

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday June 26, 2007
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

LATE ADDITIONS (LA 2007-05)

2007-05/1 **SPEAKER'S BUSINESS**

2007-05/1d Students' Union 2007-2008 Election Dates

Please see document LA 07-05.01

2007-05/5 **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

2007-05/5d Budget and Finance Committee-June 21,2007-Report

Please see document LA 07-05.02

2007-05/5d (i) BFC approved Standing Orders

Please see document LA 07-05.03

2007-05/5e Bylaw Committee -Standing Orders

Please see document LA 07-05.04

2007-05/6 **GENERAL ORDERS**

2007-05/6b **LE/ERUVBETINE MOVED THAT** Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Chief Returning Officer hiring committee, ratify the appointment of Craig Turner as Chief Returning Officer effective July 16, 2007.

2007-05/7 **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2007-05/7f Paul Chiswell, Undergraduate Board of Governors Rep.- Report

Please see document LA 07-05.05

2007-05/7g Bobby Samuel, VP Academic-Report

Please see document LA 07-05.06

2007-05/7h CASA Looking Outside the Province

Please see document LA 07-05.07

- 2007-05/7i** Steven Dollansky, VP External-Report
Please see document LA 07-05.08
- 2007-05/7j** Chris Le, VP Student Life- COCA Report
Please see document LA 07-05.09
- 2007-05/7k** Michael Janz, President- Report
Please see document LA 07-05.10
- 2007-05/7l** Media Release - Scholarship funding boost a good step
Please see document LA 07-05.11

vote Students' Union Election Office
Phone: (780) 492 7102 Email: cro@ualberta.ca

To:	➤ Ms. Amanda Henry Speaker, Students' Council ➤ Mr. Bobby Samuel Vice President (Academic), Students' Union ➤ Mr. Garry Bodnar University Secretariat
From:	➤ Ms. Rachel Woynorowski Chief Returning Officer
Subject:	2007/08 Election Dates
Date:	Monday, June 18, 2007

In accordance with Students' Union Election Bylaws I am pleased to announce the dates of this years Students' Union Elections. Any questions or concerns with dates below should be directed to myself at cro@su.ualberta.ca

Students' Union and General Faculties Council By-Election

September 17th - Nomination Deadline
September 19th - Campaigning Starts
September 26th - Campaigning Ends
September 27th/28th - VOTING DAYS

Students' Union Executive and Board of Governors Election

February 15th - Nomination Deadline
February 25th - Campaigning Starts
February 26th - Lister Hall Forum
February 27th - Faculte St. Jean Forum
February 28th - SUB Stage Forum 12:30
February 29th - SUB Stage Forum 12:00
March 3rd - Myer Horowitz Forum 12:00
March 3rd - Advance Poll 306 SUB
March 4th - Campaigning Ends
March 5th/6th - VOTING DAYS

Students' Union and General Faculties Council General Election

March 11th - Nomination Deadline
March 12th - Campaigning Starts
March 18th - Campaigning Ends
March 19th/20th - VOTING DAYS

Report to Students' Council

2007-06-21

Budget & Finance Committee

Hello Council:

BFC had their first meeting reach quorum on June 21, thanks to excellent proxy work. It was a pretty easy going meeting, formally electing a chair, approving standing orders, and setting a tentative meeting schedule for the remainder of the summer.

After electing a chair (Gamble), Jo Chan (proxying for Terrence) had some questions for the chair about his goals for the committee that year. Gamble responded that it was very important to set in place, either through Standing Order improvements, or Bylaw 3000 revisions, a solid budget process that not only started earlier in the year, but brought the political goals of council, and operational goals of the departments closer together, and therein hopefully creating the best budget possible. Gamble committed to working on the standing order's over the summer to ensure that this process was set down for future councils and execs.

Each department head has already been asked to submit a short document on how they believe they serve students, their goals for the next 5 years, and quantitative performance measures that council and exec can measure reality against to make more informed budgetary decisions. The deadline for these submissions to BFC has been set at July 31, but will be earlier in future years as the department heads will have more notice.

If you have any questions on the business of BFC, feel free to contact the chair at eamonn.gamble@su.ualberta.ca

Budget & Finance Committee

Standing Orders

1. The first meeting of the Committee shall be coordinated through the Office of the Speaker or the Administrative Assistant of Council prior to the first meeting of Students' Council.
2. All subsequent meetings will
 - (1) Be scheduled on a trimesterly basis, in advance, with the trimesters being
 - (a) May to August,
 - (b) September to December, and
 - (c) January to April
 - (2) Be called by any of the voting members, provided that members are given 72 hours' notice or if there is unanimous consent of members.
 - (3) Begin directly at the scheduled time or as soon as quorum is reached, whichever is later.
3. The Committee must have a written record of its votes and proceedings. In addition, the committee will make a report to Council:
 - (1) The Chair shall, after each meeting of the committee, submit to Students' Council a report including
 - (a) any decisions made by the standing committee acting under authority delegated to it by Students' Council,
 - (b) any recommendations made by the standing committee to Students' Council,
 - (c) any standing orders adopted by the committee, and
 - (d) a document titled "Summary of Proceedings" summarizing the activities of the standing committee at the meeting in question
4. Quorum
 - (1) This committee has 7 members and a quorum of 4 members
5. This Committee Derives its Authority and Mandate from Students' Union Bylaw and therefore

- (1) shall recommend budgets to Students' Council as may be required by Students' Union legislation;
 - (a) Form of Operating Budget – see Bylaw 3000
 - (b) Budget Process – see Standing Orders of Council
- (2) shall make recommendations to Students' Council on alterations to the Students' Union operating budget;
- (3) shall make recommendations to Students' Council on expenditures of funds from the Projects Allocation; and
- (4) shall make recommendations to Students' Council on legislation dealing with Students' Union finances as it considers appropriate or as required by Students' Council.

