

*University of Alberta Students' Union*

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

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Tuesday June 29, 2004 – 6:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

2004-05/6

REPORTS

2004-05/6d

Lisa McLaughlin, Vice President Academic

Please see document LA 04-05.01

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Duncan Taylor, Vice President Student Life

Please see document LA 04-05.02

2004-05/df

Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative

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## Report to Students' Council, June 29, 2004

Lisa McLaughlin, VP (Academic)

For period June 16-24, 2004

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### CONFERENCE REPORT: "Experiencing the Richness of the University Mosaic: from Diversity to Individuality"

June 15-19

Hosted by the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education  
University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario

#### History:

As you know, I attended this conference in Ottawa last week after gauging it to be an endeavor of potential value and worth investigating, since a representative from our Students' Union has not attended this in the past, to my knowledge. Upon informing her of the existence of this conference opportunity, my counterpart at the University of Calgary, Laura Schultz, also decided to attend with one of her academic commissioners, making us the only student representatives at the conference of whom I am aware.

#### Symptoms:

##### Wednesday, June 16

- "*The Ideal University*"

This workshop spanned an entire morning and was a "pie in the sky" type of exercise that allowed participants to reflect upon and discuss what an "ideal" university would be like if there were no constraints. Although much of what came out of the workshop isn't entirely realistic (and it's not necessarily supposed to be), it gave us a good sense of what our values are with respect to post-secondary education. What I found was that the student perspective on the ideal (part of which came from AAB) isn't much different than the faculty perspective. Many themes that arose from the workshop include ideas of holistic development (i.e., development not only of workers, but also of citizens and adults) and mentorship between profs and/or grad students and undergrads – very much along the lines of a traditional liberal arts approach, although many wouldn't necessarily endorse a complete return to that model of university education.

##### Thursday, June 17

- "*The Quality Challenge: A Discussion on Strategies for Enhancing the Quality of Post-Secondary Education in Canada*"

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A 2.5-hour workshop at which a representative from the federal government was present, this was likely one of the most valuable sessions I attended. The purpose was to determine what evidence exists to indicate that there is a problem with the quality of education at post-secondary schools across Canada and to determine what role the federal government could have in this situation.

Essentially, the feds don't want to get involved in a provincial matter unless the problem is serious enough, and they want to know if there is anything they can do to help improve quality without intervening too much. It was a great opportunity to talk with a rep from the federal government, with the President of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, and with faculty and faculty developers (i.e., people who work for University Teaching Services-type areas).

- *“Chemistry is More Fun when it’s a Problem-based Class”*  
This session was a waste of time, simply because of the way it was presented, as a demonstration (with us participating) rather than a discussion. I wanted to know more about problem-based learning from a theoretical standpoint and discuss the merits and drawbacks of it, but it turned out to be one professor showcasing how she does it in one class.
- *“Can we Agree on what we want our Graduates to be Like?”*  
This session was hosted by a very attractive 30-something male Aussie with a great body and a nice tan, but was valuable for reasons much beyond that! Essentially, it sought to discuss research on what sort of attributes graduates of universities should possess, and then using that information to look at curriculum reform to produce those attributes. It gave me some good ideas about what skills, knowledge, and attitudes a graduate could/should have developed by the time they leave university.

### Friday, June 18

- *“The Ideal University: Recap and Results”*  
Probably not the best choice of time simply because we really only summarized for a new audience what was discussed at the workshop on Wednesday.
- *“Understanding Plagiarism Across Disciplines: Common Concept, Diverse Practices”*  
This session presented research about the reasons people plagiarize and how plagiarism is understood by students and faculty. Although some of the information was common sense, it really articulated the different aspects of academic dishonesty and reaffirmed the idea that it is a community issue for which responsibility must be shared by students, faculty, and admin. This was helpful in giving me a better understanding of the issue and its impacts, given

initiatives at the U of A to develop a policy to address the community nature of academic integrity.

- “*Sleep: New Discoveries and Strategies for Optimal Learning*”  
This was one of my “fun” sessions, given my own terrible sleep habits! It gave a quick recap of some of the sleep structures of the brain and then presented research on how sleep impacts learning and memory. It also talked about the stages of sleep and why you need enough time in the different stages in order to be fully functioning and have an optimal performance during the day. Essentially, by having enough sleep, you are more attentive during the day and able to take in more information. As well, certain processes happen at night in the brain that more firmly engrain the information you attended to during the day, improving your memory. But this requires adequate sleep!

### Saturday, June 19

- “*Using Diverse Assessment to Improve Student Learning: Theory, Evaluation, and Practice*”  
Another awesome session on how current methods of assessing students do not support the learning process. It talked about better strategies to get students more engaged in the material and to facilitate deep learning (as opposed to surface learning), essentially by placing the learning process in the hands of students themselves. It also emphasized the importance of timely and informative feedback from professors in the learning process. I don’t have my notes nearby to go into more detail ... but it was great! Oh, it also gave me ideas on how profs should be evaluated (formally and informally) to support them in their own development.

