

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL

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Tuesday December 3, 2002 - 6:00 PM  
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

MINUTES (SC 2002-17)

Faculty/Position	Name	6:00	9:00
President	Mike Hudema	✓	✓
VP Academic	Mat Brechtel	✓	✓
VP External	Anand Sharma	✓	✓
VP Finance	Steve Smith	✓	✓
VP Student Life	Kail Ross	✓	✓
Undergrad Board of Governors Rep.	Mike Reid	✓	✓
Residence Halls Association	George Slomp	✓	✓
U of A Athletics Board			
Agric/Forest/HomeEc	Paul Reikie	✓	✓
Agric/Forest/HomeEc	Teodora Alampi	✓	✓
Arts	Chris Bolivar	✓	✓
Arts	Kyle Kawanami	✓	✓

Arts	James Knull	✓ (6:20)	✓
Arts	Matt Oberhoffner	✓	✓
Arts	Alexis Pepin (Christine Rogerson)	✓	✓
Arts	Laura Roberts (Vadim Sebeykin)	✓	✓
Arts	Vivek Sharma	✓	✓
Arts	Paul Welke	✓	✓
Business	Jamie Kidston	✓	✓
Business	Meena Rajulu	✓	✓
Business	Holly Tomte	✓	✓
Education	Charles Beamish	✓	✓
Education	Daljeet Chhina	✓	✓
Education	Allison Ekdahl	✓	✓
Education	Mandeep Gill	✓	✓
Education	Janet Lo	✓	✓
Engineering	Margaret Laffin	✓	✓
Engineering	Paige Smith	✓	✓
Engineering	Chris Jones	✓	✓
Engineering	Michelle Vigeant	✓	✓
Engineering	David Wepler	✓ (6:30)	✓
Law	Paul Varga	✓	✓

Medicine/Dentistry	Miranda Richardson	x	x
Medicine/Dentistry	Jeffrey Cao	✓	✓
Native Studies	Valerie Knaga	x	x
Nursing	Leta Fuhrman	✓	✓
Open Studies			
Open Studies			
Pharmacy	Kurt Greene	✓	✓
Rehabilitation Medicine	Adelaine Wong	✓ (6:45)	✓
Faculté Saint-Jean	Lisa Clyburn	✓	✓
Science	Chamila Adhietty	✓	✓
Science	Kimberly Dary	✓	✓
Science	Katie Grant	✓	✓
Science	Aisha Khatib	✓	✓
Science			
Science	Chris Samuel	✓	✓
Science	Steven Schendel (Lindsay Eales)	✓	✓
Science	Kimmy Williams	✓	✓
General Manager	Bill Smith	x	x
Speaker	Gregory Harlow	✓	✓
Recording Secretary	Helen McGraw	✓	✓

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**Observers** Tara Melnyk, Donal Finegan, Sara Katz, Ryan Cheng, Bequie Lake, Rose Yewchuk, Nathan Mison (President, Students' Association of Grant MacEwan)

2002-17/1                    **CALL TO ORDER** (6:05)

2002-17/4                    **SPEAKER'S BUSINESS**

The following individuals were named guests of council:

EAB members: Tara Melnyk, Donal Finegan, Sara Katz, Ryan Cheng

Bequie Lake, Rose Yewchuk

Councilor Samuel graciously offered to take minutes at the Jan. 7, 2003 meeting as the Recording Secretary will still be on her way back from Africa. Samuel is not the first nor the only councilor to fill in for recording secretary.

2002-17/6                    **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

SMITH MOVED TO suspend standing orders 1 and 12  
**Carried**

SMITH/ALAMPI MOVED TO adopt LA 02-17.05 as the agenda

SHARMA (COUNCILOR) MOVED TO limit discussion on item 8a to 90 minutes

**Carried**

**Carried**

2002-17/7                    **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

SMITH/SLOMP MOVED TO approve the minutes of the Nov. 19 meeting

p. 2: Aisha Khatib's proxy was Roman Kotovych, who is Roman Khatib only in his dreams.

p. 3: The CASA Communications Coordinator is Erin

**Stevenson** . The VP External of the University of Lethbridge and the Northwestern Regional Director of CASA is Jerred Kubic. The Recording Secretary would like to hereby admonish certain CASA representatives for their poor penmanship.

p. 14 Since **Weppler** was never recognized by the speaker, he can't have made a witty retort to **Ross's** glass house scorn for organizations that can't get their shit together.

