, which is the secondary stream Math 10-20-30. However, the University of Alberta is currently giving concessions to those students who took Applied Math. **(Rajani)**

At the Canadian Academic Round Table (CART), a discussion took place concerning the validity of a university Arts degree. The person giving this presentation was also present at Congress 2000, and asserted that an Arts degree is valid in a variety of ways, as well as pointing out that some Chief Executive Officers of banks in Canada have Arts degrees, rather than the predictable Commerce, Engineering or MBA degrees. The conclusion was that an Arts degree is not considered substandard, as today's job market is looking increasingly for evidence of creative, independent thought, which Arts programs help to develop. **(Speer)**

International Student Tuition is a very sensitive issue, and there are several reasons that the Students' Union did not take an official stance of opposition to the most recent proposal of a \$10,000 annual rate for international students at the University of Alberta. Primarily, the ready provision of information and consultation that was absent at the penultimate IST debate was provided in full during these deliberations. Our current international students will not be affected by this increase, and it is obvious that the University researched this issue thoroughly before coming forward with a proposal.

(Continued) This rate is much less than the originally stipulated proposal, and the increase suggested by the University will go a great distance in covering the cost of many useful bursaries, grants and scholarships. Increasing tuition is not a pleasant undertaking for anyone, but the previous proposal was defeated for good reason, and this one was approved for equally good reason. There will be a guaranteed number of bursaries, specific to international students, contingent on this tuition rate. **(Lazin)**

Wanke took this time to explain and clarify several of the items outlined in her Executive Goals as Vice-President Student Life. The Street Team will be composed of several students, who will be screened for these positions, to dress in an as-yet undetermined uniform and travel campus promoting events, as well as handing out coupons for various goods and giving prizes. The ultimate goal of this idea is to promote students' awareness of extracurricular opportunities, as well as making the Students' Union more accessible to the students it represents.

(Continued) Now that there are no longer registration days in the Butterdome, promotional tables for diverse University organizations have been unavailable, which leaves new students with a much more vague idea of what academic and extracurricular opportunities are offered at the University. Therefore, **Wanke** is organizing a similar setting in Quad during the first week of September.

(Continued) **Wanke** thinks it very important that the Gateway Advisory Committee be resurrected in full. The committee will be looking thoroughly into the Gateway mandate to ensure that it is being served, as well as updating the stipulations found therein. **Wanke** is looking at several different ideas for the Gateway's direction, and plans to work in concert with Gateway staff to ensure the best possible future for the newspaper in the coming year. **(Zwack)**

(Continued—Supplemental) The issues surrounding the Gateway's role in elections and their sometimes inflammatory editorials should be, and will be, the jurisdiction of the Chief Returning Officer. **Heather Clark** will be looking after any concerns that might arise. **(Zwack)**

There is a concrete difference between rich and poor international students, and the University of Alberta's international recruitment plan strategically covers many geographic areas to ensure a diverse mix. Having resources like the Access Fund in place is a distinct advantage, but it has proven insufficient in meeting the needs of all students. This is why the tuition increase should be looked at as positive rather than negative for students in financial need: those who can afford the tuition rate will play a significant role, through their fees, in financing those who cannot.

(Continued) The University is making a genuine effort to attract people from all financial and cultural backgrounds, with the common denominator that they are all the most bright and promising students, and will continue to maintain and improve the University of Alberta nation- and worldwide. The tuition-versus-bursary system works in ways that a lower tuition rate could not, while still making the University accessible to all students. The tuition money funneled into the University funds such facilities as the International Centre and other organizations that provide a complete post-secondary experience and make the University of Alberta an exciting and diverse place to be. The Executive Committee is satisfied that in this proposal, the University has addressed issues of both post-secondary quality and prevalent financial need.

