

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday, July 24, 2007
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

LATE ADDITIONS (LA 2007-07)

- 2007-07/5 **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**
- 2007-07/5d Bylaw Committee- Report
Please see document LA 07-07.01
- 2007-07/5d(i) Bylaw Committee Work Plan
Please see document LA 07-07.02
- 2007-07/5e Access Fund Committee Standing Orders
Please see document LA 07-07.03
- 2007-07/5e(i) Access Fund Committee- Report
Please see document LA 07-07.04
- 2007-07/5f Audit Committee- Report
Please see document LA 07-07.05
- 2007-07/7 **INFORMATION ITEMS**
- 2007-07/7e Bobby Samuel, VP Academic- Report
Please see document LA 07-07.06
- 2007-07/7f Councillor Remuneration
Please see document LA 07-07.07
- 2007-07/7g Michael Janz, President -Report
Please see document LA 07-07.08
- 2007-07/7h Eamonn Gamble, VP Operations and Finance - Report
Please see document LA 07-07.09

University of Alberta Students' Union
Report to Students' Council

\ 2007-07-24\

Bylaw Committee

Hello Council:

Summary of Proceedings

With the help of Gregory Harlow, we were able to craft exquisite standing orders to reflect the current work status of Bylaw committee. Key things to note from Council's standpoint:

-council directives will be written by a single draftperson. Why is this significant? Because the draftperson can be any person, whether it is someone on Council or not, this should ease the workload on Bylaw significantly, as well Chairs reserve the right to appoint any person.

-summer project will be to review all of the bylaws and to oversee minor editorial changes, as well we have until July to select whichever bylaw we want to extensively re-work so you have that to look forward to.

-will meet every on-Council Thursday at 7:00

Have a good one Council!

List of all Motions:

EASTHAM/MCKINNEY TO APPROVE THE STANDING ORDERS (available from Astra).

Documents Appendix:

Standing Orders of the Bylaw Committee

Bylaw Committee Work Plan (2007-2008)

Classification

1. Bylaws falling within the mandate of the Bylaw Committee under bylaw 100 s. 17(5)(c) for which the Bylaw Committee is mandated to make **substantive recommendations** on to Students' Council
2. Bylaws falling within the mandate of the Bylaw Committee under bylaw 100 s. 17(5)(d) for which the Bylaw Committee is mandated to make **alterations that do not alter the meaning** of the bylaws in question.

Bylaws falling with the mandate of the Bylaw Committee under bylaw 100 s. 17(5)(d) for which the Bylaw Committee is mandated to make alterations that do not alter the meaning of the bylaws in question.

Bylaw	Classification	Draftsperson	Due Date
Bylaw 100 (Students' Council)	2	Gauthier	July 31
Bylaw 500 (Access to Information)	1	McKinney/ Henry	September 1
Bylaw 1100 (Executive Committee)	2	McKinney	July 15
Bylaw 1500 (Judiciary of the SU)	1	Nicol/ Harlow	October 15
Bylaw 2000 (Elections & Referenda)	1	Woynorowski/ Nicol	July 31
Bylaw 2500 (CRO & Staff)	1	Woyonorowski/Nicol	July 31
Bylaw 3000 (Finances)	2	Geller/ Eastham	July 15
Bylaw 5600 (Student Groups)		Geller/ Eastham	July 15
Bylaw 6000 (Dedicated Fees)	2	Geller/ Eastham	July 30
Bylaw 8350 (Faculty Associations)	1	Samuel	Nov 15
Bylaw 8400 (Faculty Fees)	1	Samuel	Nov 15
Bylaw 8451 (Faculty Association Fees)	1	Samuel	Nov 15

Access Fund Committee Standing Orders

A Committee known as the Access Fund Committee will exist in order to set and implement policy regarding the disbursement of the Access Fund;

- Provide for the existence of an appeals mechanism.
- Recommend a budget for the Access Fund to Students' Council on or before April 30 of each year.
- Recommend to Students' Council changes to legislation affecting the Access Fund as it considers appropriate or as required by Students' Council.

In accordance with Bylaw 100 of the University of Alberta Students' Union.