2002-17/8

### CASA/NATIONAL LOBBYING ORGANIZATIONS

2002-17/8a

OBERHOFFNER/REID MOVED THAT Students' Council adopt the proposed Political Policy "Canadian Federation of Students"

*Please see LA 02-17.06*

**Smith:** It is not appropriate for the SU to have a political policy on this issue.

**Sharma:** This explains to future councils and executives why we are not in CFS.

**Kawanami:** Since people have to enter CFS via a referendum, is a political policy really appropriate?

**Jones:** This policy would prevent council from initiating a referendum but would not block one initiated via petition.

**Smith:** This is the maximum protection from CFS entry that we can hope for.

**Rogerson:** The BIRT should read "to not pursue" as it sounds better than "not to pursue" and there's nothing wrong with splitting infinitives. (**Friendly**)

KAWANAMI MOVED TO amend the BIRT to read "...pursue membership, prospective or otherwise,..."

**Carried**

**Hudema:** Whereases don't make sense. 1. What is "lobby style"? 2. U of A would have substantial control over the provincial branch of CFS. 3. None of our policies are in direct conflict with CFS's and that organization delves into many social issues that council doesn't.

HUDEMA/ROSS MOVED TO strike all of the whereases

**Beamish:** This policy is here to allay the fears of many councilors who are afraid that we will pull out of CASA only to join CFS.

**Hudema:** The whereases are a separate issue from the policy

as a whole.

ROGERSON/SMITH (COUNCILOR) MOVED TO split the question

**Defeated**

**Welke:** This policy expires in 2006; without the whereases, future councils have no explanation for why it exists.

**Ross:** What is the factual basis behind these statements?

**Jones:** Political policies do not need to be factual.

**Bolivar:** We still haven't determined whether these statements are true.

**Carried (18/17/14)**

**Roll Call (Reid, Samuel, Bolivar, Beamish, Oberhoffner)**

**Defeated (17/25/3)**

SLOMP/SAMUEL MOVED TO replace the existing whereases with:

“Whereas the political representation approach of the CFS is not supported by the Students’ Union” and “Whereas the membership fee to join CFS is comparatively high”

**Slomp:** This would address many of the concerns raised by Hudema.

**Carried (36/2/0)**

**Carried (34/6/2)**

2002-17/8b  
Political Policy  
“National  
Representation”

SHARMA/CLYBURN MOVED THAT Students’ Council, upon the recommendation of the External Affairs Board and the Executive Committee, rescind the Political Policy “National Representation: National Organization of Students”.  
*Please see document SC 02-17.09.*

**Sharma:** We need to move on to the debate on whether we truly want to be members of CASA or not. This policy is outdated.

**Carried (36/3/4)**

2002-17/8c  
Political Policy  
“The Political

SHARMA/CLYBURN MOVED THAT Students’ Council, upon the recommendation of the External Affairs Board, adopt the Political Policy “The Political Representation of Students”.

**“The Political  
Representation of  
Students”**

*Please see document SC 02-17.10.*

**Jones:** This policy explains that we want to direct our lobbying energy to the provincial government because we recognize the important role they play in PSE funding.

**Beamish:** Why do we need a political statement about this?

**Clyburn:** This will provide the SU with guidance for resource allocation.

**Kidston:** This policy would largely dictate much of our direction on the next agenda item, pulling out of CASA.

**Ross:** This policy will cement **Sharma’s** legacy, as a two-thirds majority would be required to change it.

**Samuel:** This policy just says that provincial issues need to come high on the priority list; it doesn’t say one thing or another about national organizations.

**Kawanami:** This and the CASA debate are clearly two separate issues.

**Sharma:** This policy addresses concerns raised at EAB. Incoming executives don’t know which federal and provincial lobbying organizations are key; this policy emphasizes that the provincial jurisdiction and provincial lobbying is important. Editorial change: “rile” should read “role”.

