

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday April 12, 2005 – 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

2004-27/3

SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

2004-27/3c

Letter of Resignation from Amanda Henry.

Please see document LA 04-27.01

2004-27/6

REPORTS

2004-27/6a

Jordan Blatz, President

Please see document LA 04-27.02

2004-27/6b

Lisa McLaughlin, Vice President (Academic)

Please see document LA 04-27.03

2004-27/6c

Alex Abboud, Vice President (External)

Please see document LA 04-27.04

2004-27/6d

Alvin Law, Vice President (Operations and Finance)

Please see document LA 04-27.05

2004-27/6e

Duncan Taylor, Vice President (Student Life)

Please see document LA 04-27.06

2004-27/9

BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

2004-27/9b

MOTION BY McLAUGHLIN, RESOLVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Academic Affairs Board, adopt the political policy regarding International Students (first reading).

Please see document LA 04-27.07

2004-27/9c

MOTION BY ABBOUD, RESOLVED THAT Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the External Affairs board, adopt the following political policies (first reading);

1. Post-Secondary Education Act
2. Canadian Education Transfer
3. Canada Student Loan Program
4. Canadian millennium Scholarship Fund
5. International Students Work Off-Campus

Please see document LA 04-27.08

2004-27/14

INFORMATION ITEMS

2004-27/14d

Faculte Saint-Jean Report

Please see document LA 04-27.09

LA 04-27.01

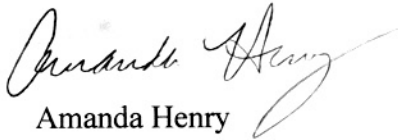
April 6, 2005

To Whom it May Concern:

Effective April 4, 2005, please consider this my letter of resignation from the position of Students' Union Arts Councillor for the 2005/06 academic year. Having been hired by the Students' Union as the Associate Vice President Academic, it would constitute a conflict of interest for me to continue in my role as an elected official of the Council.

Best of luck in the coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amanda Henry".

Amanda Henry

Report for Students' Council
Jordan Blatz
President
April 5, 2005

Good evening Council,

Here are the things that have been keeping me busy over the past week:

Augustana: We are putting the finishing touches on plans for Augustana for next year. Last Thursday, Scott Scamber, Graham Lettner and I traveled to Camrose. We met with the outgoing president as well as members of the incoming executive. We have a good conceptual idea of how services will be offered at Augustana, however, we still need to work out a few issues, such as space. I will be meeting with Dr. Connor soon to hopefully resolve the space issue.

Transition: Graham and I are continuing to go through transition. The executive and I are also busy planning and preparing for transition retreat. I can't wait!

Pembina: I am staying in touch with the Pembina Hall Students' Association and supporting them in any way that I can through this process. I hope to join them for meetings with members of the FDC soon. The PHSA is also preparing a presentation for the FDC, and I will be helping them with that as well.

CCSA: The general manager and I met with the President/GMs from NAIT and Grant Macewan last Thursday to discuss CCSA. A conference schedule has been posted and we are now more confident that the conference will be going ahead in Vancouver. We drafted a letter to the organizing committee of CCSA asking them to address a few of our concerns. We have also been busy getting other schools to sign on to the letter as well and so far we have support from over 25 student associations across the country.

Tying up loose ends: I have been working on finishing up some of the things that I have been working on including the University Health Services fee, outstanding money from the University for SUB expansion, signing a new lease for the Powerplant, and a few others. The sun is setting awfully quickly on my year, however, I am confident that I can wrap up a few of these issues before the end of my year. And the ones that are still outstanding, I am sure that Graham will take of them.

Upcoming:

- Budget announcement at the Legislature (April 13)
- Reception with the Minister of Advanced Education (April 13)
- Canadian Unity Council luncheon (April 13)
- ECOS Service Director interviews
- Staff pot-luck (April 14)
- Presentation to St. Albert city council on U-Pass

Report to Students' Council, April 12, 2005
Lisa McLaughlin, Vice-President (Academic)
For period April 2 – 11, 2005

❖ **PROJECTS:**

All in progress and driving me nuts! Nothing new to report (as of when I am writing this report).

❖ **VPA COMMITTEES:**

- **Apr 7 – AAB** – We're going hardcore trying to get our position paper on the Working Group on Teaching & Research Final Report done by the end of this month.
- **Apr 11 – CoFA** – Final meeting of the year plus a wrap-up/welcome reception.

❖ **UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES:**

- **Apr 4 – GFC Exec** – Talked about Pembina a bit. In response to a request to consider GFC policy regarding SU Exec eligibility, I presented an item explaining that GFC policy should be as unrestrictive as possible and that the students should decide who they want to represent them. This issue came up because of Open Studies students being able to run for SU Exec after potentially coming out of nowhere and having no knowledge of what students want, etc. But I think students are smart enough to realize this.
- **Apr 6 – GFC CLE** – Took a trip to the Book and Record Depository (BARD). Wow. After 6 years of university, that was my first trip. We have tons of books. We also had a meeting there and discussed some recommendations of the Working Group on Teaching and Research.
- **Apr 7 – AISSC**
- **Apr 8 – AIS Process Review Committee**
- **Apr 11 – GFC Replenishment Committee**

❖ **OTHER MEETINGS:**

- **Apr 5** – Great meeting with Dr. Indira Samarasekera and the rest of our Exec, Bill Smith, and Graham.
- **Apr 8** – Meeting with Sam and Catherine to review Awards Night 2005 and think about suggestions for next year.

❖ **UPCOMING:**

- **April 14** – GFC ASC SOS
- **April 14** – AAB @ 5:30 pm in LLMR SUB
- **April 15** – AIS Process Review Committee
- **April 16** – SU Volunteer Appreciation Party
- **April 18** – Meeting to discuss term work policy
- **April 21** – GFC ASC * I will be seeking approval of a proposal to extend the Spring/Summer Add/Drop deadline and will also be defending the GFC policy requiring that classes be cancelled for the SU Elections Forum (Myer Horowitz), as there is a challenge to this policy from Engineering.
- **April 22** – GFC FDC * I will be defending keeping Pembina Hall as a residence. It's like the tuition of the VP Academic portfolio, or at least that's how this feels.
- **April 28** – GFC CLRC

Alex Abboud, Vice President External
Report to Students' Council
April 5th, 2005

Submitted March 31st

CAUS

We have a conference call today to discuss our message for the provincial budget. I'm also working on writing up our strategic plan and my final report. Duncan and I are also finalizing plans for our Changeover Conference in May.

Final Report

I've been working on it a lot over the past few days, and am almost finished. It will include a summary of my year, reflections, and a series of recommendations for the future, both for the External portfolio and for the organization as a whole.

Transition

The Executive is busy finalizing the schedule for our transition retreat. We have a couple of meetings this week to go over the schedule and finalize what we'll be going over.

External Affairs Board

Final meeting ever. We should have joined CASA (hi Anand!), but instead passed a number of policies.

Meetings

- External Affairs Board (April 11th)
- CAUS Conference Call (April 12th)
- Senate Emil Skarin Fund Granting Meeting (April 13th)

Upcoming

- Canadian Unity Council Luncheon (April 13th)
- Provincial Budget (April 13th)
- Presentation to Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing (April 14th)
- Senate Transition Dinner (April 14th)
- Presentation to Strathcona County Council (April 19th)
- Meeting with Kim Krushell, along with Jordan, Graham, and Sam (April 22nd)
- Retirement reception for Ellen Schoeck (April 22nd)
- Transportation and Public Works Committee Meeting (April 26th)
- Hon. Pearl Calahasán, MLA (April 26th)
- U-Pass Meeting (April 28th)

Report to Students' Council
April 12, 2005
Alvin Law – Vice President (Operations & Finance)

Hello Council

Woot woot! Last week of school and 24 days until the changeover meeting. The countdown has begun. I hope most of you have had the chance to reflect on this year, to think back on all that happened in the last year, and to recognize how this year was definitely something unique. Take from it what you will, but always remember that life is a strange thing, and the big things in life are more important than transitional disturbances.

So now on to happenings this past week.

Access Fund: Access Fund had its last meeting yesterday evening. Some notables from the meeting were that the 05/06 budget was passed and will be recommended to Students' Council as part of the Preliminary Budget, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Access Fund and the Development Office was approved to be signed to ensure that information sharing arrangements are clear in regards to updating financial information and ensuring that the intent and goals of Access Fund are clear for any promotional material that may appear on Access Fund's behalf. And lastly, the Access Fund approved a policy that the granting criteria for Access Fund be changed to address the issue of an un-proportionate disbursement of funds. The issue was that students are currently assessed based on costs, and it was deemed that due to differential tuition, we are not necessarily addressing the issue of need. As such, the Access Fund Board has decided to pursue for a one year trial, that students be considered as first entry and second entry into programs. The first entry students would be assessed regularly throughout the year while second entry students would be assessed at the end of the year and pro-rated accordingly. This would address the difference between high costs students and high needs students.

Alberta Pharmacy Students' Association Council: I met with Randy Howden of the APHSAC to discuss their intentions of pursuing a Faculty Association Membership Fee next year. I have been impressed with the amount of organization shown and would like to give Council preliminary notice that they should be presenting a notice of intent to create a FAMF fee sometime in the coming academic year.

APIRG: We, as a board have reviewed staff performance to date and postings have gone out for the hiring of a new Financial Coordinator. If any of you are interested, please see the APIRG office.

Interviews: I have been spending significant amounts of time lately in the interviewing and hiring of staff for SFAIC. After interviewing 4 candidates, a decision has been made in regards to the Financial Information Director position. Still to be completed are the hiring for the Associate Director – Access Fund.

Student Extracurricular Activity Grant: The SEA Granting Committee met for the last time this year to disburse funds for applicants that show a need for funds in order to engage in extracurricular activities. We gave out approximately \$6000 as there were relatively few applicants for this round. Many thanks and congratulations to David Newmann for performing an excellent job in his new temporary position.

Coming Up:

Budget Committee: Still much to do on fees review and prelim budget.

Gateway: Final meeting of the year to wrap things up for the board.

Transition: Woot woot!

Duncan Taylor – Vice President Student Life
Council Report April 12th

From Backpack to...: Went to the concert to set up some gifts from the Alumni Association. Awsome time.

Transition: Meetings with Justin, Doug McLean, Bill Connor, Bill Mobry and Dr. MacInroy.

Final Report: Still writing it.

RSS: Still writing a report of how to make this event stable, give it a mission statement and give it a place in the organization. Come to the April 20th show.

Interviews: Hired CFB Manager. Still working on ECOS. Interviewing for PC and SLAC tonight.

Coming Up!

ECOS Hiring (please!)

Transition

Sweet mother of god I need a job

Studying

When I find myself in times of trouble / mother Mary comes to me / speaking words of wisdom / let it be.

PROPOSED

THE STUDENTS' UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

POLITICAL POLICY STATEMENT

<i>Policy Number:</i>	<i>Effective Date:</i> <u>May 1, 2005</u>	<i>Page</i> 1 <i>of</i> 1
	<i>Expiration Date:</i> <u>April 30, 2008</u>	
<i>Responsibility for Policy:</i>	Academic Affairs Board	
<i>Subject Matter</i>	- <i>Category:</i> POLITICAL POLICY (GENERAL)	
	- <i>Specific:</i> <u>Participation in Co-operative Education Programs</u>	
	- <i>Topic:</i> <u>International Students</u>	

WHEREAS

The University of Alberta Students' Union believes in a post-secondary education system that is financially accessible to all.

International students are an integral part of a vibrant university campus. They enrich us with their culture and experiences in a very unique way. It is important to the quality of education provided at the University of Alberta that international students be encouraged to study here.

In Canada, international students currently pay more than twice the tuition of Canadian students. Many students have trouble financing their education. Much of this hardship is due to the fact that the opportunities for international students to work part-time while attending university are severely limited. In Alberta, international students are currently only allowed to work at jobs on-campus for 20 hours per week.

International students are also allowed to work off-campus if it is part of a designated study program, such as co-operative education programs. While most universities across the country, including the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge, allow international students to participate in co-op programs, the University of Alberta does not. There is no legal reason for not doing so. Not allowing international students to participate in these programs not only dissuades them from choosing to study here, but it adds to the financial burden they face by restricting a potential income source.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

International students be permitted to register in all co-operative education programs.

Policy History:

Reference/Vote

Board/Committee

**Date of Council
Approval**

Created

External Affairs Board Report

Alex Abboud, Chair
Vice-President External

The following motions were passed (see attached for content):

Kehoe/Colpitts moved that the political policy on the Post-Secondary Education Act be recommended to Students' Council (carried 5/0)

Geis/Chow moved that the political policy on the Canadian Education Transfer be recommended to Students' Council (carried 6/0)

O'Connor/Aperocho moved that the political policy on the Canada Student Loan Program be recommended to Students' Council (carried 6/0)

Colpitts/O'Connor moved that the political policy on the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Fund be recommended to Students' Council (carried 6/0)

A political policy on Income Contingent Loan Repayment was tabled (general consensus)

O'Connor/Geis moved that the political policy on International Students Work Off-Campus be recommended to Students' Council (carried 5/1)

PROPOSED

THE STUDENTS' UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

POLITICAL POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Number:

Effective Date: **May 1, 2005**

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Expiration Date: **April 1, 2008**

Responsibility for Policy:

External Affairs Board

Subject Matter

- *Category:* **POLITICAL POLICY (GENERAL)**

- *Specific:* ***Post-Secondary Education Act***

- *Topic:* ***Post-Secondary Education in Canada***

WHEREAS:

The University of Alberta Students' Union believes that accessible and high-quality post-secondary education is vital to Canada's economic, social and cultural development.

The British North America Act, 1867, as incorporated into the Constitution Act, 1982, places the responsibility for the administration of education in the provinces to each provincial government. The founders of our country could not have foreseen the vast amount of resources that this task would require in the twenty-first century. The provinces direct funding for post-secondary institutions out of transfer payments they receive from the federal government. While post-secondary education is valued by many segments of our society, it often falls behind health care and other social programs in terms of priorities when this money is being allocated.

The federal government has repeatedly stated its desire to create a knowledge-based economy in Canada and, to that end, has increased its funding toward research by \$7.5 billion over the past six years. While this shows a commitment to post-secondary education, it does not address the fact that direct research funding does not alleviate the general strain felt by administrators as a result of shrinking base operating budgets.

The problems created as a result of the lack of adequate funding for post-secondary education are of national concern. When high tuition makes it extremely difficult for lower income Canadians to attend post-secondary education, and when graduates of Canada's universities and colleges enter the workforce with a debt load that severely limits their career and life choices, our country suffers.

Furthermore, university graduates make a substantial contribution to the overall welfare of our nation. In 1999, university graduates made up just 15% of Canada's population, yet paid 35% of the nation's income tax and collected a mere 8% of government transfers to individuals. Indeed, the health of the social programs that form a significant part of our Canadian identity depends in large part upon the contribution of university graduates.

It is apparent that the federal and provincial governments must agree to the creation of legislation that articulates a set of national principles regarding post-secondary education and sets out a fiscal arrangement for the funding of post-secondary education that will make it less complicated for universities to manage their resources and will ensure the system's long-term sustainability.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The University of Alberta Students' Union recommends that the federal and provincial governments of Canada create the *Canada Post-Secondary Education Act*, under the auspices of the Minister for Social Development. The Act should address the following:

- (a) that post-secondary education should be accessible and available to all who are academically-qualified. This is achieved by providing stable, predictable, specified funding for post-secondary education in the form of the Canada Education Transfer;
- (b) that increases in federal spending amount to increases in provincial budgets, not in decreases in provincial spending on post-secondary education;
- (c) the roles and responsibilities of the federal and provincial governments should be clearly defined;
- (d) clear reporting mechanisms should be established to ensure that the Canada Education Transfer is spent on post-secondary education, and not diverted or used to accumulate a surplus;
- (e) the current student loan system should be replaced with an integrated model that is focused on providing needs-based grants;
- (f) in the alternative, the current student loan system should be revised to reflect the environment in which today's students live, study and work. Measures should be taken to ensure that the student loan system is consistently re-evaluated to ensure that available amounts increase with inflation and tuition.
- (g) the Millennium Scholarship Fund needs to be re-vamped so that it truly increases accessibility to post-secondary education;
- (h) the role of corporate funding in research and on university and college campuses;
- (i) a target for national participation, including separate targets for specific demographic groups such as low income students, should be set;
- (j) a national strategy on tuition fees, including differential tuition between programs and the deregulation of tuition;
- (k) the unique role of Quebec and its approach to social programs.

The University of Alberta Students' Union also recommends the establishment of an advisory body to provide guidance to the federal and provincial governments on the state of post-secondary education in Canada and targets potential areas for increased focus.

Policy History:

Reference/Vote

Board/Committee

Date of Council
Approval

Created:

PROPOSED

THE STUDENTS' UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

POLITICAL POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Number:

Effective Date: **May 1, 2005**

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Expiration Date: **April 30, 2008**

Responsibility for Policy:

External Affairs Board

Subject Matter

- *Category:* **POLITICAL POLICY (GENERAL)**

- *Specific:* **Canada Education Transfer**

- *Topic:* **Funding of Post-Secondary Education**

WHEREAS:

The University of Alberta Students' Union believes that accessible and high-quality post-secondary education is vital to Canada's economic, social and cultural development.

The Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST) was a lump-sum transfer for health, post-secondary education and social welfare. The implementation of the CHST resulted in massive cuts to federal expenditures in those areas.

Canada's post-secondary education system was negatively affected by these cuts. Tuition rose 135.4% between 1990/1991 and 2000/2001, more than six times faster than inflation,¹ and it continues to grow. Higher tuition has meant that student indebtedness has also increased and accessibility for all Canadians seeking post-secondary education has been compromised. While the amount of the transfer has since increased, restoration to previous funding levels has been incomplete. Effective April 1, 2004, the CHST will be split into the Canada Health Transfer (CHT) and the Canada Social Transfer (CST).

The Federal Government has attempted to ensure that post-secondary education in Canada remains accessible by implementing a number of incentives through the federal tax system. However, the measures taken to increase accessibility to post-secondary education and reduce the student debt through the federal tax system have not compensated students for rising tuition fees and have resulted in benefits that flow disproportionately to wealthier households, rather than to those most in need of financial assistance.

Persistent underfunding of post-secondary education has also meant that Canadian universities and colleges have accumulated billions of dollars in deferred maintenance and have struggled to keep pace with the increasingly competitive business of recruiting and retaining faculty.

The Federal Government has repeatedly stated its desire for an innovative, knowledge-based economy. To that end, it has increased research funding by \$7.5 billion over the past six years. However, a university is much more than the sum of its research. The quality of that research

¹ Statistics Canada, The Daily, *University Tuition Fees*, August 21, 2002

depends upon the skills and ideas of those it educates and that contribution should not be omitted from the components of a successful knowledge-based economy.

The University of Alberta Students' Union believes that the economic and societal benefits of having an educated workforce representative of all segments of society have been severely underestimated by the federal and provincial governments.

While the provincial government has neglected to fund post-secondary education in Alberta at appropriate levels, the University of Alberta Students' Union believes that this can in part be attributed to the failure of the federal government to provide transfer funds in an amount that would enable the provincial government to increase the base operating grant to the University of Alberta.

The University of Alberta Students' Union believes that the federal government has divested its responsibility of funding the post-secondary education system in Canada onto the shoulders of students and private enterprise. The federal government must act on its duty to provide Canadians with an accessible, affordable, and quality post-secondary education system. The University of Alberta Students' Union believes that the inherent value of post-secondary education is compromised with it is forced to compete with other valuable social programs for government funding. Post-secondary education is important in its own right.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The University of Alberta Students' Union recommends that the federal government create an independent Canada Education Transfer out of the Canada Social Transfer that would be designated for post-secondary education funding;

The University of Alberta Students' Union recommends that the federal government fund the new Canada Education Transfer at an initial level of \$3.99 billion in annual cash transfers and increase it accordingly for annual inflation and demographic growth thereafter. This amount is equivalent to peak federal funding of post-secondary education at \$2.887 billion in 1992/1993.

The University of Alberta Students' Union recommends that the new Canada Education Transfer be separate from funds provided to increase the research capacity of Canada's universities.

The University of Alberta Students' Union recommends that the federal government enter into an agreement with the government of each province to ensure that any additional federal funding will not result in a corresponding decrease in funding for post-secondary education by that government.

Policy History:

Reference/Vote

Board/Committee

**Date of Council
Approval**

Created

PROPOSED

THE STUDENTS' UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

POLITICAL POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Number:

Effective Date: **May 1, 2005**

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Expiration Date: **April 30, 2008**

Responsibility for Policy:

External Affairs Board

Subject Matter

- *Category:* **POLITICAL POLICY (GENERAL)**

- *Specific:*

- *Topic:* **Canada Student Loan Program**

WHEREAS

The University of Alberta Students' Union believes that accessible and high-quality post-secondary education is vital to Canada's economic, social and cultural development.

The current Canada Student Loans Program is not meeting the needs of students. Most students cannot pursue post-secondary education without obtaining a student loan. The substantial tuition and cost of living increases over the past decade have changed the context of post-secondary education in Canada. The Canada Student Loan Program has not kept pace with these changes.

In 2001, ninety percent of Canadian students over the age of 26 carried an average debt load of \$20,500.¹ A debt load of this caliber is a significant deterrent to those who want to attend post-secondary institutions and thereby affects accessibility. Employers are demanding workers with post-secondary education, making the pursuit of higher education a necessity. The current Canada Student Loan Program is ill-equipped to effectively manage those students who require its assistance to pursue post-secondary education.

The contribution to the economy that post-secondary graduates can make is severely hampered by the debt load most have to bear. This is compounded by the fact that during the 1990's, the earning power of people between the ages of 25-29 declined by as much as 7%.² Not only do students have greater debt, they are unable to obtain employment that would make it easier to pay off that debt.

The interest charged on student loan payments is prohibiting graduates from paying off their student loan debt at a quicker pace and contributes to defaulted payments. The University of Alberta Students' Union believes that it is unjust for a student loan to begin collecting interest immediately upon graduation, when so many students will not immediately begin post-graduation employment. Further, while interest relief is available for graduates with low incomes, interest itself is set a level that is too high given the circumstances.

The University of Alberta Students' Union believes that the evaluation criteria used by the Canada Student Loans Program is lacking in its understanding of the context in which today's university

¹ Millennium Scholarship Foundation, *Making Ends Meet: the 2001-2002 Student Financial Survey* by EKOS Research Associates (2003)

² Statistics Canada, *Education in Canada: Raising the Standard*

students live. It is unreasonable to penalize students who own a vehicle, home or computer by including those assets in the evaluation process without regard to this context. Also, someone who operates their own business should not be forced to liquidate those assets as a means of financing his or her education. We should not discourage those with an entrepreneurial spirit from pursuing post-secondary education. Similarly, students who have opened RRSP accounts, particularly mature students, should not be forced to liquidate their account (and have to pay tax on that amount) in order to afford university.

The University of Alberta Students' Union believes that the parental contribution requirement does not reflect current realities. It forces parents to maintain a subjective standard of living created by the government if they want their child to attend university. These requirements disproportionately affect middle-income students, who are least likely to be able to access other forms of student finance, such as needs-based bursaries. The parental contribution requirement severely affects accessibility for students.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The University of Alberta Students' Union recommends that the Canada Student Loan Program be re-evaluated and revised in the current context of post-secondary education in Canada, including:

- the current labor market's influence on the ability of students to repay their student loans;
- regional issues, including differences in cost of living and provincial student loan programs;
- amending the interest rate to be no higher than prime plus 1% (floating) and prime plus 2% (fixed);
- providing that interest begins accruing at the time the loan becomes payable, which is currently six months after graduation;
- amending the current asset assessment criteria to exempt:
 - principal vehicles;
 - principal dwellings;
 - earnings from self-employment;
 - computers; and
 - Registered Retirement Savings Plans;
- amending the needs assessment criteria to abolish the parental contribution requirement;

if the Canada Student Loan Program is to provide a fair and effective way for students to access the post-secondary education system in Canada;

Policy History:

Reference/Vote

Board/Committee

**Date of Council
Approval**

Created

The University of Alberta Students' Union recommends that any re-evaluation of the Canada Student Loan Program include consultation with stakeholders from across the country, including student associations and unions;

Policy History:**Reference/Vote****Board/Committee****Date of Council
Approval****Created**

PROPOSED

THE STUDENTS' UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

POLITICAL POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Number:

Effective Date: **May 1, 2005**

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Expiration Date: **April 30, 2008**

Responsibility for Policy:

External Affairs Board

Subject Matter

- *Category:* **POLITICAL POLICY (GENERAL)**

- *Specific:* ***Canada Millennium Scholarship Fund***

- *Topic:* **Financial Aid**

WHEREAS

In 1998, the Government of Canada established the Canada Millennium Scholarship Fund in an attempt to improve access to Canada's post-secondary institutions. It was funded with an initial endowment of \$2.5 billion and was given a mandate for ten years, at which point the endowment would be exhausted. The Foundation was an arms-length foundation of government managed by a Board of Directors comprised of private citizens from across the country, at least one of whom is a student.

The first scholarships began being distributed in 2000. They were based on merit and need, and averaged \$3000 for a full-time student. Individuals could receive a maximum of \$15,000 worth of scholarships over their course of study. Ultimately, however, the Foundation can decide how best to design the scholarships within their legislated mandate and can adjust scholarship amounts as it sees fit.

The stated goals of the Foundation are: To award scholarships in a way that avoids duplication with provinces, to build on existing needs-assessment processes, to complement existing provincial programs, and to significantly increase access for low- and middle-income Canadians.

To this end, the Foundation distributes over 90,000 bursaries/year worth an average of \$3000. It also distributes 900 Millennium Excellence Awards, worth between \$4000-\$20,000 each. Furthermore, the World Petroleum Congress has given the Foundation authority to distribute scholarships out of funds that remained following their meeting in Canada in 2000. 188 World Petroleum Congress Millennium scholarships worth \$3000 each are awarded to students in the engineering and geological fields every year.

Despite its obvious benefit to students, the Foundation has run into its share of problems, most which relate back to the Foundation's original mandate. While the main object was to increase access, several provinces, including Ontario and Saskatchewan, have applied the scholarships against student loan debt, essentially using the fund to fulfill the province's own obligations, rather than adding to the financial aid already in place. There has also been criticism around the fact that the Foundation is not directly accountable to Parliament.

The Foundation has also commissioned and provided an unusual wealth of research into the factors affecting access to post-secondary education in Canada.

The Foundation is just past the mid-way point of its ten-year mandate. To date, there is no commitment from the federal government to continue the Foundation's existence.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The University of Alberta Students' Union recommends that the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation be given an indefinite mandate to provide financial assistance to students across Canada;

The University of Alberta Students' Union recommends that the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation be made accountable to Parliament, by requiring the Foundation to submit financial statements to the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development on an annual basis;

The University of Alberta Students' Union recommends, should the mandate of the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation not be renewed, that the Government of Canada establish an agency or foundation with similar purpose and goals to distribute an equal amount of scholarships and bursaries to Canadians.

Policy History:

Reference/Vote

Board/Committee

**Date of Council
Approval**

Created

PROPOSED

THE STUDENTS' UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

POLITICAL POLICY STATEMENT

<i>Policy Number:</i>	<i>Effective Date:</i> May 1, 2005	<i>Page</i> 1 of 1
	<i>Expiration Date:</i> April 30, 2008	
<i>Responsibility for Policy:</i>	External Affairs Board	
<i>Subject Matter</i>	- <i>Category:</i>	POLITICAL POLICY (GENERAL)
	- <i>Specific:</i>	<i>International Students Work Off-Campus</i>
	- <i>Topic:</i>	<i>International Students</i>

WHEREAS

The University of Alberta Students' Union believes in a post-secondary education system that is financially accessible to all.

International students are an integral part of a vibrant university campus. They enrich us with their culture and experiences in a very unique way. It is important to the quality of education provided at the University of Alberta that international students be encouraged to study here.

International students currently pay more than twice the tuition of Canadian students. Many students have trouble financing their education. Much of this hardship is due to the fact that the opportunities for international students to work part-time while attending university are severely limited. In Alberta, international students are currently only allowed to work at jobs on-campus for 20 hours per week.

Manitoba and New Brunswick have recently undertaken a pilot project with the Government of Canada to allow international students to work off-campus. Quebec has a similar agreement with the federal government, where international students at participating institutions are allowed to apply for visas that will allow them to work anywhere in Quebec, with the exception of the metropolitan areas of Quebec City and Montreal. Not only will these programs alleviate the financial burden of international students, it will make a Canadian university education more attractive than those in countries that do not allow international students off-campus employment.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The University of Alberta Students' Union recommends that the current pilot projects in Manitoba and New Brunswick be implemented in all provinces, to become permanent programs upon evaluation following the completion of the pilot project.

Policy History:

Reference/Vote

Board/Committee

**Date of Council
Approval**

Created

LA 04-27.09



FACULTÉ SAINT-JEAN

8 April 2005

To whom it may concern:

This year the Association des universitaires de la Faculté Saint-Jean (A.U.F.S.J.) continued its long tradition of directing student life at the University of Alberta's Faculté Saint-Jean. With the funds committed to us by the U of A's Students' Union we were able to plan and execute a number of events this year including our annual Party de la rentrée, Soirée Casino, Carnavale d'hiver and our ever popular Cabane à Sucre, which was held at Main Campus March 18, 2005.

With our funds this year we were also able to contribute to many of the events organized by the faculty administration Jean including orientation, the annual Camp F.U.N 101, refurbishing of our pool table, as well as a \$10 000 contribution to the renovation of our students' lounge. This last year has seen massive positive change for student life at Faculté Saint-Jean, and we hope that, with the support of the Students' Union, we will be able to continue our tradition of excellence into the future.

Meilleures sentiments:

Scott Scambler
Vice-Président (finance)
Association des universitaires de la Faculté Saint-Jean

Enclosed : Final budget and financial report of the AUFSJ

Association des universitaires de la Faculté Saint-Jean

Faculté Saint-Jean
8406, rue Marie-Anne Gaboury (91 St.), Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6C 4G9
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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Budget Final pour l'association des universitaires de la Faculté Saint-Jean

Revenus

Solde Bancaire du 1er septembre 2004	16 419 \$
Campus Rec Fund	800 \$
Fonds Fournis par le SU	2 490 \$
04-sept	17 035,10 \$
oct-04	3 227,02 \$
mars-05	520 \$
Total	40 491 \$

Solde Bancaire Actuel 16 848,53\$

Dépenses

Événement/dépense	Coût prévu	Dépenses	Revenus	Difference
Soirée Casino	1 000 \$	844,02 \$	0 \$	-844,02
Fun 101	2 000 \$	2 000 \$	0 \$	-2000,00
Orientation	1 000 \$	1 000 \$	0 \$	-1000,00
Cabane à Sucre	1 500 \$	1 786,20 \$	0 \$	-1786,20
Carnaval d'hiver	1 000 \$	466,87 \$	0 \$	-466,87
Subventions aux clubs	2 000 \$	3 700 \$	0 \$	-3700,00
Fournitures de bureau	1 000 \$	934,18 \$	0 \$	-934,18
Rénovations du Salon des étudiants	10 000 \$	10 000 \$	0 \$	-10000,00
Jeux pour le Salon	500 \$	500 \$	0 \$	500 \$-
Bourse d'implication	1 000 \$	\$1 000	0 \$	-1000,00
Imprévues	1 000 \$	2 821 \$	0 \$	2 821 \$-
Refaire la table de billard	2 000 \$	1 942,86 \$	0 \$	-1942,86
Party de la rentrée	3 000 \$	2 540,37 \$	2 618 \$	77,63
Agendas	2 500 \$	1 155,33 \$	0 \$	-1155,33
Fond de contingence pour l'AUFJSJ de 2005/2006	10 000 \$	10 000 \$	0	-10000,00
Somme	39 500 \$	40 690,44 \$	2 618 \$	-38072,44

Total mis à jour (le 11 février)

Revenus-Dépenses

2 418,68 \$