Meetings

1. Upon the formation of the Access Fund Committee, the interim chair will be the most senior member to the committee or to council, unless otherwise delegated. The chair for the rest of the year will be nominated and appointed at the first meeting of the committee.
2. The first meeting of the Committee shall be coordinated through the Office of the Speaker prior to the first meeting of Students' Council in order to:
 - a. elect a chair from within its voting members
 - b. set initial standing orders, and
 - c. set a meeting schedule for its first trimester.
3. All subsequent meetings will be:
 - a. Coordinated by the Chair on an as-needed basis, provided that members are given 72 hours' notice.
 - b. Held in accordance with a meeting schedule as approved at the first meeting of the Committee.
 - c. Four of the voting members may call a meeting, provided that members are given 72 hours notice or if there is unanimous consent of members.
4. The Access Fund Committee shall establish a meeting schedule at the first meeting of the year, to be reviewed on a trimesterly basis, with the trimesters being:
 - a. May to August,
 - b. September to December, and
 - c. January to April.
5. Quorum for the Access Fund Committee meetings shall be four voting members.
6. It is the responsibility of the Chair to secure a location for each meeting.
7. It is the responsibility of the Chair to moderate debate.

Records

8. The Access Fund Committee must have a written record of its votes and proceedings that will be considered approved when submitted to the Speaker of Students' Council.
9. Members of the Access Fund Committee may amend their comments in the minutes at the meeting of the Committee immediately following the submission of the minutes to the Speaker of Students' Council.
10. The Chair of the Access Fund Committee shall, after each meeting of the Committee, submit to Students' Council a report including:

- a. attendance of members and guests;
- b. any decisions made by the Committee acting under authority delegated to it by Students' Council;
- c. any recommendations made by the Committee to Students' Council;
- d. any standing orders adopted by the Committee; and
- e. a document, titled "Summary of Proceedings", summarizing the activities of the Committee at the meeting in question, specifically all motions moved.

Responsibilities of Members

11. Members of the Access Fund Committee are expected to attend committee meetings on a regular basis and contribute to the committee's achievement of its mandate as set out in relevant legislation and standing orders.
12. The Chair of the Access Fund Committee shall fulfill the duties of office as outlined in these standing orders.
13. Members of the Access Fund Committee are expected to serve, at minimum, of 5 hours per year for the Access Fund Selection Committee.

Powers of the Committee Concerning Membership

14. If the Access Fund Committee comes to the conclusion that a member of the committee is failing to perform his or her duties as stipulated in these standing orders, the Committee may recommend to Council that this member be dismissed from the Committee. Such a recommendation requires a simple majority vote to carry forward to Council.
15. If the Access Fund Committee comes to the conclusion that the Chair is failing to perform his or her duties as stipulated in these standing orders, the Committee can move to dismiss the Chair. This motion requires a simple majority vote. In the event that such a motion passes, a new Chair will immediately be selected by the Committee.

Proxies

16. To appoint a proxy to the Access Fund Committee, the member thereof must provide a notice to that effect to the Chair of the Committee:
 - a. stating the name and e-mail address of the eligible member of Students' Council who will serve as proxy,
 - b. indicating the duration of the appointment, and
 - c. that is signed by the appointing member of the Committee or e-mailed to the Chair of the Committee no later than two hours prior to the Committee meeting.

Membership

17. Should the membership of the Access Fund Committee not be full, then the Committee shall can recommend the nomination of additional member(s) to Students' Council at its next meeting.
18. The Student Financial Aid Information Centre Director and the Access Fund Director shall be considered non-voting members of the Access Fund Committee.
19. A representative from the Office of the Dean of Students shall be considered a non-voting member of the Access Fund Committee

Amending Standing Orders

20. These standing orders may be amended as needed by a simple majority vote. They must be reviewed at the first meeting of the Committee annually. Any changes must be submitted to Students' Council for information.