**Jones:** This policy does not mention CASA, CFS or any other organization. It neither mandates nor precludes membership in any organization, only says that we think our priorities need to be provincial. This could be done from within or without an organization such as CASA or CFS.

**Brechtel:** Regardless of whether the policy explicitly says anything about CASA or CFS, this policy may have implications (especially federally) that may not be readily apparent.

BRECHTEL/KNULL MOVED TO refer the question to DIE board.

**Smith:** Defeating this policy would be a simpler and better idea.

**Kawanami:** Simply removing the word “principally” might alleviate many of these concerns.

**Hudema:** This policy is unnecessary; let’s just defeat it.

ROSS/WEPLER MOVED the previous question

**Carried**

**Carried (20/18/3)**

SHARMA/CLYBURN MOVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the External Affairs Board, terminate the Students' Union's membership in the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

**Sharma:** I began my term with a promise to review our membership in CASA and this is the conclusion of that review. I asked whether CASA is an effective organization in which we should continue to invest and the answer is no. I'm somewhat of a traditionalist (hey, at least compared to these guys) so this was a big decision. This is the beginning of a process; EAB will have to investigate where we should redirect our resources, what new staff we will hire, etc. Officially we need to withdraw by March 14 to give our 45 days notice; there is little substantial business in CASA for the rest of the year.

**Brechtel:** Do we need national something? Is CASA the best national something? Mr. Sharma answers yes and no and favors non-alignment; this isn't just diverting money from federal lobbying to provincial.

**Clyburn:** This started off as an effectiveness debate and CASA isn't necessarily an ineffective organization (they have structural problems but, heck, so do we). It then became an issue of resource allocation; we clearly need more provincial lobbying and if it is not within our budgetary capabilities to divert more funds total towards lobbying, we may have to settle for a reallocation of existing funds.

**Beamish:** What will happen to the money we currently spend on CASA?

**Varga:** Tuition is the main issue right now; it is important for our resources to be spent addressing this.

**Jones:** The document in the following agenda item describes possible plans for reallocating our lobbying resources, in particular with a greater emphasis on provincial lobbying.

**Bolivar:** The options before us are more speculation than a viable alternative to staying in CASA; please make sure to read the supplementary items in the agenda package.

**Slomp:** If we pull out, there will be more money to play with. There is plenty of time to decide how to spend that. I strongly encourage the next speaker to call the question.

**Kawanami:** 1. National/provincial balance: we can't abandon the national level especially considering what the Alberta government would likely do to PSE if it had its druthers. 2. Can we be effective on the federal level outside of CASA? Probably not. It is important to maintain a meaningful



presence at the federal level, especially considering that all parties will be entering leadership races soon. 3. The free ride argument: membership allows us to ensure that lobbying focuses on issues that are of concern to us; we don't get any say if we are free riders. 4. Fiscal: when we talked about setting up ECOS, we didn't frame it in terms of cutting money from elsewhere in the budget, but this issue is being considered largely in terms of cutting federal lobbying to pour more money into provincial lobbying. "ipso facto"

**Reikie:** How does the provincial government respond to anything that is national or federal nature? They won't take us seriously if we're part of a federal organization (c.f. Kyoto). Tuition is unarguably the biggest issue at U of A; it's time to get some guts and actually represent students.

**Welke:** Just because CASA may be ineffective doesn't mean that we should turn tail and run; it means that we need to make it work for us. There has been a marked (and not positive) change in the SU's attitude towards CASA this year. U of A showed up at CASA with ideas for change and many of these were adopted. We can make an improvement to CASA by maintaining the organization. This is an ideal time to highlight PSE on the national agenda, given the blurring between federal and provincial jurisdictions wrt Kyoto and health care. It is irresponsible to our constituents to pull out of this opportunity to effect change on a national level. We have been an important member of CASA since its inception and a blip in the political record shouldn't affect that.