### Other sessions I would have liked to attend but couldn’t due to time overlap:

- “Enhancing student learning through learning portfolios”
- “Evaluation of the informal kind: A confidence booster”
- “Personalizing the megaclass”
- “Peer teaching in liberal education: The arts seminar program at UPEI”
- “Group work: Increasing learner access to the classroom discussion”
- “Inquiry: Does it really work for first-year students?”
- “Plagiarism – is TurnItIn the answer?”
- “Multi-source teaching evaluations: Recommendations for individuals and institutions”
- “Where students say they learn the most”
- “Using a variety of teaching methods in university courses: Is it worth it?”

- “Diverse programs, diverse outcomes: Comparing certificate in university teaching (CUT) program evaluations at two Canadian universities”
- “Can innovation in teaching and learning be measures?”
- “From memorization to real life: Helping students make the shift out of their comfort zones”
- “You must have some questions! A discussion-based approach to undergraduate teaching”
- “Making laptops work in the classroom: How is it possible?”
- “A framework for developing and evaluating a substantive faculty certificate program on the scholarship of teaching and learning”

#### **Other great experiences:**

- Witnessed awarding of 3M Canada Teaching Fellowships, the highest national honour you can receive for university teaching. Dr. Brenda Cameron, from the Faculty of Nursing at the U of A, was one of the recipients.
- Met the Government Relations guy from CASA.
- Had an opportunity to talk with some of the U of A’s faculty (although only a handful attended the conference) and got some useful insights into their perspective on issues such as teaching evaluation, quality, etc.
- Got to know admin member from VP (Research) office at the U of A, Brad Wuetherick, who is heading up the Working Group on Teaching and Research and whose support I will need throughout the year.

#### Diagnosis:

##### *Content*

This conference was undoubtedly valuable and worth my time and our students’ money. The session content covered some very important issues and, for the most part, was presented in a way that was very useful for participants to apply to their own institutions. One of the most valuable parts of the conference was being able to collaborate with faculty and to honestly discuss our thoughts and opinions on these important and pervasive issues, and to get a picture of what is going on at a number of schools across the country. For people in my position, having this sort of interactive experience with faculty is important for facilitating communication because it lowers the perception of barriers and conflicts of interest and makes you more comfortable viewing faculty as approachable colleagues rather than distant and alien beings. I spent the better part of my plane ride home brainstorming and writing down a list of priorities for the year. Suddenly, I have a much better idea of the big picture, how things fit together

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and influence each other, and what the arguments for and against the issues are and why.

### *Student Representation*

I was AMAZED at the reception we, students, received from the other conference attendees! They really valued having students there as participants in discussions and as sources of information. We can provide a unique and valuable perspective, and they realize that. I received an e-mail today from the President of STLHE inviting me to work with her on ways to build a relationship between the STLHE and student associations and to get more students to attend the conference in the future. That says a lot.

### *Location/logistics*

Although the conference was great, I was not overly thrilled with the logistics and the location. The residences were icky and hot, the food was disappointing (CCSA was MUCH better!), and the communication between conference organizers and delegates could have been better. It wasn't a disaster, but wasn't overly impressive. What was neat, however, was that this conference was bilingual, so translation service were offered at all sessions and keynote addresses switched back and forth between English and French. Even then, I think the U of O could have done a better job of ensuring French delegates were able to fully participate in the conference and receive the same information. However, the location/logistics really aren't something that one can anticipate and will vary depending on the host institution and organizing committee. Most importantly, the session content was great!

### Prescription:

In developing the 2005-06 preliminary budget for my department, I will budget for the 2005-06 Vice-President (Academic) to attend this conference, and strongly recommend that s/he do so. I also will budget for the Associate Vice-President (Academic) to attend and would recommend this as well, given the large number of valuable sessions that would be better covered by two reps from the U of A SU. This year, the VP (Academic) from the University of Calgary attended along with an Academic Commissioner, and they were able to attend different sessions, gaining twice the amount of information and ideas.

I also intend to promote this conference to other VPs Academic (and similar) at other Canadian universities and encourage them to consider sending a representative.

