



## Conference reporting structure

Current policy: 7.17.6 Upon returning from a conference, the employee must submit a written report to the Executive Committee outlining the benefits of attendance within two weeks of returning from the conference, what impact said attendance will have on the Students' Union and a recommendation on attendance in future years. The report will also include actual costs of the conference to the Students' Union, compared against the approved amounts (referred to in 7.17.3). Reports from the Executive Committee will be forwarded to Students' Council for information.

Other possible information that could be requested includes: individual delegate reflections, conference agenda, delegate list, media coverage and any pertinent further information

### Conference Data Set

Creating a data set to include all the conferences that we are attending, along with the with the requests and reports, will provide information for future executives to refer to when considering attending a conference.

Please see document LA 09-06.01 [Admin Policy 7.17 - Conferences](#).

2009-06/6

### BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2009-06/6a

**EASTHAM/SANGRAM MOVED THAT** upon recommendation of CAC Students Council ratify the appointment of Alena Manera, Craig Turner and Naeem Ladhani to the U or A senate for the term starting May 1, 2009 and ending April 30, 2010

2009-06/7

### GENERAL ORDERS

2009-06/7b

**MATHEWSON/EASTHAM MOVED THAT** Students' Council appoint two (2) undergraduate students to sit on the Dean of Students Selection Committee.

Please see document LA 09-06.02

2009-06/8

### INFORMATION ITEMS

2009-06/8b

Alena Manera, Associate VP Student Life- Report

Please see document LA 09-06.03

2009-06/8c

Kory Mathewson, President- Report

Please see document LA 09-06.04

2009-06/8d

Audit Committee- Report

Please see document LA 09-06.05

2009-06/8e

Leah Trueblood, VP Academic- Report

Please see document LA 09-06.06

**2009-06/8f** Council Administration Committee- Report

Please see document LA 09-06.07

**2009-06/8g** Nick Dehod, VP Student Life- Report

Please see document LA 09-06.08

**2009-06/8h** Beverly Eastham, VP External- Report

Please see document LA 09-06.09

# ***THE STUDENTS' UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA***

## **OPERATING POLICY STATEMENT**

<i>Policy Number:</i> <b>7.17</b>	<i>Effective Date:</i> <b>July 26, 1995</b>
<i>Responsibility for Policy:</i>	<b>Executive Committee</b>
<i>Subject Matter</i> - <i>Category:</i>	<b>OPERATING POLICY (GENERAL)</b>
- <i>Specific:</i>	<b>FINANCE</b>
- <i>Topic:</i>	<b>Conferences</b>

### **Introduction:**

Sending representatives of the Students' Union to external conferences can be one of the most effective ways of building relationships with other groups and of obtaining new information or different perspectives which will make our operations more effective. This policy outlines the circumstances under which a conference may be attended, the procedure for obtaining approval, and requirements of the delegate after returning.

### **Policy:**

- 7.17.1 Employees wishing to attend a conference must include the associated costs in the budget of the relevant department, to be approved by Students' Council.
- 7.17.2 Prior to spending any money on a conference, the employee must obtain specific approval from the Executive Committee to attend said conference.
- 7.17.3 Approval from the Executive Committee will be granted only after the employee has submitted a written proposal that includes a summary of the conference and sessions or activities relevant to the Students' Union, the benefits derived from attendance, and a break down of all associated costs.
- 7.17.4 The employee shall take the necessary steps to ensure that all costs are kept to a minimum when making arrangements for both travel and accommodations.
- 7.17.5 Conference requests will only be considered from paid employees of the Students' Union.
- 7.17.6 Upon returning from a conference, the employee must submit a written report to the Executive Committee outlining the benefits of attendance within two weeks of returning from the conference, what impact said attendance will have on the Students'

History:	Ref.	Board/Committee	Date of Council Approval
Created		Executive Committee	July 25/95
	SC 97-06/11b	Executive Committee	Aug. 06/97
	Exec 03/37-5a	Executive Committee	Oct. 08/03
	August 29/07	Executive Committee	September 11/07
	May 27/09	Executive Committee	June 9/09

Union and a recommendation on attendance in future years. The report will also include actual costs of the conference to the Students' Union, compared against the approved amounts (referred to in 7.17.3). Reports from the Executive Committee will be forwarded to Students' Council for information.