**Laffin:** Directing more money to provincial lobbying is not an excuse for pulling out of CASA.

**Hudema:** We can decide at a later date what to do with the freed-up money if we pull out of CASA. We have given CASA a legitimate chance; **Brechtel** and **Clyburn** have both gone with **Sharma** to conferences and now favor pulling out of the organization. CASA offered us no support this summer when we were dealing with the possibility of deregulated tuition and showed no interest in being involved in a debate on the FTAA. CASA is not the most effective organization financially or wrt policy. We're currently spending more money on federal than on provincial issues and this needs to be changed.

**Sharma (Councilor):** Our vote is 1 out of 23 in CASA. We have finite resources to direct to lobbying and it is important that they be spent effectively.

**Vigeant:** We need more money for PSE. We can lobby the federal government to increase the CHST but ultimately it is

up to the provincial government to decide how to spend that money.

**Smith:** Pulling out of CASA is not the only way to get more money for provincial lobbying. That being said, there is not a lot of money just laying around; spending more on provincial lobbying will require more money from somewhere.

**Samuel:** No one here has claimed that there are no federal issues on which we need to lobby. If we pull out of CASA, we will have to do all of our federal lobbying on our own. This is not a realistic option for the U of A. We need to be in a position where we can initiate campaigns on issues from within the organization. Student politics are transitive in nature; one cannot fault CASA as a whole based on its performance for one year. CASA this year does not necessarily reflect what CASA could be if the U of A was committed to effecting positive change from within.

**Welke:** We need to focus our lobbying efforts; the federal government is not the most effective target.

**Sebykin:** The Liberal government hasn't shown interest in PSE during its many years of power; it's hard to imagine that federal lobbying efforts will be very effective.

**Cao:** Differential tuition is a very real issue facing Alberta university students and on which CASA has not given us any support. We need to focus our lobbying efforts on the provincial level

ALAMPI/ROSS MOVED the previous question

**Defeated**

**Kidston:** We can't concern ourselves only with tuition because there are other, less obvious, issues on which it is important to raise awareness. It's not fair to our constituents to simply take a free ride when CASA launches a campaign.

**Sharma:** CASA has had very little (if any) policy development since 1999; all of the successes CASA mentioned at the last meeting were implemented in or before the 1998 federal budget. I have brought resolutions before the federal conference, trying to effect change from within, and it simply hasn't materialized. The status quo works for enough institutions, especially colleges and smaller schools; this dilutes our power and makes it difficult to effect change. I don't believe that federal lobbying is irrelevant but I also don't believe that it is worth the amount of money we pour

into CASA each year. The areas on which CASA focuses are not the ones of most pressing concern to U of A undergrads (i.e. research and CHST). It would be more effective to hire a staff member to deal with these issues. I don't believe in a free ride; we will be providing resources to these organizations as long as they are promoting and lobbying for ideas that are important to U of A students.

**Reid:** There are merits to remaining in CASA. There are federal issues that are of importance to U of A Students and it is important that we lobby on these. Many have charged that CASA has been lackadaisical. It's fair for an organization not to adopt our proposed policies as long as they were willing to debate them.

**Smith (Councilor):** There are other, more effective, ways to lobby the federal government. We can have a provincial focus on federal issues by talking to MPs.

**Clyburn:** It is unfair to accuse Sharma of not trying to make CASA work; I thought much the same originally but took those thoughts back after having attended the federal lobbying conference with him. Is CASA fixable? Probably. But we are spending too much of our finite resources on federal issues when provincial ones are of more pressing concern.

**Beamish:** I am in favor of pulling out of CASA. My grandparents met at the U of A 90 years ago and I want my grandchildren to be able to afford to go here. There are a number of options that would better accomplish these goals.

**Jones:** We were once founding members of CFS. A decade and a half ago we went through the same ordeal withdrawing from that federal lobby organization. The question is not whether CASA is good, it's whether CASA is best. The answer is no. It is time to sell our stake in CASA and divert those resources elsewhere. There is not necessarily a finite amount of money available for lobbying, but ultimately the total amount of money at our disposal is finite; it is important that this is well spent. CASA is not the be all and end all of federal lobbying.

KHATIB/ALAMPI MOVED the previous question.

**Defeated**

**Bolivar:** There has been no question of whether we should spend money on both the federal and provincial fronts. However, if we are not going into federal lobbying as a group effort, how effective will we be? It will be costly for us to

lobby individually. We find money to spend on computer labs, media campaigns and Eco Conferences; it is foolish to suggest that we need to pull out of CASA in order to fund provincial lobbying efforts.