6. The Chair will be responsible for the following

- (1) Producing an agenda prior to each meeting and email it to all members a few days prior
- (2) Securing a location for meetings;
- (3) When necessary, moderating debate;
- (4) Facilitating the Committee's ability to achieve its mandate;
- (5) Delegating such responsibilities to Committee members as are appropriate for its legislated mandate.
- (6) Recommend to the committee changes to Standing Orders when they are in conflict with higher Legislation
- (7) Subsection (6) does not restrict any other member of the committee from recommending changes to the Standing Orders at any time

7. Failure of the Chair to adequately perform his/her duties can result in dismissal. This requires a majority vote on the part of the Committee membership excluding the Chair.

- (1) If such a motion passes, a new Chair will be immediately selected from the standing committee membership.
- (2) If the Chair vacates his/her position as a member of the Committee, the position of Chair will also be considered vacant.

8. These standing orders may be amended as needed by a simple majority vote. They must be reviewed at the first meeting of the Committee annually. Any changes must be submitted to Students' Council for information.

PART 1: RULES OF ORDER

Robert's Rules of Order

1(1) *Robert's Rules of Order* will be observed at all meetings of Bylaw Committee except where they are inconsistent with the Bylaws or Standing Orders of Bylaw Committee.

Chair to decide where Rules are Silent

1(2) Where the Bylaws, Standing Orders and *Roberts' Rules of Order* fail to provide direction with respect to procedure, the Chair will decide.

Relaxed Robert's Rules of Order

1(3) Notwithstanding Standing Order 1(1), the Chair may relax the rules prescribed in *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Strict Compliance Requested

1(4) Notwithstanding Standing Order 1(3), any member of the Bylaw Committee may require the Chair to strictly employ any part or all of *Robert's Rules of Order* by rising on a point of order to that effect.

PART 2: STRUCTURE OF SESSIONS

Order of Business & Mandate

2(1) The Order of Business for Bylaw Committee will be:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| (a) Chair's Business, | |
| (b) Drafting Referendum & Plebiscite Questions | Bylaw 100 s. 17(5)(b) |
| (c) Drafting By-laws for Second Reading (committee stage) | Bylaw 100 s. 17(5)(a) |
| (d) Other matters referred to Bylaw Committee by Students' Council | Bylaw 100 s. 17(11) |
| (e) Draft Bills for First Reading | Bylaw 100 s. 17(5)(c) |
| (f) Editorial Amendment of Bylaws | Bylaw 100 s. 17(5)(d) |
| (g) Miscellaneous Recommendations to Students Council | Bylaw 100 s. 17(10) |
| (h) General Orders. | |

Start-Up Meeting Logistics

2(2) The Administrative assistant will arrange a start-up meeting of Bylaw Committee after the start-up meeting of Students' Council and prior to the installation ceremony at the first meeting of Students' Council.

Start-Up Meeting Order of Business

2(3) The Order of Business for the start-up meeting of the incoming Bylaw Committee will be:

- (a) Election of a Chair, (see appendix 1)
- (b) Approval of Annual Meeting Schedule, and
- (c) Approval of Standing Orders.

Last Meeting Additional Orders of Business

2(4) The Order of Business for the last meeting of the year will have the following orders of the day added to Chair's Business:

- (a) Review and Revision of Standing Orders.

Additional Meetings

3(1) Within the limitations of *Bylaw 100 s. 15(2)*, additional meetings of Bylaw Committee may be called by the:

- (a) Chair, or
- (b) Bylaw Committee.

Cancelled Meetings

3(2) Meetings of Bylaw Committee may be cancelled by the Chair or Bylaw Committee.

PART 3: ORDERS OF THE DAY

Right of Submission by Bylaw Committee Members

4(1) Any voting member of Bylaw Committee may submit Orders of the Day to be considered by Bylaw Committee.

Order of Orders of the Day

4(3) Orders of the Day shall appear on the Order Paper in the order submitted or as otherwise designated by the Chair.

Deadline for Submission

4(4) Orders of the Day must be submitted to the Chair and the Administrative assistant by noon on the business day prior to a Bylaw Committee meeting.

Late Additions

4(5) Notwithstanding Standing Order 4(4), Orders may be added to the Order Paper, at the discretion of Bylaw Committee at the meeting, if the items of business cannot be postponed to a future meeting of Bylaw Committee for resolution without risking detrimental consequences to or negative procedural difficulties for the Students' Union.

Deadline for Publishing

5(1) The agenda package will be published in the following manner:

- (a) paper copies will be created and made available in the Students' Union Executive/Administrative Offices, and
- (b) an electronic version will be placed on the Students' Union web page.

Deadline for Publishing

5(2) The agenda package will be published no later than 4:30 p.m. on the business day prior to a Bylaw Committee meeting.

Deadline Exemption

5(3) For meetings called under the authority of Standing Order 3(1), there will be no submission or publishing deadline.

Special Orders

6(1) A motion to make a specific Order of the Day a Special Order is a privileged motion.

Chair made Special Orders

6(2) The Order of Business notwithstanding, the Chair may designate any Order of the Day a Special Order.

Council made Special Orders

6(3) The Order of Business notwithstanding, Bylaw Committee may designate any Order of the Day a Special Order.

PART 4: CHAIR'S BUSINESS

Chair's Business

7(1) During Chair's Business, the Chair will address all day-to-day regulatory concerns of Bylaw Committee, including but not limited to:

- (a) attendance,
- (b) approval of the "Report to Students' Council" required in accordance with Bylaw 100 s. 16(1)(d),
- (c) resignations/recommendations to Council to nominate new members

- (d) any process by which a member is recommended for removal from Bylaw Committee,
- (e) reports,
- (f) announcements, and
- (g) motions making Orders of the Day Special Orders.

PART 5: PROCESS FOR DRAFTING RERERENDUM & PLEBISCITE QUESTIONS

Chair to assign drafts person

8(1) For each bill that passes first reading in Students' Council, the chair will assign a drafts person to draft the question to appear on the ballot.