(Continued – Supplemental) The international students' initial reaction to this tuition proposal was sensational, and it was difficult for them to accept what the Executive Committee, after careful consideration, has come to understand. A higher tuition rate is not necessarily an endeavor to bring more money to the University, but rather one to fund the bursaries and organizations that make the University of Alberta more appealing, functional and, most of all, accessible to international students. The provincial government has gone on record saying that while it endorses internationalization, it will not take any action to further the University's aims. In this light, international students are content that the University and the Students' Union have acted in conjunction for their best interests. **(Lazin)**

Samuel is working towards student involvement on the Faculty Evaluation Committee. However, this is a sensitive issue: arousing defensiveness within faculties would not be productive for either staff or students. That is why this particular aim was not overtly stated in the Vice-President Academic's goals for the year. **(Speer)**

2000-04/11

NEW BUSINESS

2000-04/11a
STUDENT
GROUPS
COMMITTEE

WANKE / HARLOW MOVED THAT Students' Council ratify Tery Hiebert as a student-at-large to sit on the Student Groups Committee for the 2000/2001 school year.

It was suggested that there might be a conflict of interest in ratifying Ms. Hiebert to the Student Groups Granting Committee, given that she is the President of the Dance Club. However, **Harlow** assured Council that there is no conflict. The decisions that routinely come to this committee are mundane ones, such as the allocation of office space.

The only sensitive issue will be the allocation of Students' Union funds, but the Dance Club has never requested grants from Student Groups, and if such a situation were to arise, Ms. Hiebert would abstain from both discussion and voting. **(Lemieux)**

25/1 Carried

2000-04/11b
WUSC
REFUGEE
STUDENT
BOARD

WANKE / CHURCH MOVED THAT Students' Council nominate one (1) councillor to sit on the World University Service of Canada Refugee Student Board for the 2000/2001 school year.

Congratulations (by acclamation) to **Speer**.

2000-04/11c
SUDS
CONFERENCE

HARLOW / AGARD MOVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve an expenditure not to exceed \$690.00 for Leslie Church to attend the Student Union Development Symposium conference at UBC, July 19-23/00.

This conference did not meet the Executive Committee's expectations when former President Michael Chalk attended it in August 1999. However, the conference is mutable by its nature, and almost completely dependent on the climate of student politics in a given year.

The year facing the Students' Union this term will be very external because of the municipal, provincial and federal elections coming up. An important aim of the Executive Committee, which will be served by attending this conference, is to maintain positive activity at these levels. The conference will be run by experienced and dedicated former student executives, and will include a comprehensive series of roundtable discussions. **Church** is confident that SUDS will be far more rewarding this year than it was last year.

The reason that **Church** is attending is that **Agard** was invited to serve as the interim National Director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) at SUDS. As a result, **Agard** will be representing Canadian post-secondary education as a whole – funded by CASA – while **Church** will represent the University of Alberta.

25/0 Carried

Church's abstention is noted.

**2000-04/11d
TUITION
PLANNING
COMMITTEE**

CHURCH / HARLOW MOVED THAT Students' Council nominate up to five (5) councillors to sit on the Tuition Planning Committee.

This committee is a joint initiative between the Executive Committee and Board of Governors student representative **Mark Cormier**. It is an endeavor to form a comprehensive strategy and student stance on the issue of tuition.

Congratulations to (by acclamation) **Speer, Rogerson, Zwack, Darling, and Klaassen**.

**2000-04/11e
BUDGET
2000/2001**

HARLOW / CHURCH MOVED THAT Students' Council approve the Students' Union 2000/2001 Budget as recommended by the Financial Affairs Board.

Before beginning, **Harlow** expressed profound gratitude to **Anita Kuper**, Senior Manager of Finance and Administration, for her extensive contributions and professional support.

Harlow introduced the Final Budget to Council with a lengthy and comprehensive presentation outlining each major item and providing explanations and insight for any points of confusion articulated by members of Council.

HARLOW / AGARD moved that Students' Council be directed by Informal Consideration for the duration of the following presentation.

27/3 Carried

The first portion of the presentation outlined the *process* by which the Final Budget was assembled.