Operation of the Fund

21. In addition to serving out its mandate, the Access Fund Committee ensures that the Access Fund operates according to the following policies:
 - a. Access to application information: In the interest of preserving applicant confidentiality, and allowing the Selection Committee to make decisions without bias on any grounds, complete applications will be available only to the Chair and the Director – Access Fund, Director – Student Financial Aid Information Centre and any Access Fund staff. Application summaries will contain ID numbers and relevant budget, family size and program information. If an applicant presents a letter with the application, identifying information will be removed. Summary lists of applicants names, student ID numbers and award amounts will be made available to the University Bursaries and Emergency Funding staff for the purpose of Emergency Student Loans and Supplementary Bursary applications.
 - b. Appeals: Applicants who wish to appeal the committee's decision may do so by contacting their reviewer who will explain their decision in detail and allow them to explain other funding options if necessary. If the reviewer deems the success of the applicant's appeal to be unlikely they must meet with the Director – Access Fund. Should the applicant still wish to appeal the decision on their application, they can meet with the Director – Student Financial Aid Information Centre. Finally, applicants can write a letter to the Access Fund Appeals Selection Committee with the required supporting documentation no later than the deadline posted at SFAIC (not more than two weeks after cheques are issued). The appeals will be brought to the Appeals Selection Committee and the decision of the Committee will be final. Students will be notified by mail or e-mail as to the Board's decision.
 - c. Appointments: For application interviews, due to the large number of applicants, applicants more than ten minutes late or applicants who miss an appointment without notification prior to the close of business on the day before their appointment, or without valid excuse will not be allowed to apply until the next application period at the discretion of the Director – Access Fund.
 - d. Donations: The Access Fund will accept donations from outside sources through donations made to the University of Alberta.
 - e. Funds not granted: Any money not granted in a given disbursement period will be carried over to the next disbursement period. At the end of the Access Fund year (August 31), any money not granted will be put into the internal reserve.
 - f. Old Application Information: Hardcopy files that have been inactive for four years will be confidentially disposed of (shredded). Selective files should be retained for archival purposes.
 - g. Unclaimed awards: Access Fund awards not claimed within thirty (30) days of the end of the semester in which they were awarded will be cancelled and returned to the bursary fund.

- h. Opt-out money: Opt-out money not picked up by the end of the semester for which the student has opted-out will be returned to the bursary fund. This date will be no later than the last business day of the final month of the respective term.
- i. Past History: The Access Fund will have access to ALL data provided willingly by the applicant on their application for the current period as well as for previous periods. The Selection Committee will be able to consider all information provided in making a decision on the applicant including such items as award history, and any other data the Access Fund may have from current or previous applications.
- j. Selection committee composition: In order to ensure students are having input into the selection process, the Selection Committee must always be composed of two Access Fund committee members, as well as the reviewer as a non-voting member. A councilor may not appoint a proxy to sit on the Access Fund Selection Committee.
- k. Appeals selection committee composition: The Access Fund Appeals Selection Committee must be composed of at least two students not on the original Selection Committee in addition to the reviewer or Access Fund Director as a non-voting member. A councilor may not appoint a proxy to sit on the Access Fund Selection Committee.
- l. Spring/Summer Sessions: Students' Union Access Fund Bursaries will be available to students in the term in which they are registered so long as they have paid Access Fund fees for that term. As in all cases, students who do not meet the criteria may submit a letter explaining their exceptional circumstances. Students who received the maximum bursary approved by the Access Fund Board in the previous semesters will not be eligible for additional funding during the spring and summer terms. Students enrolled in one of the spring or summer terms will be allowed a maximum bursary of \$ 1500.00 for the Spring term and \$1500.00 for the Summer term.
- m. Request for Information: The Chair and the Access Fund Director will respond to requests for information from University and Students' Union departments. The reason for and purpose of the request will be verified in all cases. Any requests for information that is not public knowledge must be approved through the Vice-President (External) and the Access fund Committee. The Director will exchange information with the Student Financial Aid Information Centre and Emergency Aid or any other University or Government Departments in order to verify any information contained on an application, including, but not limited to registration status, GPA, and outstanding amounts owing to the University or other agencies the student has indicated an outstanding balance with.
- n. Recall: During the selection process, the Committee may choose to have the Director recall an applicant to verify information or to provide further details. A one-week period between Selection Committee meeting and ratification by the Access Fund Committee will allow for these recalls.
- o. Conflict of Interest: Access Fund Committee members are ineligible to receive Access Fund bursaries in the current council year during their term of service.