Drafts person to submit for next Bylaw Committee Meeting

8(2) The drafts person is to have a draft question prepared for the Bylaw Committee Order Paper for the first meeting of the bylaw committee immediately following First Reading passage of the bill in Students' Council.

Invitation of Primary Proponents

8(3) The chair will invite to the meeting at which the question is to be drafted the primary proponents of the question.

PART 6: PROCESS FOR DRAFTING BYLAWS FOR SECOND READING

Chair to assign drafts person

9(1) For each bill that passes first reading in Students' Council, the chair will assign a drafts person to draft amendments to the bylaws.

Drafts person to submit for next Bylaw Committee Meeting

9(2) The drafts person is to have the draft legislation prepared for the Bylaw Committee Order Paper for the first meeting of the bylaw committee immediately following First Reading passage of the bill in Students' Council.

Consideration of Recommendation "That Council reconsider First Reading"

9(3) Prior to consideration of the draft legislation, the committee will consider under *Students' Council Standing Order 15(3)(a)(iv)* whether or not to recommend to Students' Council that it reconsider whether the bill should be read a first time.

Formulation of Principles to accompany recommendation "That Council reconsider First Reading"

9(4) Where it is decided to recommend to Students' Council that Council reconsider whether the bill should be read a first time, the committee will provided suggested principles for Council to Consider.

Review of Draft Legislation for Compliance with First Reading Principles & Editorial Amendments

9(5) Where it is decided simply to recommend draft legislation in accordance with the principles passed on first reading, the committee will:

- (a) ensure that each principle is reflected in the draft legislation,
- (b) ensure that the draft legislation does not exceed the principles approved in first reading, and
- (c) review the entire bylaw for any editorial changes that it is advantageous to make.

PART 7: PROCESS FOR DRAFTING BILLS FOR FIRST READING

Determination of Bylaws with Committees Mandate upon which to Recommend Substantive Change

10(1) The committee will determine prior to July which bylaws fall within its mandate under *Bylaw 100 s. 17(5)(c)* (i.e. those bylaws that the Bylaw Committee is mandated to make substantive recommendations on to Students' Council).

Committee to Assign Draftsperson

10(2) Where deemed advantageous, for each bylaw identified under Standing Order 10(1), the committee will assign a draftsperson to bring forward a bill for the Bylaw Committee's consideration and potentially subsequent recommendation to Students' Council.

Consultation & Feedback

10(3) In preparing a draft bill, the draftsperson will consult with and solicit feedback from relevant or affected parties.

Draft Format to Parallel Students' Councils' First Reading Requirements

10(4) When ready, the draftsperson will submit the bill for the Bylaw Committee Order Paper in the same format specified in the Students' Council Standing Orders for Bylaws on First Reading.

Recommendation of Bill to Council

10(5) If approved, the bill is recommended to Students' Council for First Reading.

PART 8: PROCESS FOR DRAFTING EDITORIAL AMENDMENTS TO BYLAW

Process for Drafting Editorial Amendments of Bylaws

11(1) The Bylaw Committee will conduct an annual review of each bylaw for editorial updates that do not alter the substantive meaning of the bylaws.

Committee to Assign Draftsperson

11(2) Prior to July, the Bylaw Committee will assign a draftsperson(s) to review each bylaw and assign a date by which the review is to be completed.

Consultation & Feedback

11(3) In reviewing a bylaw, the draftsperson will consult with and solicit feedback from sources that would be familiar with or affected by the bylaw under review.

Draft Format to Parallel Students' Council's Second Reading Requirements

11(4) When ready, the draftsperson will submit the proposed legislation for the Bylaw Committee Order Paper in the same format specified in the Council Standing Orders for Bylaws on Second Reading.

PART 9: MODIFIED RULES OF DEBATE

Guests of Bylaw Committee

12(1) Any person may become a Guest of Bylaw Committee upon being recognised as such by the Chair.

Guests of Bylaw Committee Speaking Privileges

12(2) The Chair may grant such speaking privileges to Guests of Bylaw Committee as deemed advantageous by the Chair.

PART 10: ATTENDANCE

Attendance

13(1) The Chair will take attendance orally twice each meeting, once during Chair's Business and once immediately prior to adjournment.

PART 11: RECORDS OF BYLAW COMMITTEE

Bylaw Committee "Report to Students' Council"

14(1) Bylaw Committee proceedings (traditionally minutes) will be recorded in a document styled "Report to Students' Council".

Report to be Circulated Prior to Submission

14(2) The "Report to Students' Council" will be circulated to members of the committee via e-mail for feedback regarding accuracy prior to submission to the Speaker.

Approval of "Report to Students' Council"

14(3) The "Report to Students' Council" is considered approved as submitted by the Chair to the Speaker for Students' Council and ultimately as received by Students' Council.

Members may identify errors

14(4) Whenever in the opinion of Bylaw Committee an error is made in the "Report to Students' Council" submitted by the Chair to the Speaker for Students' Council, such error will be noted in the next "Report to Students' Council".

Content of "Report to Students' Council"

14(5) The Report to Students' Council will consist of:

- (a) a document styled "Summary of Proceedings" which will be a brief written summary of the Bylaw Committee's activities at the relevant meeting,
- (b) a document containing a list of all motions voted on by the committee that the committee intends to be of force and effect in accordance with *Bylaw 100 s. 16(3)*, and
- (c) an appendix of all documents voted upon by the Bylaw Committee for the purpose of providing an audit trail and accurate record of actions taken.

Publication of "Report to Students' Council"

14(6) The "Report to Students' Council" shall be published electronically on the Students' Union Website, and in the next Students' Council Order Paper.