## A POST-CONFERENCE SIDE TRIP: Visiting the Queen's University Executive in Kingston, Ontario

I spent Saturday through Monday in Kingston with the executive of the Queen's Alma Mater Society, whom we met at CCSA in May. This trip was on my own dime and was largely for fun, but I did have an opportunity to tour their students' union building (called the John Deutsch University Centre) and to attend a meeting with the Vice-President (University Affairs) and his commissioners. A few interesting observations:

- The AMS Exec consists of 3 people (VP UA, VP Operations, and President).
- The AMS Exec candidates always run as a slate.
- The VPUA is essentially our VPA, VPX, and VPSL in one! Brain supervises a number of commissioners (about 6) who deal with academics, municipal affairs, social and campus issues, and internal affairs.
- The J-Duck (as it's affectionately called) has two bars in it – one is similar to our Power Plant in general atmosphere and the other is very much like an Irish Pub – very nice (with all the look and feel of an Irish pub) and apparently always filled!

### POST-TRIP:

#### Since I've been back:

- Met with reps from Academic Technologies for Learning regarding the 2004 SU Survey
- Met with the Associate Director of Information Technology Resource and Services (part of Learning Services) regarding the SU Survey
- Met with Deborah Eerkes from the Student OmbudService to provide a student perspective on a policy she is drafting about academic integrity as a community issue
- Exec meeting
- Lunch with Don Hickey (VP Facilities and Operations) and Phyllis Clark (VP Finance and Administration)
- Attended Orientation BBQ at Hawrelak Park

#### Upcoming:

- Lunch with Ellen Schoeck, Director of the University Secretariat
- Coffee with Gretchen Hess, Vice-Provost
- Exec one-day retreat
- Meeting with the Engineering Students' Society re: CoFA
- GFC Academic Planning Committee (APC) – may attend as a guest
- **AAB: June 30 @ 5:30 PM Lower Level Meeting Room**
- GFC Exec Ad Hoc Undergraduate Awards Policy Review Committee
- Lunch with the new Chancellor

**Duncan Taylor – Vice President Student Life**  
**Council Report June 29th 2004**

**Workplace Health Advisory Committee:** Had my first meeting with this group. We talked about different concerns to the campus workplace. I brought up a number of concerns from a student perspective with respect to stress and physical health, and my thoughts on what makes the Student experience at university different from an employee, and how this applies to wellness.

**Bar Revitalization Task Force:** Finally underway. Physical renovations in progress! Currently working with Student Groups, Athletics and the Services to arrange “group nights”.

**Student Groups Legislation Meeting:** Fun times with Pam and His Most De-Caffeinated Speakership, results of which you see before you.

**Campus Security Golf Tournament:** Amusing. Especially since I had never set foot on a golf course in my life

**COCA! Gave'r on the river.** Report to follow. Got some networking done, went to some education sessions about “Orientation Week”, “Student Leadership” and “Diversity and Awareness Events”. Good times. Brought up a few concerns to Steve Derpack with respect to how the whole event could be improved.

**Ship Night Meeting:** Productive meeting with Jordan and Daina Bowman about problems with Ship Night last year, and how we can improve things overall.

**Exec Retreat:** Daylong retreat at the GM's house. Went over goal sheet from our initial retreat, reaffirmed some goals, discussed briefly “where do we go from here” with others.

**CFB Meeting:** Went over outstanding issues with respect to handling of the plant. Denise Davis-Taylor from the Chaplin's Association replaced interim chair of the board.

**Health Plan:** Went over the last request for Proposals with GM and am making editorial changes to it. Hope to release it soon

**Student Involvement Card:** Talk with Jerry Daley over email about this to get the card at L'express and Cram Dunk. Also talked to Ecos AD and Student Groups Director with respect to implementing this as part of their volunteer recognition program. Finding support. Fantastic.

Coming up..

More WoW!

More Bars!

More Food Bank!

Lunch with the Chancellor!

Train Infinite Monkeys to do my job!

I wanna be the Minority! I don't need your authority. Down with the moral majority 'cause I wanna be the minority.



# Vote Bogg Québécois

## BOG Rep Report to Council – June 29, 2004

It's a gorgeous Sunday afternoon at Emily Murphy Park. I've got a Frisbee, my laptop, and good company. Perfect weather for Council-report-writin'. And for girly drinks.

### All Roads Lead to Roman

May 21: EAB  
May 25: CCRAP  
May 26: lunch with Mike Reid  
May 28: BFPC  
May 28-29: Relay for Life  
June 1: Council  
June 2: Photos for handbook  
June 3: CCRAP  
June 4: BSHEC (cancelled)  
June 4: HARRY POTTER OPENS! YAY!  
June 6: Rex Murphy Strathcona candidates forum at City Hall  
June 10: EAB  
June 11: Arts convocation  
June 11: Installation dinner for Chancellor Newell  
June 15: Council  
June 15: Federal leadership debate  
June 17: EAB  
June 17: BOG Dinner  
June 18: BOG Meeting  
June 19: Churchill Cup  
June 19: Democracy is Sexy pubcrawl  
June 21: GFC (cancelled)  
June 22: Strathcona candidates' forum  
June 25: opening for U of A's The Art of Inspiration at The Works festival  
June 29: meeting with Jordan Blatz  
June 29: Council

### Highlights from the Board Meeting

It's the end of the year. Nothing particularly exciting.