Allocation of Funds

- 22. The Allocation of Access Fund bursaries will be governed according to the following policies:

- a. Allocation of Funds for the purpose of bursaries in each application period: The funds available each year will be divided between the projected number of granting sessions upon the recommendation of the Access Fund Director.
- b. Appeals (student loans): Applicants who have loan appeals in progress will not be considered for funding unless their appeal has been processed prior to the meeting of the Selection Committee.
- c. Concerning information on application form/materials required for application
 - i. Allowable Income: Income expectations/exemptions will be follow the Student Loan guidelines at the discretion of the Committee.
 - ii. Application Form: Applicants who have not completed an application form prior to their appointment will be considered to have missed their appointment.
 - iii. Credit cards/Lines of Credit: The Access Fund will allow Minimum Monthly Payments (MMPs) providing the student can demonstrate to the interviewer's satisfaction that the debt was used to cover legitimate academic or living costs that have accrued while registered at the University of Alberta. Legitimacy will be determined by the interviewer upon receipt of three (3) months of credit card/Line of Credit statements for each.
 - iv. International Students: Applicants who are international students must provide a letter with their application detailing how they had planned on financing their education and living costs and why their original plan is no longer sufficient as well as current bank statements from all accounts in their possession.
 - v. Married/Common-law students: The financial information, both income and expenses, is to include all family members in the household. If both spouses are U of A students, it is in their best interest to apply and attend a review session together. Applications should be filled out. Each applicant will be recommended one half of the family shortfall up to \$3000.
 - vi. Parental Contributions: Applicants who are experiencing a shortfall due to a lack of expected parental contributions must submit either a letter from the applicant's parents or guardians confirming that they are unable or unwilling to provide the expected contribution. If a parent or guardian is unable or unwilling to provide such documentation a letter from a third party will be accepted.
 - vii. Required documentation: At the time of their interview, applicants are required to submit a completed application form, their student loan Notice of Assessment, their University of Alberta Tuition and Fees Assessment as issued by the Registrar's Office, their University of Alberta ONEcard, and may be requested to provide a copy of a pay stub from each job held in the last twelve months or additional documentation in order to fully assess the applicant.
 - viii. The Access Fund will not use vehicle as an asset but will not cover any vehicles/vehicle relatd expenses with the exception of the following conditions: family with dependents; practicum/rotations that require

- significant traveling; outside U-Pass boundaries; and spouse not in school and working.
- d. Assessment Protocols: The Access Fund will follow the Student Loan Guidelines for the purposes of assessing Access Fund Bursary Applications. These guidelines will be followed at the discretion of the Selection Committee.
 - e. Concerning bursary amounts
 - i. Maximum bursary: The maximum bursary allowed per student is \$3,000.00 per academic year (September 1 - August 31).
 - ii. Minimum Bursary: No bursary under the amount of \$100.00 will be granted by the Access Fund.
 - iii. Maximum Lifetime Limit: The maximum lifetime limit allowed per student is \$6,000.00.
 - iv. Maximum Limit for Students in non-degree/designation programs or Part Time students: The maximum bursary granted to a student in a non-degree/designation program is not to exceed the cost of that student's books and tuition.
 - v. First and Second Year Students: Applicants in the first or second year of a program who are applying to the Access Fund for reasons other than unexpected emergency expenses will have their bursary pro-rated based on the lifetime maximum allowed under Access Fund guidelines and the number of years remaining in the applicant's program.
 - vi. Graduating Students: Students who apply in the term in which they are graduating and who have reached the yearly maximum but not the lifetime maximum may be granted an amount up to the lesser of their assessed financial shortfall or the lifetime maximum, at the discretion of the Selection Committee.
 - f. Concerning Eligibility
 - i. Audits: Applicants undergoing a student loan audit must provide the Access Fund with documentation regarding the audit and steps that have been taken to comply with the auditor. An audit may be grounds for denying an applicant funding; however, the Access Fund Selection Committee will make decisions on these applications on a case-by-case basis and take individual circumstances under consideration.
 - ii. Concurrently enrolled students: If courses being taken at other institutions are leading towards a degree from the University of Alberta, all living and educational costs will be taken into consideration by the Access Fund. If courses being taken at other institutions are leading towards a degree from another institution, the Access Fund will take into consideration all costs for courses taken through the University of Alberta.
 - iii. Defaults: Applicants with previous student loan defaults must provide documentation describing the reasons why this default occurred and steps taken to remedy the situation. Technical defaults will not be held against the applicant. A previous student loan default may be grounds for denying an applicant funding; however, the Access Fund Selection Committee will make decisions on these applications on a case-by-case basis and take individual circumstances under consideration. In no circumstances will a

- student with a previous default on an Emergency Student Loan be granted a bursary.
- iv. Differential Fee Faculties: Students in differential fee faculties offering bursaries to students entering certain programs will be required to apply for and be notified of their faculty bursary status prior to submitting an application to the Access Fund.
 - v. Students on exchange: Costs incurred in connection with academic exchanges above the costs that would have been incurred had the applicant not participated in the exchange will not be considered allowable expenses. Under no circumstances will the Access Fund cover debts incurred as the result of exchanges or study abroad experiences.
 - vi. Students who opted out: In all cases, students who opt out will not be eligible for an Access Fund bursary during the year in which they have opted out. This policy will be advertised widely to avoid confusion and misinformation. Students who are assessed for the whole year will be required to pay into the Access Fund for both terms.
 - vii. GPA Requirements: No continuing student will be granted a bursary unless that student has a GPA of at least 2.0(or “Pass” in the case of MD and DDS programs) in the student’s last academic term, with the Selection Committee empowered to make exceptions in special cases.
 - viii. Financial Plan: The Selection Committee may choose not to grant a bursary to an applicant if it believes there is little or no likelihood that the applicant will be able to secure sufficient funding to complete their program.

Prorating Disbursements

23. In the event that the Access Fund is unlikely to meet the expected need in terms of monetary disbursements, the Access Fund Committee determines a mechanism for prorating student bursaries for the September – August application year.

University of Alberta Students' Union
Report to Students' Council

2007-07-24

Access Fund Committee

Hello Council:

Quite a lengthy meeting last night (and hence the late report). Access Fund Committee was finally able to reach quorum, and had a presentation from Shazin Mohammed and Jane Lee (directors of the Access Fund and SFAIC respectively) on the Access Fund and the responsibilities of the committee. Standing Orders were changed to correct certain grammatical problems as well as other small problems. One of substance was that regulations surrounding transportation costs were adjusted due to the new U-Pass availability. That change is seen in point 22 (c) (viii).

We also secured members for the next selection committee meeting, and set meetings up until the Christmas break.

If you have any questions on the business of BFC, feel free to contact the chair at eamonn.gamble@su.ualberta.ca

University of Alberta Students' Union
Report to Students' Council

2007-07-24

Audit Committee

Dear Council,

At the July 5/2007 meeting of Audit Committee, the committee reviewed a number of months of credit card statements.

Certain concerns were noted, including the following:

- Legitimacy of expenses – it is difficult to ensure that the purchases benefit the Students' Union, examples including what appeared to be computer purchases and learning seminars.
- Interest payments to the credit card companies – general consensus was that the statements should be paid in full each period
- Failure to include receipts
- Excessively large tips (in one example, \$20 on a bill just over \$60)
- No information on how food purchases benefited the Students' Union (who a meal was with, etc.)

Summary of Proceedings

Call to order at 2015h.

Adoption of June 07 minutes.

Discussion regarding credit card packages.

Adjournment at 2112h.

Bobby Samuel
Vice President Academic
Council Report for July 24

Hey Council, I'm changing my report ever so slightly to reflect the goals I am working on for this upcoming year and the issues that come up.

Goals:

Textbooks – In the Fall, I am attending the bookstores' association conference. Our Bookstore is keen on generating action towards reducing textbook costs and their first major action is hosting a roundtable discussion involving students, bookstore directors, and publishers (major stakeholders in purchasing textbooks). Part of the reason is to showcase our relationship with the Bookstore (the Book Store Advisory Group is one of our most successful advocacy stories), to get other Book Stores in a similar mode of thinking, and to get publishers to move towards a more cost-effective model. Last week, I attended the EDGE conference, my primary reason being to get students to talk to their Book Stores about bringing them to this conference. Although some big schools were missing (Toronto, Ryerson) we got word out to other schools and many are heading back to their Book Store to come to this conference. Once again, it's wait and see as we hope textbook cost reductions come in the future.