7.17.7 For conferences outside of the City of Edmonton, where meals are not included as part of the registration, a per diem allowance of \$35.00 will be given to each delegate from the Students' Union. This per diem cannot be spent to purchase alcohol.

7.17.8 Where an employee is required to drive their own vehicle substantial distances (over 50km) on work-related business, they shall be reimbursed at the Government of Alberta rate.

History: Created	Date	Board/Committee	Council Approval
		Executive Committee	July 25/95
	SC 97-06/11b	Executive Committee	Aug. 06/97
	Exec 03/37-5a	Executive Committee	Oct. 08/03
	August 29/07	Executive Committee	September 11/07
	Nov8/07	Executive Committee	Nov20/07



## Alena Manera | Associate VP Student Life

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Good evening, council!

I hope that your summer is going epic-ly. Mine definitely is! I got to live the rock-star/jet-set lifestyle in June by traveling coast to coast. I played music in BC, went camping with SLEC, took a day off, and then headed to St. John's for a conference. What a whirlwind! Now that I'm back in 2-900, I'm ready to get cracking on the year. Here's what I have been, and will be doing this summer:

**Street Team.** The SL Team is currently spending some time composing a policy document for the Street Team, as well as working on recruitment methods, handbooks, and a schedule for the team. If you're outgoing, energetic, and are looking for a great way to get involved in the SL portfolio, talk to either Nick or I about joining the Street Team!

**Week of Welcome.** With the loss of Christine, our Manager of Programming and Venues, I'm predicting that I'll be a little busier than usual during WOW, but I'm looking forward to the challenge! I don't think we're keeping the theme secret this year, and if we are, I'm going to let the cat out of the bag! The theme is: "Week of Welcome: Where no W.O.W. has gone before." WOO! The SL Events Committee has been working hard to come up with the visual concept for WOW and will be putting together the individual events over the next couple of months. Speaking of events: there's this great event that we put on every year called, "PANCAKES!!!" I think it would be great if councillors could come out on the Friday and serve up some pancakes/meet some students. Are you IN? Let me know!

**COCA.** From June 17 – 22 I attended the Canadian Organization of Campus Activities' national conference in St. John's, NL. COCA is a congregation of all student and staff programmers from campuses across the country. We get together, talk about what kinds of events work and don't work across the country, then talk about how we can properly promote our events to the student body. I have some great ideas that will hopefully not only revitalize SU events, but will incite some interest in the SU as a whole. Intrigued? Come see me in 2-935. I will give you a copy of my COCA report and talk some shop with you.

**Playing music/Being a camp counsellor!** On a more personal note: I'm going to be playing some music on Wednesday, July 22 at the Hydeway. (100 Ave and 102 Street) I'm opening for an incredible indie-pop band from Montreal called the Lovely Feathers. If you're looking for something to do, pop on by and enjoy some live music!

From July 20 – 24 I will be out of the office, because I am going to be a camp counsellor for Camp Fyrefly! Fyrefly is Canada's only leadership retreat for sexual minority youth. It's really important to equip kids with the tools necessary to help them overcome any adversity they may face based upon their gender identity, sexual orientation, etc., and I'm stoked to be involved in that process! For more information on Fyrefly check out: [www.fyrefly.ualberta.ca](http://www.fyrefly.ualberta.ca).

That's it for now! If you'd like me to elaborate on anything above, or have any questions, come and see me up in the pod (2-935 SUB), or fire me off an email at [avpsl@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:avpsl@su.ualberta.ca)

Thanks for reading!

# Report to Students' Council

July 7, 2009

*Kory Mathewson, President*

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## **Phyllis Clark (Finance & Admin.) & Don Hickey (Facilities and Op.) – Jun 23 2009**

Cost of education, Power Plant development, Tuition Fee Policy, and our priorities.

**Steven Dollansky, (BoG Rep.) – Jun 23 2009** – BoG subcommittee membership.

**Khanh Nguyen (M&C) – Jun 24 2009** – Survey development, timelines, marketing, deployment.

## **Academic Planning Committee – Jun 24 2009**

Revised University mandate, online calendar information.

## **Hallie Brodie (Center for Student Devel.) – Jun 24 2009**

Most used online services of the Students' Union: Exam, Tutor, Housing registries.