**Slomp:** One characteristic we want from an organization is networking; the fact that CASA showed no interest when we needed support on differential tuition indicates the lack of networking effectiveness. I love you all and you're all great.

**Brechtel:** Per dollar spent, few SU services provide the return on investment that we get on lobbying at the federal or provincial level. Pulling out of CASA doesn't equate into a decreased resources poured into federal lobbying.

Differential tuition is a purely university issue not one of the provincial jurisdiction; if you're only worried about tuition, lobby the university.

HUDEMA/BRECHTEL MOVED TO suspend Standing Order 30  
**Carried**

OBERHOFFNER/KIDSTON MOVED TO recess for 10 minutes  
**Carried**

**Kawanami:** It is important to realize that this is not a zero-sum game. It is conceivable that a future SU may decide that it needs to divert more resources to federal than provincial lobbying.

EKDAHL/DARY MOVED THE previous question  
**Carried**

**Carried (24/18/0)**

**Roll Call (Reid, Wepler, Kawanami, Samuel, Rogerson)**

**Carried (25/17/0)**

2002-17/8e  
CASA

SHARMA/CLYBURN MOVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the External Affairs Board, direct the External Affairs Board to prepare and recommend a plan for the strengthening of the Council of Alberta University Students based on the document "Towards Effective Political Representation," and that Students' Council direct the External Affairs Board to oversee a review of the Students' Union's affiliation with national lobbying organizations to be completed by December 31, 2004.  
*Please see document SC 02-17.12.*

**Withdrawn**

2002-17/12a  
Bylaw 9100

BRECHTEL MOVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, approve the proposed changes to Bylaw 9100 Respecting the Involvement Recognition Awards of the Students' Union (FIRST Reading).  
*Please see document SC 02-17.07.*

**Brechtel:** As part of Subway's lease, they need to provide two scholarships.

**Carried (29/2/1)**

2002-17/121  
Bylaw 8451

WEPPLER/SMITH MOVED THAT Students' Council approve the proposed changes to Bylaw 8451 Respecting Faculty Association Membership Fees (FIRST Reading).

*Please see document SC 02-17.06.*

**Carried (31/1/2)**

2002-17/9

**REPORTS**

2002-17/9a

**Mike Hudema, President**

Written report (including two petition sheets to circulate) provided.

2002-17/9b

**Mat Brechtel, Vice-President (Academic)**

Last week Delta Chi filled my office 4 feet deep with clothes they collected for the Bissel center; huzzah.

2002-17/9c

**Anand Sharma, Vice-President (External)**

Congrats to Delta Chi for their commendable efforts and to Council for your contributions to and patience with the CASA debate.

2002-17/9d

**Steve Smith, Vice-President (Operations and Finance)**

I have two written reports for you lucky kids! I thanked everyone in the report except Dan Costigan, Senior Manager of Marketing and Communications and Juliana Du Pree, Supervisor of Graphic Design and Layout.

2002-17/9e

**Kail Ross, Vice-President (Student Life)**

Report in Late Additions, including three bylaws I want to bring up in January.

2002-17/9f

**George Slomp, Residence Halls Association**

We're tenting for tuition and I challenge all faculties to match us.

- 2002-17/9g            **Charles Beamish, Education**  
Check out the fabulous new Education clothing line. Come to our Christmas party tomorrow: the real Santa will be there, along with free food. 1-4PM, Ed South lobby.
- 2002-17/9h            **Mariel Dagot, Student Activities Coordinator**  
SAC Report            *Please see document SC 02-17.01.*
- 2002-17/10            **QUESTION PERIOD**
- Bolivar:** Who was responsible for proofreading the “12 Ways of University Misspending” display?  
**Hudema:** Ross’s assistance was invaluable in setting up the display if perhaps not in its editing. Rest assured that two VPs have now been appointed to a proofreading taskforce and you can expect a thorough report in January.
- WELKE MOVED TO adjourn  
Carried
- 2002-17/17            **ADJOURNMENT** (9:30)