



ISA

ISA FOR SRA

ISA's submission to UASU for Student Representative Association (SRA) status.

BEFORE WE GO TO PROPOSAL

- Let's go over the structure again and understand the changes that ISA has made post the last council meeting.



THE BOARD

ISA Board



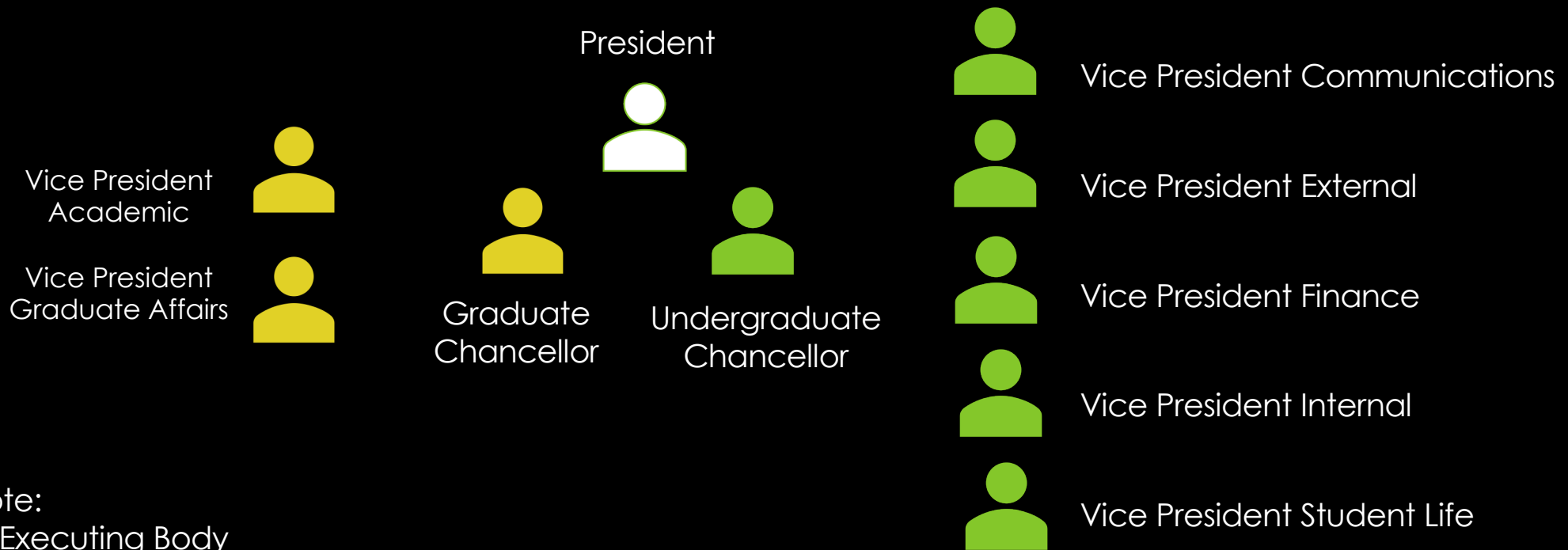
Grad.
Chancellor

President.

Undergrad
Chancellor



ISA BOARD



Note:

- Executing Body
- Neutral to both councils

CONSENSUS

- ISA Board will use consensus to make everyday decisions rather than using the traditional voting style.
- We believe consensus helps people reach decisions on a common ground and provides everyone a fair chance to put forward their voices and make an impactful decision.



9,000+ Students

3,350+ graduate students

5,600+ undergrad students

GSA Delegate

SU Delegate
FA's Delegates
CA's Delegates
Regional Groups

ISA Board

15
Elected
Graduate
Councilors

20
Elected
Undergraduate
Councilors



FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE

(50+ INTERNAL
WORKING
MEMBERS)



ISA has a Board and seven departments as
working body



ROLES:

The Board does not have any vote since that may cause a conflict between the interests of graduate and undergraduate international students' interests.

Roles of the Board:

- Manage ISA's day to day operations

- Execute tasks and advocate on the matters assigned by the Councils

- Conduct student engagement activities - events and welcome activities

- Represent both Councils in all official meetings

Roles of the Councils:

- Discuss the political standings of the ISA.

- Make decisions on student issues.

- Hold the board accountable for its actions.

- Oversees the rules of the association.

- Sets the direction for the executive.



SOLUTION TO APPOINTMENT

ISA Board will be elected directly by the undergrad council and the concept of having a selection committee does not exist anymore.



SCENARIO:

- Election of Board Members.

Councill Election

Councillors are elected by students.

Joint Council meeting

Candidates nominate themselves for board positions.

Elections for Board position

- Candidates will deliver a speech
- Councillors will ask questions

Elections

Each council vote to fill their respective board positions.



REFUGEES

- Refugees cannot be accommodated in the membership of ISA.
- Reasons:
 - Refugees are considered as permanent residents in Canada.
 - University classifies students as domestic and international students, it's not possible to validate their votes in ISA elections.
 - Lack of refugee presence in ISA, thus can't represent someone if they are not in our governance structure,
 - This would need reservations within ISA for refugees.
 - Refugees and international students are new to Canada but at the same time our issues are not always same such as tuition, U-Pass situation, etc.
- Solution:
 - While we can't advocate for them but still ISA can open its events/services to all refugee students.