- approval of draft year-end financial statements
- year-end reports of investment and audit committees
- review of terms of reference for the Award of Distinction Committee
- Campaign 2008 fundraiser being launched on November 2
- Discussion on enhancing the Annual General Meeting
- Board appointments/reappointments

- Approved funding for Agri-Food Discovery Place
- Large turnover to come on the Board over the next few months

### **Relay For Life**

Third year in a row that Delta Chi has participated in the Canadian Cancer Society's 12-Hour Relay for Life at Foote Field. We raised about \$1500 and ran all night in the rain. Awesome.

### **Handbook Photos**

I've discovered that I can be more than just a purse bitch: I can also hold reflective cardboard for Jimmy and crack jokes as he takes pictures of the executive for the handbook. I made the mistake of posing with the Jamaican Jammer for one of my pictures. Do you think that's going to come back to haunt me?

### **Strathcona Candidates' Forum at City Hall**

I'm voting for Rex Murphy. I also asked if I could take home the "12 Faces of Rex Murphy" banner, but they wouldn't let me.

### **Pre-Season Football**

Esks vs. Stamps. We had great fun starting a "Let's go Tampa!" chant. I admit I know little about football. What the hell is a "blitz"? Didn't he win an election?

### **Presidential Search Committee**

I submitted a report of my thoughts on the priorities of the University and the search for the next University president. I included it in my last Council report.

### **Arts Convocation/Chancellor Dinner**

We had quite a collection of student Board members and Senators on stage. And if Samuel had shown up, we would have had HC7 quorum in the platform party. Terra and Lisa thus had their own personal receiving line. I could just picture their respective parents in the audience thinking, "Why are robed druids accosting our daughter?". The Chancellor dinner was cool, had the chance to talk to City Councilor Jane Batty about the U-Pass. Chancellor Newell is very friendly and has said some positive things about PSE in his speeches and newspaper interviews. I'm looking forward to working with him.

### **EAB**

We've been discussing various issues surrounding a provincial election and federal lobbying. As it currently stands, I will be supporting a move for the SU to re-join CASA.

## **Board Dinner**

Had some productive chats regarding both the federal and upcoming provincial elections. Had a chance to chat with the new Academic (John Law), NASA (name escapes me) and Alumni (Doug Irwin) representatives on the Board.

## **Churchill Cup**

11 hours of rugby at Commonwealth Stadium! I left looking like a lobster. A tall, handsome, politically-involved lobster.

## **Democracy is Sexy Pub-crawl**

Sadly, upon arriving at the Armory, I discovered two things: 1) Girls scare me; and 2) the pub-crawl was no longer going ahead. Screw you, democracy! No pubcrawl, no Roman vote!

## **Girl Next Door**

Saw "The Girl Next Door" with hacks. It was worth the 50 cents of Samuel's money. The alternate title to the movie could easily have been "The High School Story of Roman Kotovych Except With Girls and Sex and Stuff".

## **Strathcona candidates forum in SUB**

As usual, the winner of the SUB forum was Chris Jones. Luckily, failed pub-crawls have already killed my faith in democracy, so I don't have to worry about casting a good vote.

## **The Art of Inspiration**

The Works festival is featuring a display of the U of A's Museums and Collections Services. It deals with works of art, and the items that inspire the creativity in artists. The display includes everything from works by Goya to entomology specimens. Check it out at the Jasper Avenue entrance of Commerce Place. And if you've never spent time downtown during the summer, you don't know what you're missing.

## **Celebrity Run-in**

Apparently, I bumped into Nick from "The Apprentice" on the Suite 69 dance-floor. That's the greatest thing that's ever happened to me since I met Sheamus Murphy. I don't consider myself to be a celebrity. I'm more of a role model. Or maybe a hero...

## **Seriously, Eskimos: Turn Down the Suck!**

So, we lost to BC. I blame democracy. And a stupid play on a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2 at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. And bad Eskimos karma for selling my Trappers. But at least I got a free mini-football at the game. Free stuff is always good. Except for free tuition. That's bad.

## **Email My Heart**

Britney's getting married. You'd think that she at least would have had the decency to tell me. I want my flowers back.

## **Farewell**

To former Councilor Melnyk, who is moving on Tuesday to London: it's been great. You will be missed.

## **Coming Up**

There isn't much going on with the Board over the next two months. I'll give Council updates on anything that might come up.

Miss Scarlet in the study with the pipe and a bottle of Chilean cab-merlot,

**Roman Kotovych**  
**Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative**