

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

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Tuesday March 16, 2010  
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

## LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2009-25)

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| 2009-25/1  | <u>SPEAKER'S BUSINESS</u>   |
| 2009-25/2  | <u>PRESENTATIONS</u>  |
| 2009-25/3  | <u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT</u>   |
| 2009-25/4  | <u>BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS</u>  |
| 2009-25/5  | <u>QUESTION PERIOD</u>  |
| 2009-25/6  | <u>BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS</u>   |
| 2009-25/7  | <u>GENERAL ORDERS</u>   |
| 2009-25/8  | <u>INFORMATION ITEMS</u>  |
| 2009-25/8b | BoG- Report<br>Please see document LA 09-25.01                                    |
| 2009-25/8c | Jaiman Chin, VP Operations and Finance- Report<br>Please see document LA 09-25.02 |
| 2009-25/8d | Leah Trueblood, VP Academic- Report<br>Please see document LA 09-25.03            |
| 2009-25/8e | Nick Dehod, VP Student Life- Report<br>Please see document LA 09-25.04            |
| 2009-25/8f | Beverly Eastham, VP External- Report<br>Please see document LA 09-25.05           |
| 2009-25/8g | Tribune Selection- Report<br>Please see document LA 09-25.06                      |

# Report to Students' Council

March 16, 2010

Prepared by: Steven Dollansky, Board of Governors Representative

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

## Introduction

Hello Council,

There have been a number of Board activities that I attended over the course of the past few weeks, which I will elaborate on below. Please do not hesitate to email questions if you have any. As the budget discussions progress, I would welcome your comments and ideas.

Thank you,  
SD

## Additional Budget Concerns

- There have been additional challenges identified in the operating budgets that are becoming increasingly clear in the weeks that have followed the February 9 Provincial Budget.
- The Board Finance and Property Committee has tabled the budget until such a time when more of the variables have been resolved.

## Board Learning and Discovery Committee

- Though this meeting ended up being a two hour discussion about budgetary woes, we also were informed of a pilot project to expedite guaranteed acceptance for students with high-school averages of >90%. Every direct-entry faculty, except for Engineering, has adopted the program. I think it is fantastic that the U of A is taking action, because the

## Board Committees

- The Board will have a plenary session on March 26, 2010 to pass the budget.

March 16, 2010

To: Students' Council

Re: Report for March 16 Meeting

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Dear council,

Apologies for the brevity of this report – there has been little significant to note since we last met one short week ago. Also, apologies for my absence at tonight's meeting – the beautiful world of corporate sponsorship has shipped me off to an award dinner honouring Gordon Nixon tonight! Next council meeting should be a significant one for me, so get stoked!

### **1. The Budget**

I am pleased to report that as of this morning we are tentatively balanced (while still waiting for one department to submit a finalized budget). We've done a great job of fully funding the vast majority of the major priorities the executive and Budget and Finance Committee have set out, while remaining conservative in our outlook for the upcoming year. A big kudos goes out to all the staff for working hard on this.

I have indicated to the managers that I will expect a finalized budget to submit to council by Friday.

### **2. SUB Changes**

I've been informed that the University has engaged in a new energy savings programming, and will be fully funding the installation of heat-resistant film on the windows in SUB. This should generate significant savings on heating bills, and, I think probably more importantly to our student leaders' quality of life, actual heat in the tower. I'm not promising 4-20 is going to be a refrigerator, but this is free for us, so let's not quibble over it too much.

### **3. Secret Shopper**

I'm pleased to announce that our secret shopper evaluations have commenced, and will be completed by next week. Hopefully this will give us some good material to work with in better meeting students' needs.

Other than that, I hope to see you ladies and gents next week, hopefully budget in hand. Any questions, email me or stop by the office!

Synergetically yours,  
Jaiman

16 March 2010

Dear Students' Council,

Thank you for the time you have taken to read my reports this year, I appreciate it very much. I also hope that if anything is ever unclear, or you have any problems, you do not hesitate to contact me.

**1. Developing the Portfolio:**

a) Externally:

- I did some blogging and twittering in an effort to encourage folks to run for GFC. One of the great advantages of the new Student Governance Facilitator is coordinating work like this more systematically. I think communicating these opportunities, and elevating them, is very important.

b) Internally:

- As I included the transition materials for James in the last report, James and I met three times last week. He is coming with me to a number of subcommittees and Academic Standards Committee on Thursday.

**2. Increasing the Profile and Power of the Council of Faculty Associations:**

- The Associate Vice President (Academic) has been working very hard to coordinate the Council of Faculty Associations retreat on 20 March for the morning. This is a tremendous peer-to-peer opportunity to share best practices. Again, I think it would be advisable for the incoming Vice President (Academic) and Students' Council to coordinate some sort of joint mixing/retreating event. Thoughts? Ask me in question period.

I am spending a great deal of time this week addressing the fallout from the positions that different faculty associations have taken on market modifiers. As I outlined throughout many reports throughout the year, the five different affected professional faculty associations took five different views of market modifiers.

**3. Build Sustainable Student Government in the Faculty of Science**

- The final selection committee for the new Science Faculty Association will meet on Friday 19 March at 5PM. I look forward to productive conversations with the Dean of Sciences' (Delegate) Dean of Students' (Delegate) and Student Group Services this week. Then, we will spend until 28<sup>th</sup> of April getting ready to set the new group up for success and sign the conditions of probation. I have included the "What went wrong?" report created by the interims governor to guide creation of the new group to this report.