ISA

SRA PROPOSAL

INTRODUCTION

- UASU formed ISA in 2013 to act as an advocating body for international students.
- Tuition was increased suddenly by Board of Governors,
 - 100+ international students gathered to protest (13 Dec 2013).
- Students demanded an advocating voice to safeguard their interests.
 - The Students' Union decided to form ISA.
 - A Town hall was hosted by the Students' Union in Telus Center
 - As a result our ISA was formed (28 March 2014).



OUR ABILITY TO REPRESENT INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRAD STUDENTS

- 20 Elected councillors
 - Elected directly by international undergrad students.
- 14 delegates
 - 1 SU Delegate
 - 2 Campus Associations delegates.
 - 6 Faculty Associations delegates.
 - 5 Regional groups delegates.

Open council allowing every international student to give presentation and speak in the council.



REASONS FOR THIS SUBMISSION

- As an organization by international students, for international students, the ISA believes that it's in position to better represent international students .

5,600+
undergrad
international
students

18.8%
Of the UAlberta
undergrad
student body

Making one in
every 5 students
an international
student soon.



REASONS FOR THIS SUBMISSION

- The SRA status will enable ISA to directly advocate to the University of Alberta International (UAI) and hold them accountable to work for the betterment of international students.
- Although not yet recognized as an official representative association, the ISA currently operates on a level unlike that of a student group, with 50+ directors/coordinators in seven departments of ISA with its legislature spread over 80 pages.



REASONS FOR THIS SUBMISSION

- ISA has always stood true to its membership
- Recent examples:
 - Reached to University VP Operations and VP Auxiliary services and asked for free relocation assistance for international students who were relocating in midst of the pandemic.
 - ISA reached out to Edmonton Mayor and City Councillors after international students were excluded from the ride transit program and held a direct meeting with ETS to advocate for our membership and safeguard their interests as a result, ISA was able to convince the ETS to allow international students' also to apply for ride transit program.



BYLAW 8100: SECTION 8 (ROLES AND MANDATES)

Act as the official representative of its membership on student issues.

- ISA has always acted in a representative capacity for all international students at the University of Alberta.
- ISA has been active in filling all available student positions at various committees in Students' Union, university governance and advisory committees to make sure that international students' interests are safeguarded, and issues are raised.
- ISA has a permanent seat on the Council on Student Affairs (COSA) to raise international students' issues.
- According to Discover Governance, "they [SRAs] are important because they understand and can advocate for the more specialized needs of smaller sections of campus." For ISA, we are currently already filling the role of one and our Council in all right spirits gives ISA the legitimacy to truly demonstrate the voice of all international students.



Provide services which are beneficial to its membership

- In the current COVID-19 situation, all ISA's public engagement activities have been suspended due to safety considerations, but various ISA departments have been active in their operations.
- All our departments are working remotely and providing services to students (more detail in proposal)
- ISA with its mission to connect the entire international students' community is working on a 48 hours strict response and action policy.



Foster student engagement and a sense of community within its constituency.

- ISA works closely with International Students' Services (ISS) to host the welcome activities on campus for all new international students. We together work on events that help students connect within their community.
- Besides, ISA also works closely with Students' Union Executives and Graduate Students' Association to timely raise student issues and together work on solving the problems.
- ISA hosted an SU Election Forum in CAB earlier this year to make sure that voices of international students are not suppressed and our issues are not ignored.
- Student Engagement is the top priority of ISA and actively look into new ways to keep students engaged and at the same time help in their personality and social well being.



BYLAW 8100: SECTION 8 (RECOGNITION)

The student association represents a definable and enumerable constituency.

- The International Students' Association (ISA) by its creation has been formed to advocate for all the undergraduate international students at University of Alberta.
- ISA have always stood true to its membership and timely represented them in University governance structures such as Council on Student Affairs (COSA) and in various other committees/meetings etc.
- Thus, ISA from the day of its formation to today is committed to represent a definable and enumerable constituency: that is the undergraduate international students.



The student association has legislation and procedures that are compliant with Students' Union bylaw respecting Student Representative Associations and Student Groups; and

- As per Students' Unions Bylaw 8100 and 8200, ISA complies with current regulations. Attached to this submission are the legislatures of ISA. Our Constitution and Bylaws form our legislatures.



The student association is registered and recognized by the Students' Union as a student group.

- ISA is a registered group with Student Group Services and is recognized by the Students' Union as a student group.



NOTE:

- We understand that this model may seem unique to the Council .However, it is essential to explore new mechanisms to embrace diversity and to be inclusive towards the entire international students' community at the UofA.
- We request the Council to provide this chance to ISA to work for international students using this new model in a unique fashion.
- The SRA status will immensely help ISA to advocate strongly for its membership and will facilitate its operations.



CONCLUSION

- The ISA would like to thank the UASU Students' Council for reviewing our submission. Moreover, we would also like to thank Akanksha Bhatnagar, Joel Agarwal, and David Draper for their support in preparing this submission.
- We look forward to working with Students' Union on various challenges faced by international students' and stay committed to working towards strengthening our organizations' collaboration by sitting in cross committees and holding regular meetings to address the students' needs.