## **Student Portal – Jun 25 2009**

Demonstration of uPortal system and brainstorming on implementation.

## **Debra Pozega Osburn (Associate VP External Relations) – Jun 25 2009**

Communication on coordination of external resources, and consultation.

## **Apply Alberta Demonstration – Jun 25 2009**

## **Board of Governors Retirement Dinner – Jun 25 2009, Faculty Club**

## **Board of Governors – Jun 26 2009**

Research & Scholarly Integrity Policy & Procedures. University Mandate. Bildeberg Conference.

## **Council of Alberta University Students – Jun 28 2009, CAUS Office**

Topics: Membership fees, policy prioritization and revisions.

## **Advanced Education and Technology Orientation – Jun 29 2009, Government House**

Introduction to the ministry & 2.5 hour round-table with AGC, ASEC, CAUS, Minister Horner.

## **Andy Greenshaw (AVP Research) – Jul 2 2009**

Undergraduate student research opportunities, academic plan submission.

## **Indira Samerasakera (President) – Jul 2 2009, Faculty Club**

First meeting of the year, topics: USRI, student space, budget, and priorities.

## **Campus Cup – Jul 3 2009**

w/ LHSA and RHA, discussed logistics, delegation, scale, and timeline.

## **Connie Varnhagen – Jul 3 2009** – Discovery Learning Report

*For the Good and Welfare of the University of Alberta Students' Union,*

*I remain, Kory Wallace Mathewson, President, University of Alberta Students' Union 2009-2010*

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# **Report to Students' Council**

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2009-2010/AC03

## **Audit Committee**

Dear Council,

At the June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009 meeting of the Audit Committee:

The committee reviewed the submission of financial documents provided by AUFSJ with regards to the disbursement of their fees for the upcoming year. While there were a number of minor concerns with both the clarity of the submission, and the transparency and strength of their financial processes, the committee noted no evidence to indicate that there was any attempt at deliberate malfeasance, and no compelling reason to suspect any divergence of fiscal policy from the organization's mandate. To that end, the committee has issued a recommendation of approval for the fee disbursement.

The full report detailing the committee's findings and issues of concern is available to councilors upon request. Requests for this, or other questions regarding the Audit Committee's findings can be directed to me at [jaiman@ualberta.ca](mailto:jaiman@ualberta.ca).

Sincerely,

Jaiman Chin



### **1. Great Teaching**

I attended the Society for Teaching and Learning in higher education conference in Fredericton with Peter Ochs the University Governance and Advocacy Officer. This was moderately helpful in assessing some new classroom techniques, but very helpful in talking to instructors about the political climate at institutions across the country.

Traditionally STLHE has been very helpful, but in future I will recommend that we look at other conferences such as Improving University Teaching which have a stronger focus on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

On campus, we have had a number of tremendous-exceptional-best-ever conversations with University Teaching Services and, I think, will be able to present a comprehensive teaching enhancement strategy in the academic plan, largely thanks to their support.

### **2. COFA: Council of Faculty Associations**

I have had terrific conversations with all of the faculty associations and their areas of concern, broadly, can be divided into four categories. In order of importance:

- Space
- Advising
- Undergraduate Research
- Faculty Student/Ratio (note: this is not class size, but rather the amount of time professors have for office hours etc.)

### **3. Undergraduate Research**

This has become the flagship issue for the academic plan within which we frame our conversations about teaching and space etc. I think this is very much about making sure that if students get all of the disadvantages of a research intensive university, they get all of the advantages. I have had meetings with half a dozen department chairs and CAPs about how we can

develop the infrastructure for undergraduate research, and communicate about what we are already doing, better.

#### ***4. Textbook Price Freezes***

Tremendous progress has been made in amount of raw data we have about the genuine differences between different textbook editions across faculties and a great deal of work has been done pricing out the cost of a year in each Faculty. So, if that is data that is of interest to your constituents, drop by and see me anytime.

#### ***5. Make the Academic Experience an Access Issue***

Accessibility is one of the four commitments of the academic plan and On July 6<sup>th</sup> Advocacy, Marketing, External and Academic got in a room to coordinate messaging for external and academic sides for the term.

#### ***6. Open the Portfolio***

I continue to tweet and blog. I am hopeful that my academic plans rounds of sitting down with every councilor will also help inspire a fire in your hearts for academic issues.