PART 12: DUTIES

Chair's Duties

15(1) The Chair of the Bylaw Committee is responsible for:

- (a) presiding over debate at meetings of the Bylaw Committee,
- (b) submitting the "Report to Students' Council" to the Administrative assistant, after each Bylaw Committee Meeting and prior to the deadline for Submissions to the next Students Council Meeting as set out in *Student's Council Standing Order 4(4)*,
- (c) assigning tasks to draftpersons in accordance with these Standing Orders,
- (d) working with the Speaker and Administrative assistant to ensure the logistical needs of Bylaw Committee are met,
- (e) recommending to Students' Council the removal of any member who in the opinion of the chair is not fulfilling their responsibilities to the Bylaw Committee, and
- (f) designating an alternate chair for any meeting of the Bylaw Committee he/she is unable to attend.

Administrative Assistant's Duties

15(2) The Administrative assistant is responsible for:

- (a) notifying members of upcoming meetings in accordance with the meeting schedule,
- (b) preparing an agenda, in accordance with these Standing Orders, based on the Orders of the Day submitted by members of Bylaw Committee and any referrals from Students' Council,
- (c) distributing the agenda to members of Bylaw Committee in accordance with Standing Order 5(1),
- (d) ensuring paper copies of the agenda are prepared for the chair to bring to each meeting, and
- (e) booking a location for each meeting and notifying members through the Order Paper.

Members' Duties

15(3) All members of the Bylaw Committee are responsible for:

- (a) Carrying out the drafting tasks assigned to them by the Bylaw Committee or Chair,
- (b) Ensuring the mandate of the Bylaw Committee is being fulfilled,
- (c) recommending to Bylaw Committee the removal of any chair who in the opinion of the members of the Bylaw committee is not fulfilling their responsibilities as Chair to the Bylaw Committee,
- (d) recommending to Students' Council the removal of any member who in the opinion of the Bylaw Committee is not fulfilling their responsibilities to the Bylaw Committee.
- (e) assigning tasks to draftpersons in accordance with these Standing Orders.

PART 13: NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Non-Voting Members

16(1) The following individuals are, in accordance with *Bylaw 100 s. 12(6)*, non-voting members of Bylaw Committee:

- (a) All members of Students' Council,
- (b) The administrative assistant,
- (c) Individuals appointed by the Bylaw Committee or Chair as draftpersons.

Privileges of Non-Voting Members

16(2) Non-voting members:

- (a) may submit Orders of the Day to be considered by Bylaw Committee, and
- (b) enjoy the same speaking privileges as any other member of the committee.

PART 14: MISCELLANEOUS

Public Meetings

17(1) Meetings of Bylaw Committee are open to the public, unless Bylaw Committee moves *in camera*.

APPENDIX 1: PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING A CHAIR

Senior member to preside when outgoing Chair running for re-election

2(3)(a)(i) The longest-serving member of Bylaw Committee not running for Chair will preside over the election when the outgoing Chair is running for re-election.

In Case of Tie, Elder Member to Preside

2(3)(a)(ii) In the case of a tie between longest-serving members, the eldest of the tied members will preside.

Speeches

2(3)(a)(iii) The presiding member will ask each candidate to give a brief speech not to exceed two minutes.

Questions

2(3)(a)(iv) The presiding member will allow questions to be put to the candidates from the members of Bylaw Committee.

Secret Ballot

2(3)(a)(v) The vote will be by secret ballot and will be in the style of the Executive Elections.

Recess

2(3)(a)(vi) Bylaw Committee will recess while the presiding officer counts the vote.

Announcement

2(3)(a)(vii) The presiding officer will announce the results of the election to Bylaw Committee.

NOTE

2(3)(a)(viii) Where the position of chair is vacant, election of a new chair in accordance with this appendix will be a special order of business to be dispensed with immediately.

Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative
Report to Student Council
June 26, 2007

Fellow Councilors,

The Board of Governors has been rather busy the past couple of weeks as it finished off business from the 2006-2007 academic year and recesses for the summer break.

President Janz and I met with the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Heidecker. It was an introductory meeting where he offered his advice and suggestions. We discussed committee appointments: Mr. Janz will serve on the Finance & Property Committee, the Safety, Health and Environment Committee as well as the Government Relations Sub-Committee whereas I will serve on the Community & Government Relations Committee and the Educational Affairs Committee. In addition, in response to a question from Mr. Janz, Mr. Heidecker informed us of the reason that student representatives are not allowed to serve on the Audit and the Human Resources and Compensation Committees: Only public and external members sit on those committees as part of best practices and in accordance with the Board's terms of reference.

On June 21st, I attended the Board Member Recognition Dinner in honour of those members who recently retired from the Board or its Committees, including President Samantha Power and my predecessor, Mr. Chris Samuel.

The Board meeting on June 22nd had a relatively full agenda. Of particular interest:

- The scheduling of next year's meeting schedule – most importantly: January 25th and February 7th (tuition and budget meetings respectively).
- A preliminary report on *Sustainability Measures and Initiatives: Greening the Campus* was presented. It is a brief review of the University's environmental and sustainability practices which is a good start towards making improvements.
- President Samarasekera presented preliminary metrics used to demonstrate our progress towards accomplishing our goal of top 20 by 2020.
- An update on the University's Centenary events and the Alumni Association's plans for a revitalized quad.
- Approval of further funds for the design and construction of the Augustana Campus Library and Forum which should be completed by 2008 for the library and 2010 for the forum (additional student space).

As always, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Paul Chiswell
Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative

Bobby Samuel
Vice-President Academic
Council Report for June 26

Hey Council, so here's a summary of what I've been up since last we met:

-Coffee Meetings Galore – Just met with Dru Marshall, she seems student-friendly so we'll see what happens. Also met with Stephen McFetridge (from ESS) to discuss textbooks, he sounds enthusiastic about the idea.