The Budget consists of three major components: a) the base operating budget; b) capital expenditures; and c) additional items. The base budget consists of the items appearing in the budget every year. Capital expenditures are one-time discretionary items, and additional items are new expenditures, which are meant to be ongoing and will later, pending review, be funneled annually into the base budget.

Each department within the Students' Union has a budget prepared by its head, which is then forwarded to **Harlow** and **Anita Kuper**, Senior Manager of Finance and Administration. Each item ultimately found in the Final Budget has a corresponding file that comprehensively details the allocation of the funds and justification for the expense. After **Kuper** and **Harlow** have conferred, the individual budgets are discussed with each department head.

Each budget then goes to the Finance Committee, which is composed of **Kuper**, **Harlow**, and Students' Union General Manager **Bill Smith**. This year, the committee made the recommendation that from this point on, the Financial Affairs Board (hereafter FAB) should expect an outline of the benefits of each expenditure found on every department budget. This ensures a more rigorous and comprehensive process before funds are allocated.

After the department budgets' submission to FAB, meetings are held during which each budget is gone over in detail, and members hear presentations from each department head. These presentations are to ensure that each department has a specific justification through service to students. This exercise helps to provide the year's direction for each department. FAB also finds and negotiates any discrepancies that may be found.

FAB's first meeting of this nature lasted four (4) hours, and the second was eight and one half (8.5) hours long. **Harlow** took this opportunity to sincerely thank all members of FAB for their tenacity and dedication during this period.

FAB's third meeting was held to address capital expenditures. Rather than blindly allocating these funds, FAB, along with **Harlow** and **Kuper**, surveyed the needs and expenses of the Power Plant, RATT, the Myer Horowitz Theatre, Dinwoodie Lounge, and L'Express. This was a worthy exercise, and proved instrumental in decision-making. **Harlow** has recommended that future incarnations of FAB undertake this process formally.

Harlow apologized that the devised business strategy created amendments beyond the main motion on the floor.

Finally, **Harlow** stressed Council's right to appeal any item or statement found in the Budget package. As the Students' Union's highest decision-making body, Council should not pass the Budget if there are any areas of confusion that have not been clarified. **Harlow's** role is to ensure that the process is sound, and that it is followed faithfully. No annually elected Vice-President Operations and Finance can become an expert in the two months available before the presentation of the budget, and therefore he is grateful for the recourse to turn to the Manager of Finance and Administration, as well as the Financial Affairs Board, for their expertise.

At this point, a presentation was given requesting Council's support in the first business amendment, which involves the allocation of funds to the **Gold Key Society**. Speaking on behalf of the Gold Key Society were Karen Wichuk, President, and Kenna Graham, Vice-President (Treasury).

Harlow introduced Ms. Wichuk and Ms. Graham by apologizing for thinking that he was sparing representatives of the Gold Key Society by deeming a presentation to FAB unnecessary. The funds specified seemed minimal enough to be passed without dissent, but FAB, admirably following due process, questioned the allocation and refused to pass it without more information. This is the reason for both the presentation and the amendment.

Ms. Wichuk has been actively involved in the Students' Union for eleven (11) years. She has served as Vice-President External and Chief Returning Officer, among many more contributions. Ms. Graham was a representative on Council for the Faculty of Business, and freely gave her time through many hours of volunteer work.

Ms. Graham wished to clearly note the distinction between the Gold Key Society, which she and Ms. Wichuk represented to Council, and the Golden Key Society, the "controversial smart kids' club" run by the University. The Gold Key Society was created in the 1950s to award diverse and valuable contributions to the University. This award is not restricted to students: in the past, academic and non-academic staff, as well as a Chancellor, have received it. The Society became defunct in the early 1960s, and was resurrected in the early 1990s. It serves as the Students' Union's way of thanking those who work to add value to campus life. The Gold Key is also an onus for recipients to continue living up to the qualifications that first earned them recognition.