#### ***7. Academic Advising***

I have sat down with the associate deans of three faculties now, and two department chairs about this specifically, to talk about what it will take to move the advising conversation forward, many excellent ideas have been presented, and a map for moving forward will be in the academic plan.

#### ***8. Non-Traditional Student Communities***

The iHouse coordinators have confirmed that they would love to have me attend, but I am waiting to hear back from them.



*University of Alberta Students' Union*  
**Report to Students' Council**

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2009-July-7th

## **Council Administration Committee**

Hello Council:

CAC had an extremely productive meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009. Please find below a summary of topics discussed and decisions made. For a break down of the motions passed please refer to the minutes also attached.

### 1. SU Businesses/Services Tour

While soliciting input and ideas for Retreat, I received a suggestion that council be given a tour of SUB. I thought this was a great idea and took it to CAC. CAC also thought this was a great idea and have arranged for a tour of SUB during the presentation slot in Council. Look for this at the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of CAC.

### 2. Senate Nominations

VP External, Bev Eastham, presented the results of Senate interviews. The three candidates she recommended to CAC were approved and will be brought to Council for ratification.

### 3. Retreat Feedback

Myself and Craig (our Speaker) will be putting together a questionnaire using an online survey tool. We will be getting together later this week to come up with some questions which will then be sent out to CAC for approval.

### 4. Councillor Parking

I have had discussions with a couple of people about the issue of councillor parking. The issues with the current parking set up are:

- does not start early enough
- does not cover parking during committee meetings.

To rectify these problems Nicole, our admin assistant will look into getting councillor parking expanded to Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4pm onwards.

Committees may adjust their meeting times to Tuesday/Thursday evenings if this better accommodates their permanent members.

## 5. Bylaw 2000 Review Committee

CAC moved to strike a committee that will review Bylaw 2000. The committee will review Bylaw 2000 and a survey will be sent out to all interested parties (past candidates, past/current CRO, past/current council members, COFA, interested SALS) to gather feedback on what Bylaw 2000 should look like. It is my hope that the survey will be made available online as well for any interested parties missed. Those who do not feel they were able to adequately express their opinions and thoughts in the survey may request an interview with the Bylaw 2000 committee to further explain their ideas.

After an extensive meeting (2hours +) those at the last CAC meeting had somewhat settled on the following composition:

Voting Members:     A member from CAC (preferably the Chair)  
                          A member from Bylaw (preferably the Chair)  
                          3 members of council

Non-Voting Members: The CRO  
                          A DIE Board member?

We disagreed on whether or not the executive should be allowed to sit on the committee. A compromise was reached which allows council to choose an executive to be one of the final three council members on the committee should they wish to have executive representation on the committee.

A final decision about having a DIE Board member on the committee was not reached. There were strong opinions for and against having a DIE Board member on the committee. We are currently waiting to hear back from DIE Board with their thoughts on the matter.

The chair will be elected from within the committee. Due to the urgency of revising Bylaw 2000 the committee will be required to meet once a week and should expect evening long meetings.

CAC will meet again Tuesday July 14 @ 7pm to continue and hopefully resolve the discussion on the composition of the Bylaw 2000 review committee. If you feel strongly about this please and are unable to attend the meeting please send me an e-mail with your thoughts.

It is important to note that a councillor can still bring forward Bylaw 2000 changes to council independently of the review committee.

# MINUTES

CAC 09/Meeting Number

## Council Administration Committee (CAC)

June 23, 2009

### Attendance

Rachel Dunn  
Brittany Kustra  
Sangram Hansra  
Scott McKinney (proxy for Petros Kusmu)  
Craig Turner (Speaker)  
Zach Fentiman  
Vickram  
Beverly Eastham

### Observers

Jen (CRO)  
Vanessa Jackson  
Catherine Raitt (recording secretary)

- 1. Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by DUNN at 5:05 pm
- 2. Approval of Agenda** FENTIMAN MOVED THAT the addition of discussion item 7g: Committee of Chairs to the agenda.  
VOTE ON MOTION 6/0/0 CARRIED
- 3. Approval of Minutes** Tabled to the next meeting
- 4. Announcements** There are no announcements
- 5. Presentations** Tabled to a later date
- 6. Old Business** There is no old business
- 7. New Business** There is no new business
- 8. Discussion Period**
  - a. SU Business Tour**

DUNN: VPSL Dehod brought forward the idea of a tour of SUB and meeting of staff be arranged for Council.

