

University of Alberta Students' Union

**STUDENTS'
COUNCIL
LATE ADDITIONS**

**Tuesday September 18, 2001 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall**

2001-09/12

NEW BUSINESS

**ACEC HIRING
COMMITTEE**

WANKE/SAMUEL MOVED THAT Students' Council appoint one councilor to sit on the hiring committee for the ACEC.

Report to Students' Council

Document SC 01-09

Amy Salyzyn
Vice-President Academic
September 18, 2001

I. Parent Orientation (August 18 and September 1)

On August 18 and September 1, I had the opportunity run a session in Parent Orientation. This session was entitled "Academics at the U of A" and was co-presented with Dr. Margaret Ann-Armour. I found this to be a great chance to meet parents of first-year students and answer their questions/address their concerns regarding the academic environment at the University of Alberta from both a student and professor perspective. Kudos to the Orientation staff for putting on such an excellent event – I certainly enjoyed my opportunity to participate and I know that the parents did as well.

II. University of Alberta/Economic Development Edmonton Federal Liberal Caucus Breakfast (August 23)

Participating as a greeter at this event was an excellent chance to interact with members of the Federal Government and University community to present the face and issues of students at the University of Alberta. Despite a very tight agenda for the event, I was pleased that we had the opportunity to individually interact with key-decision makers to articulate post-secondary issues.

III. Academic Affairs Board meeting (August 23)

Topics at the second meeting of the Academic Affairs Board included: midterm teaching evaluations, the Students' Union representation of and interaction with international students, perceptions of Faculty Associations, and various outreach potentials. It was great to see all members engaged and to gather a variety of perspectives.

IV. Organizational Review meetings – SFAIC and Access Fund (August 23, August 24, August 29, August 31)

The Organizational Review process that the Students' Union is undertaking this year is well underway and going very well. I have been quite involved in this process with the reviews of the Student Financial Aid and Information Centre as well as for the Access Fund. This process has forced us to look quite closely at our current practices and think outside the box to where we can evolve to in the future. Thanks to the seriousness and creativity that staff are putting into this exercise, the results so far are quite exciting.

V. Grading Conversion Workshop and Luncheon (August 24)

This event was an informal workshop hosted by the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) to discuss issues surrounding our conversion to a 4.0/Alpha grading scale in September 2003. Primarily, the discussion occurred on a strategic level regarding the benchmarks that should guide our conversion process and highlighted the issues that must be addressed.

VI. Council of Faculty Associations Retreat (August 25)

On the last Saturday in August, myself, Thea Varvis and many members of Faculty Associations set aside a day to meet, greet, learn and plan. It was a jam-packed day of presentations and there was much information for all delegates to take in. Thanks to the hard work of Thea, the event ran along smoothly and we were all very well fed. In addition to gathering many great ideas from a wide array of fantastic presenters, many great ideas were generated from the group itself. If the energy and intelligence displayed in that room is any indication, it is going to be a great year!

VII. Marketing Research Working Group (August 30, September 13, September 14, September 19)

In addition to being involved in the Organizational Review process, my portfolio has found itself engaged in another major and exciting endeavour of our organization this year – the administration of a comprehensive undergraduate survey. With our consultants from Incite Solutions, we have developed a timeline, set of questions, and plan of administration/analysis. This project offers an unprecedented chance to “measure the pulse”, so to speak, of undergraduate students. We will need student help in the administration in this survey – if any counselors can devote a few hours, please call Dan Costigan at 492-4236.

VIII. Orientation (September 3-4)

What a proud time to be part of the University community! During the two days of Orientation I had an opportunity to meet many new students, observe sessions and participate in events (including the amazing President's Address). It was wonderful to see students getting such a warm and extensive welcome to our campus and the intense pride demonstrated by all. A big congratulations to all the Orientation staff and volunteers!

IX. Week of Welcome --- *Wild, Wild WOW!* (September 5-7)

With Prize Patrol, Quad Activities, Beer Gardens, Wayne Lee, Taste of the U, Western Casino, Pancake Breakfast(s), WOW Dance with David Usher – Week of Welcome certainly kept me busy and having lots of fun. Once again, special congratulations must go out – this time to Jen, Alexis, Catherine, Christine and all of the dedicated volunteers that made this week such a smashing success.

X. Celebration of Teaching and Learning (September 5)

I was very privileged to be invited to participate in this event as a presenter of SALUTE (Students' Union Award for Leadership in Undergraduate Teaching). It was fantastic to see the qualities and commitment of our teachers and learners at this institution. Having the University community together to take a moment to recognize excellence in our students and faculty and remind of us of the importance of teaching and learning on this campus is always valuable time spent.

XI. GFC Executive Committee (September 10)

Last Monday, myself and the other members of the GFC Executive Committee had the opportunity to review the agenda for the upcoming September GFC meeting. Items include two proposals from my office to enhance student representation on Department Chair and Dean Selection Committees, changes to the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine Faculty Council, discussion on the reapportionment of GFC and its adjournment procedures.

XII. Meeting Regarding Technology Vision for Public Computing Spaces (September 11)

Spinning off the work of several of the technology committees that I sit on, a working group was formed to focus on and develop a vision for the future of public computing space at the

University of Alberta. Many exciting ideas are already emerging and its great to be able to voice a student perspective in this forum.

Up and coming...

Teaching and Learning Committee (September 18)

GFC Student Caucus (September 19)

CAAST Meeting (September 20)

GFC FDC (September 21)

General Faculties Council (September 24)