This award fits perfectly into the mandate of the Students' Union. Previous events hosted by the Gold Key Society include the Graduate Barbeque, which has been misconstrued as an event for members only when it is in fact a gathering for all graduates. Last year, 1800 students attended. Students do not stop having student needs upon graduation, and Ms. Graham expressed regret that the first post-convocation communication from the University usually comes in the form of the request for an alumni donation. The Society has been working to improve this through a partnership with the Alumni Association, as well as the University as a whole. All students are welcome to the Society's events.

A question that might come to mind is that of the Society's specific service to students. The Gold Key Society is the link between former students and their Students' Union, a promise of continued involvement that benefits both parties and helps the Students' Union to better fulfil its mandate. This is the Students' Union's way of keeping its spirit with students.

This year, FAB moved to eliminate the money funding the Society, which eliminates the Society itself. For clarification, the money goes to the following purposes: newsletters and information about the University that sometimes have to be sent all over the world; the Students' Union's annual Awards Night; and projects, like last year's barbeque, which bring students and alumni closer. Finally, all honorees receive a crest. The Society is hard at work to give an outlet for people who have left student government and still want to contribute.

At this point, the floor was opened for questions concerning the amendment pertaining to the Gold Key Society only.

The Graduate Barbeque was held jointly with the Alumni Association and the Office of the President. The Society also sits on the Steering Committee, continuing to ensure that the mandate is followed. The Society's vision is a work-in-progress. (**Chaput**)

Ms. Graham and Ms. Wichuk were thanked for their effort and patience.

AMENDMENT #1: Harlow/Agard moved that Students' Council amend Budget 990 to include Seven Hundred Fifty (\$750.00) Dollars for the Gold Key Society.

Vote on Amendment #1: 27/2 Carried

At this point, **Harlow** resumed his presentation by beginning a description of the highlighted items within the Budget. However, he first invited comments from Paul Chaput, Faculty of Business representative and an active member of the Financial Affairs Board.

Chaput stressed the time commitment given by FAB in going through each item that ended up in the final version of the Budget. FAB members had ample opportunity to raise any concerns, and all of its conclusions were decisive and informed. There is a general confidence in the process that is, hopefully, reflected in the package presented to Council. (**Chaput**)

At this time, **Harlow** invited each Council member to grab his or her package. Speaker **Curry** further encouraged this action by stressing that none of them were excessively heavy.

Headline items in the **Base Operating Budget** were dealt with individually.

- The mortgage on the Students' Union Building is paid off, and the \$254,000 in undedicated monies will be funneled into a building reserve.
- The comprehensive salary review process undertaken by the 1999/2000 Personnel Review Committee resulted in a staff cost increase of \$29,000, and a union staff cost increase of \$50,000. Also, the increase in fees made a difference.
- A new budget department was created: Budget 555 for the Student Communications Coordinator. These funds were originally in the President's budget, but there was consensus that this position needs to be developed more fully, and by creating a separate budget, the SCC's appearance as a subordinate to the President can be avoided.
- Restructuring of the Myer Horowitz Theatre reaped a savings of \$56,000. This was the result of a difficult decision to cut staffing in the Theatre.
- The \$40,000 usually allocated to the building reserve was used to fund salary increases, but the mortgage payment going in to the reserve makes this less of a loss.
- The operating investment of the Students' Union is approximately \$1.5 million. These are the monies that are as yet not dedicated.

Harlow then proceeded to the **Main Budget Spreadsheet**.

Budget 400 – General Administration. This budget was affected by the general increase in SU Fees for Open Studies and Co-op students. There was a decrease in interest on the loan for renovations to SUB in 1993 (this loan will be paid in full in 2004). This budget also allocates the \$254,000 freed up by completed mortgage payments.