MCKINNEY: perhaps small groups of 5/6 would be more manageable

FENTIMAN: Could start the tour at 5 and then meet at 5:30 and do council photos.

Discussion ensued regarding the various options for the tour.

FENTIMAN: could do a “dead” tour and then have various managers/senior managers present to Council. CAC supports this idea, tour will be arranged for July 21.

MCKINNEY: fantastic idea

**b. Chair Report**  
**c. Senate Nominations**

Tabled to the next meeting

Eastham provide background regarding the selection process for Senate nominees. There were 15 applications, all were interviewed and three were selected to be forwarded to CAC and Council for ratification. The three nominees are:

Alena Manera, Craig Turner and Naeem Ladhani

EASTHAM: this group will add some diversity to the Senate.

CAC moved in camera to discuss the candidates.

Moved ex camera

EASTHAM/SANGRAM Moved that CAC recommend to Student Council the ratification of Alena Menera, Craig Turner and Naeem Ladhani as U of A Senators for 09/10.

VOTE ON MOTION 6/1/0 (one abstention) CARRIED

**d. Retreat Feedback**

DUNN: would like to have a survey that includes the following points: Location, food, most valuable piece of info you got out of, areas that are lacking, what would you change,

KUSTRA: would be good idea to remind what the presentations were. Last year, the speaker submitted a report to Council on the retreat (with comics). Turner will submit this to Council, minus comics.

Discussion ensued about doing two survey's, one on content and one on logistics and the use of survey monkey. McKINNEY: would like to see a question relating to the games we played.

A summary of the retreat will be sent out before feedback is solicited. Dunn will work with Turner and Raitt on this project.

**e. Councilor Parking**

DUNN: frustrated that passes are only valid on Council Tuesday's from 5:30 onwards. This creates a hardship for councilors attending meetings in the evenings.

Discussion ensued regarding holding all meetings on Tuesday/Thursday evenings. This may create challenges with quorum.

Raitt will investigate extending council pass to begin at 4:00 pm and the use of one day evening passes. As well Fentiman will investigate compensating summer transit riders.

**f. Bylaw 2000**

DUNN: there is significant need/interest reviewing this bylaw. Seeking

feedback from CAC regarding the formation of a taskforce group. Recommendations regarding this bylaw would be a joint effort between CAC and Bylaw committee

EASTHAM: sounds fantastic

CAC will meet on Monday June 29 to discuss and decide on the makeup of the taskforce group. The meeting will be a 6:00 pm.

**g. Committee of Chairs**

FENTIMAN: would like to form a committee of chairs to standardize many of the common tasks that the committees are charged with such as: agendas, minutes, reports to council, standing orders.

FENTIMAN/SANGRAM MOVED THAT CAC approve the formation of a sub-committee of the Chairs of Council Committees.

VOTE ON MOTION 7/0/0 CARRIED

**9. Adjournment**

EASTHAM/SANGRAM MOVED THAT the meeting be adjourned at 5:50

VOTE ON MOTION 7/0/0 CARRIED



**Prepared by:** Nick Dehod, Vice President (Student Life)

**To:** Students' Council 2009/2010

### **Health & Dental Plan**

Over the summer I have been receiving numerous inquiries regarding the Health Plan by students. We've been working over the last two weeks to make the information on the plan more accessible and available on our website. Construction has begun in the Lower Level on the Health & Dental Plan office that will be readily available to students in the fall to directly answer their questions concerning coverage, opt-outs, etc. I'll be meeting with Kristin Foster and our Marketing Department next week to discuss the communication plan for the fall.

### **Infolink Refurbishment**

Vice President Fentiman and I have met with Hallie Brodie, the Infolink Manager, as well as Norma Rodenberg, our Student Services Senior Manager, and Khanh Nguyen, the Marketing Department's Senior Manager. Not only have we discussed the future of the service but also what can be done in the present in terms of refurbishing our current Infolink booths. Marketing is currently working on some ideas and should get back to us later this month.

### **Physical Activities & Health Center (PAHC)**

A follow-up meeting to our debrief and presentation is occurring on July 13<sup>th</sup> where we will discuss with the University next steps moving forward.

### **Programming**

Christine Rogerson, our Programming & Venues Senior Manager, has accepted an offer for a new job and will be leaving the SU after over ten years with our organization. It's sad to see her go but we wish her the best in her new position. She'll be leaving at the end of July and we are currently accepting applications for the job. Also we have had some preliminary discussions with the LHSA & RHA about concerning Campus Cup. Everyone is excited about the project and I'll provide more details as they develop. For Week of Welcome, we have finalized our events and will be informing the Student Life Events Committee (SLEC) of what events they'll run on Thursday.

### **Student Groups Granting/Student Group Services**

The combining and synchronization of the granting process with the Dean of Students Office has been put on hold. We were ready to move forward on our side but the Dean of Students Office needs more time to determine the implications of changing this process. This means that the granting process will remain the same for the July granting process however based on our discussions with representatives from the DOS office, we are optimistic that the changes will be in place for the next granting sessions. We are also currently accepting applications until July 17th for a new Student Groups Manager. If you know anyone who has graduated or is close to graduating, and has a wealth of experience with student groups, please encourage them to apply.

## **Sustainability**

We're making effort to improve the visibility and knowledge surrounding the composting and recycling available in SUB. Marketing has begun preliminary work on improving our composting and recycling signage. It has also been discussed that in the initial weeks of school some ECOS volunteers might help educate students on what belongs in the compost and what doesn't. I have a meeting later this week with the Office of Sustainability and ECOS to begin discussing how we can collaborate on Sustainability Awareness Week this year. Also, the Peregrine Falcon Webcam Project received some media attention last Thursday as the four young peregrine falcons were banded.

## **University Health Center**

In the last couple weeks I've met with Kevin Friese and took a tour of the University Health Center to get up-to-date on the coming year. I hope to have the first Health Center Advisory Group (HCAG) meeting before the end of the summer.

## **U-Pass**

We had originally anticipated that the negotiations would be completed in July however this process might now go beyond the end of summer. I will be able to provide more information at the next council meeting.

If you have any other questions ask during council, stop by the office, or send me an email at [vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca). **Make it so.**

# Report to Students' Council

July 7, 2009

Beverly Eastham, Vice-President (External)

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Hello Council,

I hope you are enjoying the summer so far and taking some time to relax, go on holidays, attend some of the awesome festivals in Edmonton, etc. The meeting agenda for this evening appears to be reasonably short, so I encourage each of you to think of a few good questions to ask in question period. Summer meetings are often short due to a lack of business, and I would like to challenge all councillors to really think critically about why you ran for Council, your goals for the year, and what you hope to accomplish, and then work on translating that into motions or items of business. These quieter meetings are a great opportunity to work on creating the changes that you hoped to make when you ran. As always, if you need help translating your goals into items of business for council meetings I would be more than happy to help you.

## Meetings

June 24: Public Interest Alberta (PIA) Meeting

June 24: Exec Committee

June 24: SU Centenary Event Meeting

June 25: Lunch with Debra Pozega Osburn (Acting Vice President External Relations)

June 25: Apply Alberta Demonstration ([www.applyalberta.ca](http://www.applyalberta.ca))

June 26: Budget 2010 Discussion hosted by Hon. Lloyd Snelgrove, Chair of Treasury Board

June 28: CAUS Meeting and AGM

June 29: Advanced Education and Technology Orientation Day

June 30: ASEC/AGC/CAUS Joint Meeting

July 2: CASA Leadership Skype Meeting

July 2: Lunch with President Indira Samarasekera

July 6: SU Centenary Meeting w/ Karen Wichuk (UofA Associate Vice-President Government and Corporate Relations)

July 6: Exec Committee

July 6: Exec tour of CJSR

## Upcoming Meetings

July 8: Exec Committee

July 9: Exec Media Training Day

July 13: SU Centenary Meeting w/ Karen Wichuk

July 13: Exec Committee

July 15-19: CASA Leadership Retreat in Ottawa

## Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS)

[www.caus.net](http://www.caus.net) | [twitter: #kaus09](https://twitter.com/kaus09)

CAUS held our Annual General Meeting on Sunday June 28 in which the budget for the 2009/2010 year was passed. It should be noted that a small increase to membership fees was passed by the council resulting in a charge of \$1.28 per Full-Time Equivalent (FTE = a way to measure how many students are at an institution) as opposed to the \$1.27/FTE that we paid last year. This results in an amount of, very roughly, \$300 more for CAUS membership than we paid last year.