**4. Lobby for the creation of a strong, student centered academic plan:**

- Unfortunately, this is largely on hold until the BOG vote on 26 March. This is helpful to report insofar as it highlights just how much the 9 February derailed the University. Further, while I will endeavor to break off a great deal of my work on 1 May, I have acquired the permission of the outgoing and incoming President, and incoming Vice President Academic to continue on with the Academic Plan as I was invited to do at a Students' Council meeting in October.

**5. Support Students in Governance**

- Challenges persist in re-organizing the position as to who they would report. The questions of communication and neutrality continue to vex the President, Associate Vice President, General Manager and myself. With the displacement of the Associate Vice President (Academic) there is also the question of replacing those duties. The proposal is that those will be done by a new advisory panel.

**6. Support and Institutionalize the Role of the Academic Materials Consultant**

- The vice President Operations and I have plans to meet later this week to get the business cases up and running.

**7. Create a Strategy for Transfer, International Students and Campus Associations to change SU Organizational Culture**

- Having taken my "who is a student?" presentation around to the committees on which I serve, I am transferring the information and strategy to the exec, and the

new exec, such that next year's governance cycle is informed by student diversity.

**8. Work with the Committee on the Learning Environment Subcommittee on Teaching Evaluation to approve through governance a new teaching evaluation tool**

- The committee expressed an interest in examining Faculty Evaluation Committee Criteria to answer one of the question of the previous subcommittee recommendations. Namely, how are teaching evaluations used to reward great teaching? This, however, has been put on hold as this topic is very politically sensitive, particularly as the furlough day conversations are ongoing. It is unlikely that this goal will come to realization in my term, but I am hopeful that laying the groundwork for changing undergraduate culture may change.

**And now for something completely different...**

Before I see you next I'll be doing many things, a few of which are:

- Meeting with those participating an external review of Community Service Learning from the McConnell Foundation
- Rallying on tuition
- Attending Pedagogical Provocations (You should come, Friday morning at 9AM)
- Meeting about the University's entire engagement strategy with our team and the office of the Dean of Students Union

Thank you for all of your hard work for students, and good luck to those of you in elections!

Yours sincerely,

Leah

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

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

Hi Council,

Right now I'm dealing with a few items that are important but very time intensive. This means I do not have an extensive list of items to report. None-the-less, here is what I am up to.

### **Dean of Students' Selection Committee**

I'm currently sitting on the Dean of Students' Selection Committee and that will be taking up a large portion of my time next week.

### **Health & Dental Plan Claims Presentation**

At the next Council meeting, Kristin Foster from studentcare should be in town to share how students have been using their Health & Dental Plan. Stay tuned for that next week.

### **Legislate This!**

This week I have focused much of my time getting the word out on the march this Thursday. This has included aiding in getting material out, doing some classroom speaking, handing out hot chocolate, and speaking with students at large. There are still a couple days to go and it is critical that we continue to inform students about Thursday. If you have any time over the next two days to aid in making signs, putting up materials, etc., your help would be greatly appreciated.

### **Nomination Committee**

We have begun the hiring process for our service directors, coordinator, and various committees. Last year I think I spent almost 50 hours hiring people. I'm looking forward to transitioning Rory on the proud VPSL tradition.

Thus far, we're really excited with the applicants. If you're interested in working with the SU there are several positions still being advertised on the 5<sup>th</sup> page of today's Gateway. Check it out!

### **Residence Budget Advisory Committee (RBAC)**

On Monday we had our very first RBAC meeting. Much of the discussion was around the Terms of Reference of the committee as well as the schedule for the rest of this year as well as next year.

The creation of this committee is very momentous as it is something residence leaders have been



asking for several years to have. It is hoped that this committee will increase transparency around the budget process and improve communication among key stakeholders. We're excited to see what happens with this committee moving forward.

### **AVP/Programming Changes**

We are still having some discussions about reorganizing some of the AVP positions. It does look like we will be moving forward with the creation of a Student Programmer position under the Senior Manager of Programming & Venues. I'll have more information hopefully 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).

**“To hell with circumstances, I create opportunities” – Bruce Lee**

# Report to Students' Council

March 16, 2010

Beverly Eastham, Vice-President (External)

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Hello Council,

I am now back from Ottawa, but have my schedule is still full of lobbying activity as Monday marked the start of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) lobby conference. So far the conference is going well, and overall we have meetings lined up with approximately 40 individuals (mostly MLAs, but also a few other stakeholders).

As my schedule has not really let up at all since I departed for Ottawa I have still not had time to write council a substantive report on what I have been working on lately. However, as was mentioned in my report last week, I shall be writing up a report on Friday, March 19 after my work schedule has calmed down.

If you have any free time tomorrow or Thursday morning please let myself, Zach, Nick or Chris Henderson know and we will find you something 'Legislate This!' related to do. Also, please, please, please tell everyone you know about the march to the legislature and come out with as many friends as you can get to follow you on Thursday.

If you have any questions or need to contact me anytime between now and the end of Thursday it is probably best to call my cell, but you can also try calling me at the office, or sending me an email.

As Always,

**Beverly Eastham, VP External**

Phone: 780-492-4236

Email: [vp.external@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:vp.external@su.ualberta.ca)

Blog: <http://blog.su.ualberta.ca>

Twitter: [uasuvpexternal](#), [#uasuvpexternal](#), [#ualberta](#)

## Tribune Selection Report to Students' Council

The tribune selection committee would like to respectfully submit the following name for ratification by Students' Council:

Carleen Ready - Tribune