There is a policy within Budget 400 stipulating that the Vice-President Operations and Finance has vested authority to accumulated unbudgeted expenses up to \$250.00; the Executive Committee, \$500.00; the Financial Affairs Board, \$1,500.00; and any expenses exceeding these amounts are automatically delegated to Students' Council for approval. However, Harlow was not sure that this policy was entirely constitutional, and thus has created a contingency fund of \$35,000 for unforeseen expenses.

Budget 402 – Office Administration. Staff cost increases account for almost all discrepancies between this year's budget and last. There were also computer costs: the SU is making a sincere effort to improve both its network and its website.

Budget 411 – Facilities and Operations. The \$11,000 revenue from rent paid by Imagnus has been moved from the Facilities budget to the Entertainment budget. There was a rent increase for tenants, like the Dance Club, who employ Dinwoodie Lounge. The budget was also affected by a 2.5 per cent staff cost increase.

Budget 425 – Research and Information. As with many other budgets, there has been a 2.25 per cent staff cost increase. As well, there has been a slight increase in duplication (photocopying) fees.

Budget 500 – Students' Council. This budget also includes the office of the President and Executive office support. \$25,000 is being given over to the TravelCUTS issue for legal expenses. This will be further explored when **Church** gives a presentation on the lawsuit at the next meeting.

Budget 555 – Student Communications Coordinator. This budget has been severed from Budget 500. Again, there has been a slight increase in duplication fees. As well, contingencies have been allowed in preparation for any expense the upcoming external elections may incur. The President and the Vice-President External will be involved in this. A slight increase is also incurred in the severance from the President's budget.

Budget 592 – Academic Affairs. The only change to this budget is the familiar staff cost increase.

Budget 520 – Financial Affairs. There have been allocations for staff cost increases, as well as the additional conference expenses that Campus Advantage may incur. Campus Advantage will be partially financing these conferences, but funds have been allowed for incidentals.

Budget 523 – Student Life. Changes to this budget include staff cost increases, and allocations for the COCA conference.

Budget 528 – Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). This budget has increased relative to increases in conference costs and membership dues.

Budget 600 – Services Manager. There has been a staff cost increase, as well as a benefits cost increase due to the current Manager being married.

Budget 610 – Ombudservice. There has been a staff cost increase, as well as a training cost increase. The two Ombudservice Managers are usually staggered on year-to-year basis, so that only one Manager has to be trained every year. However, one of the Managers resigned halfway through the term, and two Managers had to be hired on simultaneously. Thus, training expenses have been doubled, for this year only.

Budget 611 – Orientation. There has been a general reallocation of expenses. The program will proceed as budgeted.

At this point, **Jorgensen** suggested that because each Council member has had sufficient time to review the Budget package, the process of going through each item is unnecessary and could be foregone with no sacrifice or detriment to the integrity of Council's approval. **Jorgensen** further suggested that the floor be immediately opened for questions concerning the base budget only.

The only dissent came from **Martin** in the form of a request to explore the Food and Beverage budget. **Harlow** complied, and agreed that the remainder of the close overview could safely be dispensed with.

Budgets 832, 835, 838 – Food and Beverage. This budget includes funds and expenses for Room at the Top (RATT), L'Express, and the Power Plant.

There has been some confusion concerning this particular series of budgets, because the position of Senior Manager of Food and Beverage has not been occupied since February 2000. Thus, the department has been governed jointly by the Vice-President Finance, the Senior Manager of Finance and Administration, and the General Manager.

Budget 835 – L'Express. This facility has been run in the past as a counter service, but a growing catering aspect has been recognized. Therefore, for the first time, L'Express is being segregated into two departments, which has resulted in an increase for a) retail, and b) catering.

The floor was at this point opened for questions.

Because of the business increase at the Print Centre, there has been an increase in both costs and business. Due to the increased traffic, its front-line staff had to be fortified to keep pace with the rate of walk-in business. (**Speer**)

Administration has an extra \$254,000 due to the mortgage having been paid off in November 1999. With the exception of the aforementioned \$35,000 contingency fee, these funds are going into the building reserve. (**Rogerson**)

The net profits of RATT and the Power Plant are small ultimately because of the cost of maintaining the facilities. 30-40% goes to maintenance costs; 30% goes to paying staff; and other funds to miscellaneous expenses. There remains little for actual profit. In actuality, the Students' Union's bars do quite well on a relative scale. Very few campus bars generate any profit at all.

