

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday February 28, 2012
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2011-20)

2011-20/1	<u>SPEAKER'S BUSINESS</u>
2011-20/2	<u>PRESENTATIONS</u>
2011-20/3	<u>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT</u>
2011-20/4	<u>BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS</u>
2011-20/5	<u>QUESTION PERIOD</u>
2011-20/6	<u>BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS</u>
2011-20/7	<u>GENERAL ORDERS</u>
2011-20/8	<u>INFORMATION ITEMS</u>
2011-20/8f	Rory Tighe, President- Report Please see document LA 11-20.01
2011-20/8g	Emerson Csorba, VP Academic- Report Please see document LA 11-20.02
2011-20/8h	Audit Committee- Report Please see document LA 11-20.03
2011-20/8i	Raphael Lepage Fortin, BoG Rep- Report Please see document LA 11-20.04

February 26, 2012

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

Board of Governors

On February 10th the Board of Governors approved the Administrations proposal for dealing with Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs). The proposal creates an advisory committee to look over MNIFs and is comprised of students and University Administrators. The Committee will not decide whether or not new fees are implemented but will make recommendations and allow for the budgets of MNIFs to be scrutinized. At the Board Meeting I voiced my opposition to this proposal because I believe, by not requiring student approval for new MNIFs, it leaves a window open for them to be used inappropriately.

Space

The General Manager has been working non-stop on the PAW Centre Agreement and it is complete. Council will be voting today on whether or not to authorize the Students' Union to sign the agreement. If this is approved, the construction will likely begin in Spring.

We have had a few conversations with Facilities & Operations about the future of the Power Plant over the past couple of weeks. We have been assured that the SU and the GSA will remain partners in the space and that an agreement will be finalized in principle before the end of our term. Whether or not we will gain access to more space in the short-term remains to be seen.

Fall Reading Week

Over the past couple of weeks, the University Governance and Advocacy Advisor and I have been meeting with all of the Deans to ascertain their opinion on the Fall Reading Week proposal. We will be finished the meetings by the end of next week and then will be finalizing our new proposal based on the feedback we get. This project is looking like it won't be done by the end of my term but I hope to have a finalized proposal and approval path before I leave office.

Miscellaneous

The majority of the Executive are currently on a leave of absence and the Vice President (Academic) and I have been filling in for them where we can. There have been a lot of little tasks and meetings that have taken up a lot of our time over the past week and will likely continue on that for the next two.

If you have any further questions, suggestions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to follow-up with me, either in person at SUB 2-900, by phone at 780-492-4236, or by email at president@su.ualberta.ca.

VPA Council Report

Date: February 27 2012

By: Emerson Csorba

Hey everyone,

First off, I'm REALLY sorry about missing the deadline for the VPA report. It's the first time this year that I have a report on late additions. Last Friday, I was sick, and totally forgot about the 9 am deadline. But no excuses! I'm going to keep this report quick, because between elections and the packed Council agenda, there is a LOT going on. Without further ado:

ELECTION TURNOUT

I'm happy to see four excellent candidates for VPA. That was a goal of mine for most of the year, but now that this has been reached, it's time to set our sights forward – to Council elections. Every position needs to have more contestants than there are seats. Let's work together to make sure this happens.

I also want to see 30% voter turnout in this executive election. It's a major jump from last year, but I believe it can happen.

DEFERRED EXAM FEES ELIMINATION

The wheels are turning rapidly: deferred exam fees elimination was approved last week at the GFC Academic Planning Committee, and will go to the Board of Governors for final approval in mid-March. If approved at the BoG, the fees will be eliminated on the spot, and will not be assessed in the coming winter final exams.

TRANSITION

I've created an intensive transition plan, entitled "Tailoring Transition" for the next VPA-elect. My goal is to make sure that I do my best to prepare the VPA-elect to hit the ground running, from May 1 and on.

NSSA FULL RECOGNITION

One of the best moments of my term was writing the NSSA official letter of recognition, which was handed to the NSSA prior to reading week, on February 17. They have done a tremendous job this year.

BLOG POST

I wrote a blog post called "Your GPA is Overrated" which generated many hits and considerable student feedback. Great to see!

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

I met with the Academic Director of the URI, Connie Varnhagen, to plan for the upcoming months and year in undergraduate research. There is a lot going on, and the future is glowing. If you subscribe to the URI newsletter, you'll know what I mean.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

I met with VP Yamagishi, Councillor Zinyemba and many other students to plan for this International Students' Association. I also met to discuss the plan with Doug Weir of the U of A International Centre.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions whatsoever, contact me whenever you want at vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca!

Cheers,

-Emerson

TO: Students' Council, University of Alberta Students' Union
FROM: Su Su Liang, Chair, Audit Committee
DATE: February 27, 2012
RE: Report on Audit Committee's Activities – Meeting of February 13, 2012

Dear Council,

The Audit Committee met on February 13, 2012.

The Audit Committee reviewed AUFSJ's audited 2010-2011 financial statements and found them acceptable. The financial statements complete AUFSJ's financial reporting. The Senior Manger of Finance has been contacted to arrange for the release of AUFSJ's CATP funds.

The Audit Committee discussed the merits of holding individuals in possession of Students' Union credit cards accountable for transactions reported without proper documentation. Audit Committee believes that such as system would encourage proper reporting of credit card transactions and would present less of a financial burden on Students' Union credit card holders as compared to a reimbursement system. Audit Committee looks forward to feedback from management regarding such as system.

The Audit Committee reviewed the December to January credit card statements. On whole, the statements were found to be acceptable. Audit Committee was concerned about a reported transaction that was shown to be cancelled on the receipt. The Senior Manger of Finance has been contacted regarding this concern.

Yours Faithfully,

Su Su Liang
Chair, Audit Committee

Undergraduate Board of Governors' Representative Report

Meeting of February 10th

Greetings Council,

The last Board of Governors meeting was held February 10th.

In this meeting the board rescinded the previous Church /Minos motion that established a consultation process on MNIF and approved a new motion that limits the consultation process to a committee level versus a student referendum. To my understanding, this was due to the feeling that a response from a student referendum tied the board's hands and that, ultimately, the board should be the only voting body for fees. During this vote, student's came to show their support against the issue. I would like to thank all students who showed up to the meeting and demonstrated a caring interest for their post-secondary education. There have been recent articles from the Gateway explaining the effects of this vote and I encourage students that have interest in this issue to read those articles.

Of note, at the last meeting we also voted in favour for a new master's program in coaching (MCoach) that will be offered by the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation. Also, the PAW Centre saw the advancement of its project with the approval of the expenditure authorization request and its borrowing resolution.

Furthermore, for those running in the elections, I would like to wish you all the best with your campaigns.

The next meeting of the Board of Governors will be held March 16th in Council Chambers.

-Raphael Lepage Fortin