-STLHE/ARG – the conference was last week. It was a blast as I certainly learned a lot with regards to teaching & learning, where it is going and difficulties in measuring. This should become the background I need as I feel a lot more comfortable discussing TL. The first week I spent learning and the next I just used to soak up a lot of the information. Cool things I learned about were CSL, NSSE, that traditional lectures are the WORST way of educating people, clicker pedagogy, and various engagement strategies lecturers can utilize to make their classes more fun.

-Bear Scat – currently looking into corporate sponsorship, pursuing academic advocacy in the meantime to improve Bear Tracks functionality.

-University Cup – did that, was a lot of fun.

-24/7 SUB Report – EPC has approved funding, this service will continue on for the 2007/2008 Academic year. Also, depending on how the numbers for 24/7 SUB shape up this year, we will see whether 24/7 SUB funding will move out of contingency and into base operations.

-CoFA – currently working on the retreat (mostly AVPA), just trying to figure out the best course of action.

-Scholarships & Bursaries – finishing a report which summarizes “where the money goes”. Should be an interesting read.

Any questions? Throw 'em my way and I'll do my best to answer!

Looking Outside the Province

A Report on CASA Policy and Strategy Conference

Prepared by: Steven Dollansky, Vice-president (External) University of Alberta Students' Union

Introduction

The Canadian Alliance of Students' Associations Policy and Strategy Conference was held June 6-10 at the University of British Columbia. The University of Alberta Students' Union attended as an observing school by sending President Janz and I. This is one facet of our approach to develop a federal lobbying strategy, which will address the UASU's lack of federal influence. This report is intended to provide council an overview of the conference, an introduction to and brief history of our relationship with CASA, an initial assessment of CASA's structure and dynamic, and recommendations for further action.

Goals

My goals going into the conference were as follows:

- Express UASU values and issues to CASA and influence their advocacy goals and priorities
- Assess the internal structure and dynamic of CASA
- Communicate with the CASA chair and national director
- Open lines of communication with similar schools (ie. UBC, Western, UofC, Dalhousie)
- Evaluate the value of CASA to the UASU

Conference Overview

Tuesday June 5

- Flew into Vancouver in the evening with the CAUS executive director and the VPX from NAITSA.
- Took the bus to UBC; transit in Vancouver is a model to envy.
- Began introductions with the west coast schools because the time change had hit the east coast members and they were already in their rooms.

Wednesday June 6

- Introductions continued, and the morning was spent getting to know our counterparts.
 - o While icebreakers are valuable, and particularly important at a conference of this size and length, they are frustrating because we wanted to get down to business. I would have preferred less time devoted to these exercises.
- This was followed by a campus tour. If you have never been to UBC, you should go even if for no other reason than to see the library robot.
- CASA gave us a political scan on the federal scene, which was a great start to the actual business component of the conference. This was extremely valuable for me, giving me a better understanding of the jurisdictional responsibilities of the federal government, and the influence student advocacy efforts had in recent years. CASA government relations expect that we will see a federal election in the early spring of next year. This will have a ripple effect for the UASU because if there is a federal election in March, it will push the provincial election to May.
- The political scan was followed by a policy review. CASA has an extremely well developed policy set covered a broad scope of issues relevant to their lobby efforts. I

believe the UASU, and specifically the external policy committee, should use CASA's policy set as a model when reviewing our own policies.

Thursday June 7

- Advocacy goal setting was the most valuable session of the day. I was able to speak several times in this session where I added UASU's priority issues to the list of CASA advocacy goals. The two topics I chose to add were Indirect Costs of Research and Textbook Costs. These were in addition to the list created by the CASA membership, which I feel reflects the goals of the UASU. The method that CASA uses for determining its priorities is very interesting because they give each school four votes to distribute according to their individual priorities.
 - o CASA High Priorities
 - Increased Dedicated Transfers and a Pan Canadian Accord
 - Defining "modernization" of the Canadian Student Loan Program and ensuring involvement in the review process
 - Renewal of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation
 - Increase efforts to provide access to a high quality post-secondary education for under-represented groups
 - o Indirect costs of research and textbook costs are currently medium priorities and will be included in all of CASA's lobby documents in the coming year.

Friday June 8

- Opening plenary was a formal meeting where CASA conducts its business. While we were unable to voice our opinion at this meeting, it was valuable to see the dynamic of the organization in action, specifically the interaction between large western schools and small east coast schools which I elaborate on later.
- Janz and I went on a tour of UBC AMS business in their SUB with their food and beverage manager. This was extremely useful because we were able to see what works for them, where they are having challenges financially or having problems with their institution. These are perspectives that we would not have gotten otherwise, and are appreciated.
- Dr. Norman Riddell, the executive director of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, spoke to CASA in the afternoon. Dr. Riddell is a great speaker and outlined the great need for renewal of the MSF, an opinion I strongly support.
- Denise Savoie, NDP federal advanced education critic, attended the conference for a lobby meeting. Ms. Savoie was an elegant speaker and was well received. While her views on some topics, such as millennium scholarship foundation, were contrary to CASA's beliefs, she remained very willing to cooperate and hear the organizations concerns.

Saturday June 9

- I attended a campaigning objectives session in the morning, which was the most disappointing session of the conference. There was a lot of confusion about what was expected from the session, and very little resources put towards campaigns in the first place. I will elaborate more on my concerns about campaign resources in my initial assessment of the organization.
- A highlight of the day was the "how to effect change" session where groups were given a situation and expected to devise an advocacy plan. The situation was an election resulting in a new liberal government in Alberta, which was all kinds of fun. It was great to have your ideas critiqued by so many different members who have differing opinions and levels of experience.

- The provincial scan was also very interesting. The political environment is extremely different in other areas of the country and it was interesting to see how different their local battles were. CAUS chair and UCSU vice-president external Michael Selnes gave a very accurate description of issues in Alberta and was considerate enough to consult with President Janz and I before hand.

