

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Tuesday, October 10, 2000 at 7:00 pm
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

MINUTES (SC 2000-11)

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	Patricia Kozack	Present
Agric/Forest/HomeEc		
Arts	Jamie Speer	Present
Arts	Brendan Darling	Present
Arts	Kirsten Odynski	Present
Arts	Kory Zwack	Present
Arts	Christine Rogerson	Present
Business	Erika Hoffman	Present
Business	Paul Chaput	Present
Business	Dean Jorgensen	Present
Education	Morine Bolding	Meghan Kallal(p)
Education	Janna Roesch	Present
Education	Dan Coles	Present
Education	Robert Hartery	Present
Education	Justin Klaassen	Present
Engineering	Joe Brindle	Present
Engineering	Wayne Poon	Present
Engineering	David Weppler	Present
Engineering	Justin Lee	Present
Engineering	Kevin Partridge	Present
Law	Chris Veale	Absent
Residence Halls Association	Shannon Moore	Present

Medicine/Dentistry	Andrew Schell	Present
Medicine/Dentistry	Karen Cheng	Nicole Martin-Iverson(p)
Native Studies (School of		
Nursing	Jennifer Read	Present
Pharmacy	Chelsey Cabaj	Present
Rehabilitation Medicine	Leah Ganes	Present
Faculté Saint-Jean	Wendy Gall	Present
Science		
Science		Tim Van Aerde(p)
Science	Zaki Taher	Present
Science	Helen McGraw	Present
Science	Chamila Adhihetty	Present
President Athletics	Tashie Macapagal	Absent
Gateway / Editor in Chief	Dan Lazin	Present
Recreation Action Committee		
General Manager	Bill Smith	Absent
Speaker	Stella Varvis	Present
Recording Secretary	Sarah Kelly	Present

Observers

Tajesh (TJ) Adhihetty, Student Communications Coordinator
 Erfan Kazemi, Vice-President Academic, University of British Columbia Alma Mater Society
 Michael Winters, Managing Editor, The Gateway
 Chul-Ahn (Jimmy) Jeong, Features Editor, The Gateway
 Jon Dunbar, News Editor, The Gateway

2000-11/1

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m.

2000-11/2

NATIONAL ANTHEM "O Canada"

Church led Council in the singing of the national anthem.

2000-11/3

University of Alberta CHEER SONG

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

2000-11/4

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Rogerson/Brindle moved that the agenda for SC2000-11 be approved.

Late Additions

2000-11/5b: Gateway Progress Report

2000-11/9a: Bylaw 1400 – Policy of the Students' Union

2000-11/9b: Bylaw 2600 – Communications Advisory Committee

2000-11/10b: Teaching & Learning Workshop

Consensus

2000-11/5

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

2000-11/5a
**POSTCARD
CAMPAIGN**

Naomi Agard, Vice-President External, gave a presentation on Postcard Campaign, followed by discussion.

Agard began the presentation by emphasizing how integral a strong volunteer base will be to the success of the postcard campaign.

Two postcards have been created: "Everybody Invests" and "ABsolute Education." These have been identified as popular themes to appeal to students, parents, and communities.

The aim of the campaign is to secure tuition increases at a cap of 2%, to compromise fairly between student needs and the quality of education. Two per cent would be an inflationary increase, which would serve the needs of both students and the universities. Ontario has announced the intention to hold their post-secondary institutions to an inflationary increase: there is a slowly growing trend throughout the country to cap tuition, in some cases even to provide students with nominal tuition rebates.

CAUS, in concert with ACTISEC and AGC, represents over 100,000 students in Alberta, and the collective voice of these students could be considerable. The campaign will be launched within the next two weeks. Postcards will be available at tables throughout campus, at Info Booths, and at the SU Offices, as well as the Gripe Tables. Each councillor will also get 10 of each postcard to distribute to their constituents: it is recommended that each person fill out one of each: one for Ralph Klein and one for Lyle Oberg.

Agard stressed the importance of the postcards being returned as soon as possible in order to send them out to the Legislature. It would be a good idea, she continued, to get them signed on the spot, rather than placing the onus on the individual to return them to the SU.

The goal is that 15,000 postcards, approximately half of the student population, will be sent out from the University of Alberta. 20,000 postcards have been placed on racks throughout Edmonton and Calgary, and they will be spread to high schools and others, with the hope that people will return them to their families and other members of communities.

All that is required on the postcards are signatures, but people are welcome to submit any message they like.

SU Pages in the Gateway will cover the campaign, and the SU is looking for outside media coverage, as well as one-on-one contact with students. Coordinators are mounting a display, and they or **Agard** can answer any questions.

The campaign will wrap up on October 24.

**2000-11/5b
GATEWAY
PRESENTATION**

Gateway Editor-in-Chief Dan Lazin gave a brief presentation on the progress of the Gateway so far this year.

Lazin began by stating that he hopes to bring a regular report to Council from this point on.

Everything is going very well at the Gateway. Most of the problems so far this year have been technical ones regarding the physical production of the newspaper. The reason that many of them have been issued late was because editors were still being trained at the point that the newspaper began publication. Generally, the purpose of publishing the Gateway during the summer is to ensure that editors have all the abilities necessary when the newspaper begins circulating in September.

There were also problems with the printer, but these have been ironed out and the Gateway has transferred to a new printer. Thus, there should be no more problems in getting it out on time.

The Gateway's 90th anniversary is this year. A celebratory dinner will be held on November 9th at the Faculty Club, and the Gateway hopes to secure attendance from distinguished former editors such as Joe Clark. Invitations are currently being sent out. Tickets will be \$30.00, and the evening will include supper, speeches, and a slide show, among other events. All members of Council were urged to attend.

The Gateway hopes to host another journalism conference this year, organized by the editors. This will be open to student press throughout the country and will be held the weekend of November 10, hopefully in conjunction with the anniversary events.

The Council Forum is a new addition to the newspaper this year, and the news editors hope to cover Council as fully and accurately as possible. Information about this feature can be found in a supplement handed to members of Council at the meeting.

At this point, Chul-Ahn (Jimmy) Jeong, Features Editor, explained his position within the Gateway. He invited students and other members of the community who are interest to participate in every aspect of the features, including writing, research and photography. The position of Features Editor is probationary and experimental, and has more latitude than other sections of the newspaper. Its aim is to stimulate the Gateway's readership and open up possibilities for young writers on and around campus. Jeong urged members of Council to spread the word and keep in touch with him. He also circulated business cards with contact information.

At this point, the floor was opened to questions from Council.

Church took the opportunity to congratulate **Lazin** and his staff for an excellent semester so far.

Roesch echoed this sentiment, but asked that the Gateway give a more objective and positive recording of Council events and activities, and that its proceedings should not look like a “gong show” to students on campus.

Jon Dunbar, News Editor, was sponsored to speak. He responded by saying that the Gateway’s aim is to be neutral and objective, and that with respect to this objective, Gateway writers and editors will record Council’s activities as they see them.

2000-11/6

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hoffman/Roesch moved that the minutes of SC2000-10 be approved.

Samuel: “PeopleSoft Version 7” should be “PeopleSoft Version 7.6.”

Dunbar: Dunbar (Observer) and **Partridge** (Engineering) were present at the meeting.

Rogerson: Information about Students’ Union’s aid with faculty association events will be available at the November 1 COFA meeting.

Adhihetty: Proxies for Science councillors were present.

Consensus

2000-11/7

REPORTS

- a. Leslie Church, President
 - A written report was provided with the agenda package.
 - **Church** welcomed Erfan Kazemi, Vice-President Academic of the University of British Columbia’s Alma Mater Society.
 - The tuition debate has been postponed. There have been signals from government that they are looking into the merits of a tuition proposal, and it seemed prudent to wait for stronger signs. The debate will be held during the week of January 12, 2001.
 - Thanks were offered to those members of Council who sat at the first Gripe Table, which was very successful. There will likely be bimonthly reports on the feedback gleaned from them from this point on. There have been some excellent suggestions forthcoming.
 - Glenn Harris, the University’s Vice-President Finance and Administration, has been granted an indefinite leave of absence. Currently, Doug Owrap, Vice-President Academic, has assumed Harris’ portfolio. **Agard** is sitting on Harris’ review committee, and the University has identified some troublesome areas within his portfolio which are currently being explored.
- b. Christopher Samuel, Vice-President Academic
 - A written report was provided with the agenda package.
 - The Teaching and Learning Workshop is a joint venture between the Students’ Union and the Association of Academic Staff: University of Alberta (AASUA). This will come up again when **Samuel** needs to recruit volunteers.
 - The timetable sent out by the University is not an accurate statement of a given student’s financial account, which is the province of Financial Services. Students who want a quick and accurate record of their balance should visit their accounts on the University’s web site. Further to this, the statement at the bottom of the timetables stating the inaccuracy of the financial printout therein will be made to be more noticeable. Unfortunately, this change will not occur until September 2001.

- Currently it takes five (5) days to get a transcript from the Registrar's Office. They have made a move to the OASIS system. The long wait is temporary, because they want absolute accuracy. The transfer should be complete by late November. There will also be renovations to the Student Access Centre. It was expressed to Registrar Brian Silzer that the relationship between the SU and the Registrar's Office was reactive and needed to become more proactive.
 - Because of the concerns with late textbooks, **Samuel** met with Todd Anderson and had a very productive talk, and Anderson is looking at new ways of avoiding the problems that have been identified.
 - At this point, **Samuel** asked **Taher** to give a report on the progress of the Bookstore Task Force. Positive discussion has been generated, and the task force, currently, has three objectives: first, lower prices on textbooks; second, to look for better delivery methods; and third, to identify problems arising from professors. Everyone on the task force was very open; there was good and versatile representation. Some future activities include looking into putting together a fact book; comparing prices between the Bookstore and major book store chains; and organizing a publisher's forum. This last has been tried and was not altogether successful, but some of the problems have been identified and the task force wants to try it again.
 - **Samuel** is sitting on the Steering Committee for the AIS system.
- c. Naomi Agard, Vice-President External
A written report was provided at the meeting.
- d. Gregory Harlow, Vice-President Operations & Finance
A written report was provided at the meeting.
- e. Jennifer Wanke, Vice-President Student Life
- A written report was provided at the meeting.
 - Met with Parking Services. Potentially, there will be a week-long promotion to collect donations for the Food Bank.
- f. Mark Cormier, Undergrad BoG Representative
- An oral report was provided at the meeting.
 - Board Awards of Distinction are coming up.
 - Board Finance and Property meeting coming up this Thursday, and will be interesting in light of recent events.
 - **Cormier, Church**, and the President of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) have been meeting regularly, and discussions have been very productive.

- g. Engineering Faculty Report
 - An oral report was provided by **Weppler**.
 - The Engineering Students' Society got off to a rocky start this year due to two (2) resignations, one voluntary and one otherwise, but everything is much better now. Special thanks were offered to **Brindle** for expanding the Vice-President Academic portfolio.
 - The First Year Club is working closely with ESS, helping first year students with their transition.
 - Thanks to the sponsors and the faculty for their help with GeerFest.
 - Civil Engineering event coming up on November 16th.
 - Santa Stop event will be held on the last day of classes.
 - Many other events upcoming and ongoing.
 - Concerns with Agriculture/Forestry about complications regarding BarNone.
- h. Law Faculty Report
 - **Harlow** informed Council that **Veale** spoke to him earlier about being unable to attend the meeting, and asked that the Law Report be tabled to the next meeting.

Consensus

2000-11/8

QUESTION PERIOD

Zwack: In the Executive Committee meeting of September 22, which member was opposed to The Touque being circulated in the Students' Union Building?

Samuel: It was **Samuel**, because he believes that competition should not be introduced to student services, and this philosophy extends to all services, including the Food Court.

Speer: What is being done to keep Ombudservice in SUB?

Church: There are a number of options for this issue, primarily involved with evaluating space in the building. Currently, co-op interviewing rooms and third floor space are being looked at. Space has opened in Campus Towers, but it is generally agreed that the service would not be as effective there. The last resort is to maintain the service where it is.

Poon: Why are Club Malibu posters being posted in CAB and other buildings?

Wanke: Technically, this is trespassing, but Club Malibu has hired students to circulate these posters. A letter is being drafted ordering them not to do this.

Rogerson: Are tuition planning committees going to be convening leading up to the Tuition Town Hall meeting?

Church: These meetings have been put on hold for now. There will be no more cafes at this point. The committee is moving from the philosophical role of the cafes to a more pragmatic, action-oriented stage of strategy.

Weppler: Is there a time limit on banners being posted in CAB?

Harlow: Historically, these banners had to be removed after a week. Accurate information can be gotten from the CAB Building Manager.

Ganes: What does "USRI" stand for?

Samuel: Universal Student Ratings of Instruction.

Zwack: What is the most recent information about the concerns with the Coke deal?

Harlow: The prices on juices and Fruitopia have been raised. Van Vliet prices have always been higher than those throughout campus because of an existing agreement between the University and Aramark Foods. The Students' Union has no such agreement, and the master agreement with Coke should prevail. All prices, including those for juice, have been accordingly reduced.

Zwack: Who raised the prices?

Harlow: Coke has to become aware that the Students' Union has a voice of its own in this agreement, and a tangible stake in its implementation.

Speer: Has there been any progress on faculties merchandising their own convocation materials?

Samuel: By the next Council or COFA meetings, there should be more information on this.

Harlow / Taher moved that Students' Council move *in camera* to discuss an issue of a sensitive nature.

32/1 Carried

Gall / Jorgensen moved that Students' Council move *ex camera*.

32/1 Carried

Van Aerde: How can mandatory bus pass expenses be justified?

Agard: This is not an ongoing project, or even a proposal that has been formally put forth. Currently, ideas and input are being gathered from students, staff, and other concerned parties. The Edmonton Transit System (hereafter ETS) has recommended that post-secondary institutions implement a universal bus pass for all students in Edmonton. This idea has been tabled at its own Council. This issue will be opened for students to provide feedback through the Gateway, Gripe Tables, and other sources. This proposal cannot be implemented without students' consent *via* a majority referendum vote, and it is impossible to say whether or not the idea will progress that far. The same contention arose with the Athletics fee: the worth of the fee must be determined according to how many students would benefit from it.

Jeong (sponsored): What is Students' Council's reaction to The Touque? Secondly, is the Executive Committee aware that a biased and prejudiced writer is making significant contributions to The Touque?

Samuel, Chaput, Speer, Moore, Wepler, and Rogerson consented to extend Question Period by fifteen (15) minutes.

Wepler: The Touque has not made a very good impression thus far. The writing is mediocre and it is technically inferior. The Gateway is better.

Dunbar: This writer approached the Gateway with articles and was turned away due to their subject matter: the newspaper has a policy against sexism, racism, and homophobia. This writer has now ventured to The Touque. He admits that he is racist.

Roesch: The Touque should be commended for initiating a second student newspaper, but do their editors know about this writer's stances?

Lazin asserted that the editors must be at least passively aware. The Editor-in-Chief stated that he would not want this writer representing him as an individual.

Lazin went on to argue that technically, everyone has a right to free speech, but The Touque should be more aware of the reputation this writer is ensuring for them.

McGraw: Are the editors upset about this writer?

Jeong: The newspaper is a medium of power for information and education. That people who hold these views can be mounted to a position of such power is frightening. This writer does not overtly make such remarks, but they are conveyed implicitly in his articles.

McGraw: Have there been any concrete incidents of publishing racist remarks or sentiments?

Dunbar: Yes.

Wanke: The Touque approached the Students' Union asking for distribution within SUB. The Executive Committee is not willing to deny students this resource, because it should be the decision of the individual student whether or not to read it. This issue will be reviewed by the Gateway Advisory Committee, but the Students' Union must be conscious of the wishes of students.

Brindle: Can this be approached as a libel issue, to legally enforce the banning of the newspaper from SUB?

Lazin: Perhaps that will be looked into.

Gall: Will the Executive Committee reconsider distributing The Touque in SUB if it is proven to contain bigoted or libelous material?

Wanke: This issue will be taken under advisement.

Cabaj: Did ETS take into account the agreement at the University of Guelph, which allows students who drive to opt out of the bus pass fee?

Agard: As previously stated, this idea has no concrete formation thus far. The model that ETS examined was that of the University of Victoria.

Lazin: How was the figure of \$100.00 per year arrived at?

Agard: It was an initial approximation of the overall cost.

Dunbar (sponsored): What is happening with Friends of CJSR and FACRA?

Harlow: Friends of CJSR protects CJSR's assets as governed by FACRA, through volleying its resources and thus not having to give them up. However, in a court of law, this division would not hold up, because it is reasonably obvious that they are the same entity. For this reason, the legal niceties of maintaining their division have become burdensome, and thus they will be merged.

Adhihetty: What is the current situation with Newton Place?

Wanke: There was a 75% majority vote agreeing to the following compensation package: a 50% rent rebate for floors 3, 7, 15, and 21, which are the most affected; 15% for all other floors; and 30% for bachelor suite tenants in units required to clear out their storage rooms during the course of the water riser replacement project. As well, current tenants will not be penalized for breaking their leases, and returning tenants will be guaranteed a rent freeze if they renew their leases. Exceptions to this are being dealt with on an individual basis. All these stipulations are effective beginning in September 2000, and extend to the end of the project, which is estimated as December 22, 2000. To compensate for this agreement, it has been proposed that rents at other residences be raised by 0.6%. Housing & Food Services has denied that this is the reason for the rent increase; nothing is currently concretely set.

Harlow, Church, McGraw, Samuel, and Moore consented to extend Question Period by an additional fifteen (15) minutes.

Ganes: Rehabilitation Medicine classes are coming up short of textbooks because other schools are resorting to the University's Bookstore for better prices on books than their own schools were providing. How can this be avoided in future?

Samuel: Class sizes almost always generate an element of surprise for the Bookstore. Reserving the University's books for its own students is currently being addressed through the Task Force, but there is unfortunately no way to stop students from other schools coming through the Bookstore short of demanding a ONECard at the Bookstore's checkout.

Zwack: What is happening with the University's Vice-President Finance & Administration portfolio?

Agard: The portfolio's review committee has wrapped up this week, and recommendations will be made public in due course. **Agard** will bring these recommendations to Council when they are a matter of public record, but currently they are confidential.

Zwack: What is happening with Scholars for Dollars?

Church: There was a meeting about this, regarding developing a business strategy. There is something of a conflicted position in terms of the proposal. The Students' Union is supportive of the initiative, but more information is necessary.

2000-11/9

LEGISLATION

**2000-11/9a BYLAW
1400 – POLICY OF
THE STUDENTS'
UNION**

HARLOW / CHURCH MOVED (FIRST READING) THAT Students' Council approve the changes to Bylaw 1400 respecting Policy of the Students' Union.

28/2 Carried

**2000-11/9b
PP EDUCATION
FUNDING
CUTBACKS**

AGARD / CHURCH MOVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the External Affairs Board, approve the changes to Political Policy re Education Funding Cutbacks

31/2 Carried

**2000-11/9c BYLAW
2600 –
COMMUNICATIONS
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

HARLOW / SAMUEL MOVED (FIRST READING) THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve the creation of a new Bylaw 2600 respecting the Communications Advisory Committee.

Church introduced the motion. This committee would govern outreach activities during the school year. The Student Communications Coordinator needs both assistance and feedback, which this committee would provide. The committee would also help to make both these activities and the Student Communications Coordinator's position more organized and effective, and deal with many of the questions that would ordinarily come to Council.

Harlow / Agard moved that Items 4a through 4f inclusive be struck, and replaced with Items 4a through 4d in the new Information Item.

Vote on Amendment: 33/0 Carried

Odynski: Why would this committee only be composed of students? Why not other staff?

Church: Currently, this is an in-house committee. Bringing faculty or Graduate Students' Association (GSA) members to sit is relatively unprecedented in the Students' Union's board structure. Non-student involvement cannot truly be justified at this point, but the Students Communications Coordinator is looking at how to involve these groups.

Partridge: Whose portfolio does the Student Communications Coordinator fall under, and does that person not already have a committee?

Church: The SCC falls under the President, and the committees chaired by or under the jurisdiction of the President are not specific enough to serve this purpose.

31/1 Carried

2000-11/10

NEW BUSINESS

2000-11/10a
**GATEWAY
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

WANKE / CHURCH MOVED THAT Students' Council nominate one (1) councillor to sit on the *Gateway* Advisory Committee for the remainder of the school year 2000/2001

Congratulations to **Brindle**.

2000-11/10b
**TEACHING AND
LEARNING
WORKSHOP**

SAMUEL / HARLOW MOVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, appoint six (6) councillors to take part in the Teaching and Learning Workshop.

The Workshop will take place on **Thursday, October 26, 2000, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** in the Alumni Room of the Students' Union Building.

Congratulations to **Speer, Partridge, Taher, Read, Moore, and Hartery**.

2000-11/12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church: The University's Annual General Meeting will be held in Hall B of the Shaw Conference Centre Wednesday morning. Anyone who wishes to is urged to attend.

Agard: All councillors are asked to return completed Maclean's surveys to **Agard**.

Rogerson: Arts Week is currently happening, including Oktoberfest. Many events will take place in the Arts Quad, and everyone is invited. Please direct any questions to the Arts Students' Association office at 2-10 Humanities Centre.

Gall: French drinking party at 8:00 p.m. this coming Thursday at Bonnie Doon. \$7.00 entrance charge covers quite a bit!

Jorgensen: There will be a Business party at Cowboys. Tickets are available compassing the cover charge and cost-effective ale.

Moore: The Residence Halls Association is holding a silent auction to raise funds to attend a conference in Utah. Tickets are \$2.00.

2000-11/13

ADJOURNMENT

Poon / Hartery moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