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CAUS fees are indexed to CPI, which means that in any normal year the CAUS membership fees go up slightly. However, due to a complete lack of a positive CPI number currently, the membership fees were not set to go up at all, even though most of the other costs that CAUS faces go up on an annual bases regardless of CPI. The \$0.01 number was chosen as this is the number we were working with as informed by CPI at the time that Duncan and I were working on drafting the budget and was approved by the membership even after CPI ‘evaporated’ as it helped us to balance the budget.

The day after our AGM, CAUS attended the Advanced Education and Technology (AET) Orientation at Government House (which is exceedingly beautiful and you should all go visit if you get a chance). The orientation included the following sessions: Government 101 (Legislation, Role of Student Groups, Overview of Budget), Key Adult Learning Trends and Issues, Roundtable Discussion with Minister Horner, Research and Innovation, Overview of Affordability Framework & Student Financial Assistance, Interactive Café (break-out sessions with Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfers (ACAT), Student Finance Board (SFB), Alberta Industry and Training Board (AITB), Access Advisory Council (AAC) and Campus Alberta Quality Council (CAQC)), and Scholarships. The day was packed full of a lot of information and the discussion with Minister Horner was incredibly in-depth and informative.

CAUS, ASEC (Alberta Student Executive Council) and the AGC (Alberta Graduate Council) held a roundtable discussion on the day following the AET Orientation. This was a very productive and foundational discussion and helped the three groups to find areas of collaboration by discussing the issues we will each be working on this year. To my knowledge, this is the first time that our three groups have sat down and had this type of conversation, and everyone agreed that we would work to set up a follow-up meeting at some point during the year to continue the discussion that was started.

In other CAUS news, you may recall that in my last report I told you that I would be attending a discussion on Budget 2010 being hosted by Hon. Lloyd Snelgrove, Chair of the Treasury Board. The meeting started with an overview of the pressures that the government is facing in terms of expenditures and revenues as well as some discussion about taking money out of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund. The second part of the meeting was opened up to the many different stakeholders who were in attendance and was more of a discussion mixed with a lobby opportunity. The long and the short of the meeting is that the government is facing tremendous budgetary pressures and is looking to all departments and areas to find ways they can be more ‘efficient’ (aka, do what they are doing, but using less money).

### **Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)**

**www.casa.ca | twitter: CASAdaily, #casaacae**

As this years Chair of the Policy Committee I will be attending the CASA Leadership Retreat which is being held in Ottawa next week from July 15 to July 19.

The leadership retreat is held to give those members within CASA who have taken on leadership roles an opportunity to work together during the first part of the year to set the groundwork for the work that will be done during the rest of the year. A formal agenda has not been sent out yet, but some of the issues that will be CASA governance and voting structure, the role of Regional Coordinators, policy development timeline and also creating a general framework for the year.

The event will be attended by people holding the following leadership positions:

- CASA Home Office Staff
- CASA Governance Officers (Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer)
- CASA Regional Coordinators (two each from eastern, central, western; one from prairie)
- CASA Committee Chairs

CASA will be covering the cost of my flight which helps to reduce the cost of this event to the UASU. This trip has received the necessary approval from the executive and will result in an approximate unbudgeted cost of \$500. The trip is unbudgeted as I could not be certain that I would be re-elected as Policy Chair again this year, and was unaware that, were I to be re-elected I would be invited to this retreat, as I was not invited to it last year. I am being invited this year due to a change in the general will of the CASA membership to work on including the committee chairs in the CASA leadership team more integral way.

### **SU Centenary**

This year is the Students' Union's Centenary! While we will not be hosting nearly as many centenary events as the university held for it's centenary last year, we are working on planning several celebratory events. The largest event is being planned for the middle of October and will involve both past and present members of the Students' Union, including many past SU executive. Justin Benko, AVPX, is taking the lead on planning this event and will be providing council with an update in the near future. There will likely be opportunities for a few councillors to get involved in working on this project, so let me know if you are interested and able to commit some of your time to helping.

As Always,

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