Sunday June 10

- The final day started with breakout sessions on graduate students and partnerships. Both of which were very good sessions. CASA is moving towards creating policy that is graduate student friendly, which in my opinion is a critical move for future recruitment. Partnerships discussed relationship with friendly groups. This included continuing to work with CAUS and ACTISEC; a relationship that has been valuable in the past.
- The day concluded with a formal closing plenary session where CASA adopted it's advocacy goals, new policy and ratified Wilfred Laurier a new full member.

Monday June 11

- President Janz and I discussed a wide variety of SU issues amongst ourselves while exploring Vancouver until our flight. We also met with the President and Vice President External of the UCSU in their hotel to discuss our observations at the conference and our plans for CAUS campaigns.
- Flew home to Edmonton.

The UASU and Federal Affiliation: A Brief History

It is important to understand the complicated history that exists between the UASU and the federal lobby scene. Federal affiliation has been an important component of representation in the past, and the UASU was a founding member of both federal lobby groups, CFS and CASA, in the past 25 years.

In 1983, the Students' Union was a founding member of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). CFS was funded by a mandatory fee of \$3.50 per student per term, which has grown to range between \$9 and \$12 annually today. The organization struggled from its inception, due to scandal and a problematic organizational structure, leading to our departure on February 7, 1985.

After nearly a decade of being unaffiliated, the Students' Union grew frustrated with the federal student movement and its inability to affect change as an individual outside of the CFS. In 1995 the Students' Union was a founding member of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA).

In 2002, CASA ran into some internal struggles that frustrated our Students' Union executive at the time. A large percentage of our advocacy resources were being spent on federal affiliation while our provincial lobby efforts were being neglected. The reasons given to leave CASA from former VPX Sharma and Councilor Chris Jones were as follows:

- o Most of our political resources are spent persuading the federal government, when the provincial government has more control over students' concerns
- o Withdrawing from CASA is not on the basis of whether or not it is a "good organization", but whether or not it is the most effective use of our resources. By shifting the current political spending from the federal to provincial level, we believe we can obtain a significantly better return on students' funds in terms of favorable funds.

- Developing CAUS as a credible, respected, and effective representation group for Alberta's university students is a key step in achieving our political goals and developing supportive public opinion.

This decision proved to be helpful for our advocacy efforts at the time. The \$40,000 that was being spent on CASA was redistributed and created our Advocacy Department in addition to expanding the capacity of CAUS. In the years that followed, the Advocacy Department was expanded further to include a University wing. It is my opinion that at the provincial, university and municipal levels we have one of the most effective representation departments in the country and are a model for many other student associations. The question that this council must answer is whether or not we are currently spending our resources effectively with respect to a wider view that includes the federal government.

CASA: The Current Organization

It is not my intent to persuade council of the merits of CASA, but rather to simply provide them with an unbiased introduction at this time. The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations represents 19 schools and about 280 000 students from across the country. It is guided by six principles outlined in the CASA constitution: Equality, Bilingualism, Focus, Flexibility, Pragmatism and Integrity. They use a policy-based approach that relies strongly on maintaining relationships with decision makers and elected officials. CASA maintains a head office in Ottawa with six staff members: a national director, policy and research officer, government relations officer, public relations and communications officer, member relations officer and an office assistant.

CASA operates on a "one school, one vote" principle similar to that of CAUS. The fee structure is based on a TAGR and FLE model, which combines a student organization's total revenue and total membership. There is also a maximum and a minimum cap. The UASU would be far above the cap. Last year, CASA fees would have been \$46,446 or \$1.50 per undergraduate at the University of Alberta in 2006/2007. They abide by an "easy-in easy-out" policy which allows members who wish to join to downgrade to associate membership immediately and leave after twelve months. This policy has advantages and disadvantages, but has led to a fluctuating membership. Here are a summary of significant departures and arrivals.

- Departures
 - 2003 – University of Alberta Students' Union
 - 2003 – McMaster Students' Union
 - 2005 – Students' Society of McGill University
 - 2005 – University of Manitoba Students' Union
 - 2006 – University of Saskatchewan Students' Union
- Arrivals
 - 2004 – St. FX Students' Union
 - 2005 – SAIT Students' Association
 - 2005 – La Federation des Etudiates et Etudiants due Centre Universitaire de Moncton
 - 2007 – Wilfred Laurier Students' Union

Assessment of Organization and Structure

The 2007 Policy and Strategy Conference provided an avenue to assess the benefits and disadvantages of CASA. I will take this opportunity to share some of my observations.

Members of CASA tend to share very similar views on important federal issues, which reflect those of the UASU. This was demonstrated by the advocacy goals implemented by the

CASA membership. The dynamic in CASA planning sessions allows for open discussion where all ideas and each school's priorities are welcome and accepted. An example of this would be the problems with declining enrollment on the East coast, NAITSA's request for policy on Employment Insurance issues or the UASU's addition of textbook costs to the advocacy goals.

President Janz and I questioned the National Director about the "easy-in easy-out" policy, expressing concern about not having the ability to leave immediately. The ND explained the reason for this was to provide some financial stability for the membership, while maintaining a member-friendly exit capability. I remain cautious about this policy, however I feel it has merit because our departure in 2003 was a major reason for the policy's implementation. This would only be a major concern in the event of a drastic event that requires an immediate departure; in which case it would be unlikely CASA would survive.

CASA maintains strong relationships with government officials, which allow for effective advocacy efforts. Every member seemed to echo this sentiment regarding the organization's function on Parliament Hill. I believe that this is a very similar approach to the one used by CAUS provincially, and look forward to evaluating the effectiveness first hand at Lobby Conference in November. This is the primary approach to created change utilized by CASA and must be examined closely.