(Continued – Supplemental) The reason that RATT closes during the summer while the Power Plant remains open is that it is not worth the expense to close the Power Plant, as the Students' Union does not own the space and thus is consistently paying rent for it. **(Veale)**

At this point, **Harlow** introduced the Capital Expenditures of the Budget.

Note on the jurisdiction of the Financial Affairs Board: For the second portions of Budget 755 and Budget 750, respecting the Myer Horowitz Theatre and Dinwoodie Lounge, the items are approved in principle only. Each is subject to scrutiny and approval by the Financial Affairs Board, following the approval of Students' Council.

An expenditure for Computers, the SU network and website inclusive, has been approved by FAB with the strict stipulation that any expenses be subject to conference between the Vice-President Operations and Finance and the Computer Department before going forward.

The Students' Union has made a significant investment in its Macintosh server, and to change it to a PC server, even slowly, would create major complications. It is simpler left as is, and it is **Harlow's** recommendation that the server is best left alone, and **Harlow** will make no move to alter it during his term. **(Rajani)**

At this point, **Harlow** asked Council to proceed as follows. **Harlow** will list significant headings in the Capital Expenditures section of the Budget, and stop for any questions which may arise. In this way, time will not be wasted in poring over items understood by all present.

FAB will revisit the expenses granted for the renovations to the Power Plant and Dewey's. **(Roesch)**

Dinwoodie Lounge. The stage currently erected in Dinwoodie Lounge is decrepit and unfit for use. As it is a safety hazard, it is being replaced by a retractable stage. Dinwoodie is a large space, and should be as versatile as possible. FAB has asked for the approval, in principle, of \$40,000.

There was an amendment (friendly) to move capital expenditures regarding L'Express from Section 2 to Section 1.

The reason that FAB is being overridden in the matter of L'Express is that there is an immediate need to purchase a self-serve display refrigerator within the next business week, due to the imminent expiry of the reasonable price that the Students' Union was relying on. If this is not acted on, the price will be raised and cease to be feasible. No disrespect to FAB is intended.

L'Express has done well in previous years in its front-end capacity, but these revenues are beginning to taper off due to service problems and the growing interference of its burgeoning catering business. This budget is being divided to

ensure that one function does not interrupt or interfere with the other. This change will improve both aspects of L'Express by making it more efficient and easily operational. Catering sales are projected to increase by approximately \$10,000 in the coming year.

The proposed divider wall will be a mostly esthetic tool, to help reduce the pervading appearance of clutter at the counter. Also, it will help to streamline the functions of the counter while not interfering with the bigger projects taking place at the back of the kiosk.

AMENDMENT #2: Harlow/Chaput moved that Students' Council approve the capital expenditure of Eighteen Thousand Four Hundred Five (\$18,405) Dollars for improvements to L'Express.

Vote on Amendment #2: 23/3 Carried

The next important item in this section involved renovations to the **Myer Horowitz Theatre**.

The proposal to replace the lights in the theatre is sound, given that these lights are over thirty (30) years old. If these improvements are not passed, the theatre will become – or remain – substandard, relative to other theatres in the city, and will continue to lose money. The Students' Union must remain, or become, competitive in the theatre community, and this requires spending this minimum amount, which is absolutely necessary to raise the Myer Horowitz to a proper standard. The theatre was not considered during the last SUB Expansion, and this omission is becoming obvious. Recourse must be taken, and this involves the creation of a business plan. Theatre staff composed a forecast of significant increase to their bottom line, given the proper attention that this expenditure would allow.

Chaput informed Council that if money is recovered or surpassed within three years of a corresponding capital expenditure, it is a very positive sign. This particular expenditure is contingent on the scrutiny and subsequent approval of FAB, and therefore, **Harlow** suggested that this issue be delegated in its entirety to FAB.

At this time, **Harlow** requested a five-minute recess.

Curry informed Council of the need for a motion to extend the meeting, as it was approaching its three (3) hour limit.

HARLOW / CHAPUT moved that Students' Council extend the meeting by thirty (30) minutes, to adjourn no later than 9:44 p.m.

20/4 Carried

Following a brief recess, **Harlow** went on to explain the proposal in the Budget requesting a probationary Features Editor for the Gateway. This position would be a one-year trial, after which it would be severely scrutinized to judge whether or not its value is worth the expense.

The Gateway currently carries membership with the Canadian University Press (hereafter CUP). CUP is a national newswire for campus newspapers which allows its members to publish articles written by other member schools across Canada. The Financial Affairs Board expressed concern that because of membership in CUP, the Gateway's current two (2) News Editors should prove excessive. Subsequently, they wondered why a new editor was necessary when one of the News Editors could be converted to a Features role.

The Gateway is anomalous in the Students' Union's overall personnel structure in its responsibility to report. Generally, staff report to department heads, who report to Managers, who ultimately report to the Executive Committee. The Gateway job description stipulates no such requirement, other than that of the copy editors to report to the Editor-in-Chief, and the Editor-in-Chief's responsibility to the Gateway Advisory Committee. Therefore, it is significantly more difficult for the Gateway to secure changes in its structure and staffing.

The proposal for a Features Editor is not one for a guaranteed permanent addition to the Gateway staff, or, indeed, to the Budget itself. Upon its approval, as stated, the position will be examined after its trial term is over (April 2001).

At this point, **Harlow** invited **Dan Lazin**, Gateway Editor-in-Chief, to present his argument in support of this proposal.

Lazin's first point was in response to concerns voiced by the Financial Affairs Board regarding the proposal. Notwithstanding membership in CUP, campus news remains varied, frequent, and time-consuming. The original rationale behind having two News Editors has not changed: as the most timely and busy section of the newspaper, two people are required to keep it to a reasonable standard. The Gateway takes its responsibilities seriously, and is very conscientious about keeping CUP stories to a reasonable minimum when local campus news is more meaningful to the students who compose its readership.

The Features Editor position is one that Gateway staff members, past and present, have been trying to realize for some time. By necessity, job descriptions for copy editors are vague given of the vast and variable nature of the positions, and this is why so many hours are poured into each issue. A Features Editor would be responsible for a weekly feature in the Tuesday edition of the newspaper. There is a broad spectrum of topics that could be covered, and the depth of attention given them would be infinitely greater, giving the research and the writing a much higher quality that will be identifiable to readers. Such topics include tuition, student life, detailed introductions for new students, the future of universities, the University of Alberta's history, or health care issues; and there are many more.

The Gateway has always run a certain number of features as part of its annual structure, but they consistently fail to convey the enthusiasm of the Gateway staff, and they rarely reach the level of depth, accuracy or interest that the Gateway aims to hold as a standard. The aim of the Gateway is to keep, and engage, its readership; and too often staff find themselves without the time or energy left over to make the Gateway what both they and their readership wish it were.

Each feature would run one to three (1-3) pages in length at the newspaper's current size. None of the other sections would suffer as a result of this allotment of space, because given a certain advertisement density, providing extra pages for the newspaper is a simple task. An editor completely devoted to this portion of the newspaper would be able to ensure the readability, accuracy and detail of features.

Lazin closed his presentation by reminding Council that the Gateway is a service, not a business. Its staff endeavors constantly to provide the best possible version of this service.

At this point, **Church** spoke in favor of the proposal. The Gateway has several outstanding, neglected issues that its staff and the Executive Committee are trying to resolve this year. Features are and should be an integral part of the Gateway, and approving this proposal would be an excellent initiative from several viewpoints. **Church** also pointed out to Council that this position is entirely probationary, and beyond its trial term, neither Council nor the Executive Committee nor the staff of the Gateway is bound to it.

The Executive Committee hopes to strike a set of recommendations concerning the Gateway later in the year. By that point, there will be a clearer picture of the Gateway's position and what direction it should take. In conjunction with this, the Gateway is leaning towards overhaul and restructuring, with the editors and **Wanke** working together in the best interests of the Gateway's future. This is why it is essential that the Gateway Advisory Committee be resurrected.

At this point, the floor was open for questions on the issue of the Gateway only.

The cost for the Features Editor's trial term would be \$8221.00. (**Jorgensen**)

Generally it takes a year for advertisers to warm to the improvement or enhancement of a publication. **Lazin** is confident of higher advertising revenues as a direct result of the implementation of a Features Editor, though this increase will not be immediate. (**Chaput**)

(Continued – Supplemental) It is difficult to tell the impact of Features Editors on other publications, because so many of them have such an editor at their outsets. (**Chaput**)

At this point, Council was informed that another motion would have to be brought forward to extend the meeting.

Samuel/Wanke moved to extend the Students' Council meeting by fifteen (15) minutes, to adjourn no later than 9:59 p.m.

21/4 Carried

Discussion on the Gateway resumed.

The mandate of the Features Editor would, generally speaking, be taken from the portfolio of the Managing Editor. (**Klaassen**)

AMENDMENT #4: Harlow/Agard moved that Students' Council amend Budget 642, governing the Gateway and Media, to include an expenditure of not more than \$8221.00 for the creation of a Features Editor for a one-year trial period, pending the recommendations of a Gateway internal review.

20/2 Carried

Bolding's abstention was noted.

Chaput's abstention was noted, due to his affiliation with The Touque, a separate campus newspaper at the University of Alberta.

Zwack/Rogerson moved to remove Students' Council from Informal Consideration format.

23/0 Carried

At this point, **Harlow** expressed his thanks to all Council members for their patience and cooperation during the discussion and deliberation of the 2000 Final Budget. He also passed on gratitude to those members who brought forth suggestions concerning the structure and presentation of the Budget.

Samuel thanked **Harlow** for his hard work and absolutely snazzy delivery of the Budget.

AMENDMENT #1: Harlow/Agard moved that Students' Council amend Budget 990 to include \$750.00 for the Gold Key Society.

27/2 Carried

AMENDMENT #2: Harlow/Chaput moved that Students' Council approve the capital expenditure of Eighteen Thousand Four Hundred and Five (\$18,405) Dollars for improvements to L'Express.

23/3 Carried

AMENDMENT #3: Harlow/Church moved to amend the Final Budget as outlined in the document labeled "Changes to Budget 2000-01 for Budget 755 (Theatre)."

20/2 Carried

AMENDMENT #4: Harlow/Agard moved that Students' Council amend Budget 642, governing the Gateway and Media, to include an expenditure of not more than \$8,221.00 for the creation of a Features Editor for a one-year trial period, pending the recommendations of a Gateway internal review.

20/2 Carried

FINAL VOTE: 24/0 Carried

Zwack's abstention was noted due to his position with Information Registries.

- Proxy Speaker **Curry** offered to buy the first round after the meeting.
- **Rajani** regretfully predicted the tendering of his resignation as councillor due to his recent appointment to the position of Access Fund Administrator.
- **Harlow** congratulated **Rajani** on his appointment.
- **Samuel** needs General Faculties' Council representatives from Agriculture/Forestry, Rehabilitation Medicine, and Education.
- Please contact **Samuel** to help with the hosting of CART in October.
- Gateway Managing Editor **Michael Winters** was entirely without his glasses tonight, as he recently acquired contacts. We are, all of us, rather happy for him.

2000-04/14

ADJOURNMENT

Harlow/Zwack moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:55 p.m.