CASA struggles to generate effective media through campaigns. President Janz and I both expressed concerns to the national director that there was not enough money being used to conduct campaigns. CASA's budget reflects the fact that several large schools have departed in recent years, and the disposable income used for campaigns has diminished to maintain the fixed costs associated with staff positions. It is not in the best interest of the UASU for CASA to spend a significant portion of its operating budget on programs such as member relations, which provide more benefit for smaller schools without adequate resources to communicate effectively with CASA or relay campaign messages to their student populations. The CASA national director agreed that additional financial resources from new members should be spent rejuvenating the campaigns budget, to increase CASA's capacity to run effective national campaigns.

CASA has a very interesting dynamic between east coast and west coast schools. In its current state, the numerous smaller east coast maintain a disproportionate amount of power at the plenary table. The larger schools, despite paying most of the fees and representing the majority of students can sometimes be outvoted by the smaller players. While this is a rare occasion, it is the price the large schools pay to maintain the cap in the fee structure and a diverse balance within the membership and problematic for the UASU. Additional large schools will tip this balance the opposite direction very quickly, so it will be important for CASA to address this issue in the future to ensure the system is fair for all members.

It is clear that the University of Alberta Students' Union would be a valuable member for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. The observations that have been presented will be useful when the External Policy Committee, Executive Committee and Students' Council appraise the merit of federal affiliation in the coming months.

Conclusion

The 2007 CASA Policy and Strategy Conference was an important step in my evaluation of a federal lobbying strategy. It allowed me to see the internal dynamic of the CASA membership and how many of our peers approach federal lobbying.

The upcoming year will be an interesting one for CASA. As discontent with the Canadian Federation of Students spreads throughout British Columbia, and with McMaster University, University College of Fraser Valley, NAIT in addition to our organization expressing interest as observers at the Policy and Strategy Conference, it is apparent that the federal student

movement is changing. The decisions made by these organizations should be evaluated carefully within the context of our assessment.

It is important that the UASU look through all of the options for federal lobbying. The CFS should be assessed, as should remaining unaffiliated, to ensure that every dollar allocated for advocacy efforts budgeted appropriately. I was encouraged with the direction in which CASA appears to be headed, and look forward to evaluating and contributing to their success at Lobby Conference in November. Please feel free to send any comments or concerns to vp.external@su.ualberta.ca.

Steven Dollansky
2007-2008 Vice-president (External)
University of Alberta Students' Union

VPX Report to Council June 26

Hello Council,

I apologize for failing to include this in the main agenda package, but as a result you get an even better report! Lucky you...

1. Department of Advanced Education and Technology Orientation – This was held on June 20 here in Edmonton. It was also our first encounter with Minister Doug Horner. I was able to ask the minister about the exclusion of undergraduate needs to the Roles and Mandates document, which I feel quite confident will be addressed in the final draft. We also received presentations from various department staffers on a variety of issues. Although the day was long, I feel it was very valuable.
2. CAUS Annual General Meeting – This was held on June 21 in Edmonton at the CAUS office downtown. All three schools were in attendance (and their representatives both ended up crashing at my apartment). This was literally two full days of CAUS because it was an eight-hour meeting that followed the Advanced Ed event the day before. The geeky CAUS talk just didn't stop. Some of the highlights were:
 - a. Rescinding policy that opposes colleges granting degrees
 - b. Reviewing other CAUS policies nearing expiration
 - c. Being recommended for a three year term as a student member of the GoA's Student Finance Board
 - d. Amazing sushi (which is becoming a mainstay at CAUS events)
 - e. Approval of the CAUS budget for 2007/2008, which includes over \$16000 for campaigns!
 - f. Discussion on Election Campaign cooperation between schools.
3. Federal Lobbying Strategy – President Janz and I are going to hit the MP barbeque circuit in the evenings over the summer. Hopefully we can make some valuable contacts that will open doors for us on the federal scene. My report on CASA Policy and Strategy Conference is included; I encourage you to take the time to read it. I will have it included in the main agenda package next week for those who fail to read late additions. This is very much an ongoing project.
4. Sleep over in SUB / Camp out in Quad – our major event for housing issues is in the works. We have confirmed the dates to be the “housing awareness week” to be September 24-28, with the Camp out in QUAD being held on the evening of the 27th. My focus will be on making the event fun in order to keep students interested. We are floating ideas so give me your input. Some of the ideas are a barbeque, volleyball tournament in Quad, movie night, pancake breakfast, etc. We will be working to coordinate the event with the UCSU to gain better media coverage. Book it in your calendars, and be sure to get involved with the Campaigns Planning and Action Committee to help with the planning. Contact me for details of how to get involved.
5. CAUS (Other Business)– Our submission to the Roles and Mandates Document is nearing completion. The UASU edits took up a large part of my week, but I am very happy with the end product and feel it reflects undergraduate priorities quite well.
6. Seconday Suites – this remains a primary focus. My evaluation of the Mayor and City Council's approach to the subject can be summed up with one word. TERRIBLE. We are working on obtaining additional meeting in the days to come to follow a letter to the editor written by President Janz. Hopefully, this will be incorporated into Edmonton Student Alliance events later in the summer.

Have a Great Meeting!

-Steven Dollansky (VPX)

Chris Lê, Vice President (Student Life)

COCA National Conference – Council Report

26 June 2007

INTRODUCTION

The Canadian Organization of Campus Activities (COCA) is “committed to developing quality campus programming through education, information sharing and resources ...[and] further dedicated to enhancing skill development by providing educational and business opportunities, resources, and services for professional staff, college and university students and associate members of COCA.” The COCA National Conference brings together students from over 65 post-secondary institutions from across Canada, particularly those responsible for campus programming. The conference fulfills COCA’s mandate by offering a number of educational sessions and by showcasing a large number of artists to allow schools to “shop around” for programming opportunities.

This national conference happened in Niagara Falls, Ontario, and marked COCA’s 25th anniversary.

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

There were six different time slots for ed sessions that had two or three options each. The ed sessions occurred over two days. I missed them because I arrived at the conference late. (My convocation ceremony was on Tuesday; I was in Niagara Falls on Wednesday.) I was disappointed that the ed sessions took up only a relatively small portion of the conference. I did, however, take the “Event Planning 101” exam to gain COCA’s event planning certification.

Michael attended the ed sessions. Some were useful. Some weren’t. He learned a few non-traditional approaches to market events to students, such as Facebook ads, viral marketing, and street teams. Other ideas that came from the ed sessions were distributing diversity surveys, getting students to produce videos, and promoting the sense of community on campus.

Michael gathered feedback about several programming ideas for the Student Life Programming Committee. Life-sized board games do not work. *Campus Idol* works well in eastern schools but not in western schools.

SHOWCASES

I was at four types of showcases: comedy, variety, vendors, and music.

I watched five comedians. They had a range of funniness. Two of them have been on MuchMusic’s *Video On Demand*.

I listened to speakers talk about sex, the environment at the Earth’s poles, and social change. I then watched a wrestling match from the company Blood Sweat and Ears (BSE). Incidentally, that’s the same acronym for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease.

The vendors had a dedicated space during “Biz Hall” to distribute their wares. I got a lot of CDs, a color-changing cup, and several promo packages. And more

CDs. Additionally, since the vendors were “associate members,” they attended the regular conference and socialized as much as they could with students.

COCA’s main showcase was the music. Live band after live band performed for the delegates, and the showcases happened at a different venue each night. We also had a very enjoyable afternoon singer-songwriter acoustic-only showcase on a patio overlooking the Horseshoe Falls (the Canadian side of the waterfall).

NETWORK OF ALBERTA SCHOOLS

Prior to my arrival, the schools in Alberta decided to stick together through the conference. Thus, the students from the UofA, Grant MacEwan, NAIT, SAIT, Mount Royal College, University of Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat College ate meals together, spent free time together, and even created “Team Alberta” t-shirts together. And since the time scheduling was poorly planned and most meetings were devoid of content, we had a lot of free time.

There was not any dedicated discussion time in the schedule, but we exchanged and compared ideas when we were together. Team Alberta was proud to have watched all the music showcases. This gathering of Alberta schools was the most enjoyable and valuable part of the conference.

FINAL THOUGHTS

COCA was entertaining: it held its historically strong “booze and band” programming focus. I attended it hoping to keep a competent finger on the pulse of campus programming. Sadly, I missed the ed sessions. Even if I had attended those ed sessions, the majority of the conference’s time was spent on showcases. The UofA has staff – like Christine Rogerson – that takes care of bookings like that.

Since there is growing emphasis on non-academic advocacy in the VPSL portfolio, this conference did not feel like a good use of time. Campus programming still fits in the VPSL’s portfolio, but I could have received the information from the ed sessions from the AVPSL and heard showcase reviews from the Operations Manager. The most useful part of COCA was connecting with other Alberta schools.

If future VPSLs decides to emphasize “booze and band” campus programming, then this is the best national conference for the VPSL portfolio. While COCA’s brand of programming will continue to be a feature of the SU’s programming, I hope that the portfolio’s scope will broaden to include personal development, lifestyle awareness, and “window on the world” material. So if future VPSLs decide to explore those options, then I do not recommend going to COCA since COCA has not developed these other aspects of programming. I recommend sending the AVPSL only if the ed sessions contain worthwhile topics; review them carefully before deciding to go. I recommend sending the Operations Manager because it is useful to see the acts and to build good connections with other programmers across the country.

President Report

Students' Council: June 26/07

Michael Janz

president@su.ualberta.ca

Hello Council,

I had a Board of Governors meeting on Friday which resulted in some very interesting information coming to light! We are going to be having a "2020 visioning session" at our Board Retreat in Sept. and this is an opportunity for all of us on the board to visualize what this institution will look like in the year 2020 and give our input into how this vision will be accomplished! This is a huge chance for us to speak about the importance of undergraduate quality and affordability!

Powerplant: We should have a presentation to council in two weeks.

Exec retreat: Valuable time to chat with the Exec as to how we are doing on our priorities

Government orientation: Wow. A full day from advanced education on everything from student loans to trades program equivalents!

CAUS changeover: It was great to catch up with the U of L and the U of C and talk priorities and responses to the governments Roles and Mandates document.

Employee of the Week:

The AVP's. Mike, Pam and Brit hang out in the "pod" and do all of the grunt work that makes events like WOW, High School Leadership Conference and other amazing events happen! They work hard, play hard, and make Dollansky's, Le's, and Samuel's life much easier!



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Suite 2-900

Students' Union Building

University of Alberta

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

T6G 2J7

t: (780) 492-4236

f: (780) 492-4643

w: www.su.ualberta.ca

June 26, 2007

Scholarship funding boost a good step

(Edmonton, AB) – Today, the provincial government announced an additional investment of \$227 million into the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund thereby enabling the fund to produce an additional \$10 million in scholarship awards.

This investment has the potential to alleviate a portion of the costs incurred by some students, which is a positive step. However, current scholarship regimes have been criticized for giving too much money to too few students.

student advocate

“The vast majority of students need financial assistance, and while scholarship programs can assist in that effort we really want to see scholarship programs be available to more than just the select few; specifically those with high financial need” said Students' Union Vice President (External) Steven Dollansky.

service provider

When the Rutherford Scholarship Program was created it actually provided many high school students with one free year of university. Today, that same scholarship barely covers half of tuition.

business owner

Undergraduate students need more resources available to them, like the Millennium Alberta Rural Incentive Bursary, that reduce the upfront financial barriers of post-secondary education.

“We are calling on the government to use this new funding to provide more students an opportunity to share a piece of the scholarship pie thereby reducing the significant financial pressures all students face,” added Dollansky.

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For more information, please contact:

Steven Dollansky

Vice President (External)

University of Alberta Students' Union

P: 780.492.4236

C: 780.913.1563

E: vp.external@su.ualberta.ca