Teaching & Learning – The meeting with Dr. Olive Yonge went well. We discussed CSL as well as an overarching vision for Teaching & Learning on this campus. We'll see how successful we become.

Technology – Still creating strategies.

Scholarships & Bursaries – For you attentive readers out there, Carole Byrne applauded the equitable distribution idea. Currently, we will be taking this idea to central administration and identify it as either a budget priority or even a fundraising endeavour. Either way, I am excited to see how this turns out.

Community Service Learning (CSL) – Still maintaining dialogue with the good people over at CSL. Last time, they said we could incorporate SU services into their classes so it's just wait & see until then. For more info, check out UPC next Tuesday.

Issues:

Bear Scat/ Bear Tracks – Carole Byrne liked the new idea of Bear Tracks advocacy, we're taking it to the Director of AISSC and seeing where we can go to from there. Hopefully, we will see Bear Tracks meet Bear Scat's functionality (also, as a tidbit, apparently you can apply for scholarships over the new Bear Tracks upgrade).

The EDGE Showcase – Basically, just did a presentation on coursepacks which save students bucketloads of money every year. We did a good job highlighting upcoming issues (copyright, etc.).

Any questions? Throw 'em my way and I'll do my best to answer!

2007-07/6d: COUNCILLOR REMUNERATION

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Excerpts from Steve Smith

Student-at-Large, Financial Affairs Board, 2001-02

Vice President (Operations & Finance), 2002-03

Business Councillor, 2003-05

In very brief, there are a number of problems with Council. One problem is that many Councillors treat it as a casual volunteer activity, meaning that they'll miss a lot of meetings, do little or no research into questions coming before Council, and just generally slack off for the year. Participation in Council needs to go well beyond attending Council meetings. Another problem is that some classes of students, including students financing their educations largely through student loans, are represented on Council at a level too low to be reflective of their portion of the undergraduate population.

Councillor remuneration will help solve both of those problems. In the first instance, Council will finally have some effective means to police its membership: specifically, it will be able to police its membership by fining it. A reason for paying Councillors is the purchase accountability: until you have something you can take away from elected officials, you can't have much accountability - by being able to take something away, you improve accountability.

As for the issue of under-representation, some Councillors have indicated that the need to work twenty hours per week while maintaining a full courseload has inhibited their ability to be useful Councillors. The idea is that the pay will allow these Councillors to free up a little more time, giving them the opportunity to be better. Moreover, it will allow students who may not be running now because their work schedules don't permit to run.

My contention all along has been that participation in governance is more of a fundamental right than participation in [insert service here].

The problem isn't that there are a lot of Council candidates with goals out there who aren't running, the problem is that Councillors, regardless of which ones are elected, aren't devoting the time to developing goals.

My support for this is based on the assumption that the vast majority of Councillors want to be good Councillors. If this is a baseless assumption, then I agree that my entire case collapses. But I don't think it is.

From the perspective of the S.U. - which is the perspective from which Council is legally obligated to look at these things - a properly functioning Council is more critical than a properly functioning Safewalk, Student Distress Centre, etc., because without a properly functioning Council, the S.U. is incapable of discharging the responsibilities and exercising the powers given to it in provincial legislation. Essentially, without a properly-

functioning Council, the S.U. can't exist. That's the technical answer. The more pragmatic answer is that Safewalk, the Student Distress Centre, etc. are all working fine right now. Council's the one that needs fixing.

If you want to make the case that the S.U. should cut enough expenditures to eliminate S.U. fees on the grounds that most students don't think that a functioning S.U. is worth the cost, I think that's a legitimate argument. However, if you believe that it **is** worth paying fees in order to have a functioning S.U., it's my argument that paying Councillors needs to be extremely high on your list of priorities, since without a functioning Council, there can be no functioning S.U.

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Excerpts from Gregory Harlow
Vice President (Operations and Finance), 2000-01
Speaker of Students' Council, 2001-2006

From a historical perspective, MPs used to serve in England for free. In the mid 1800's the Chartist movement sprung up which had six key demands, one of which was that MPs be paid. They wanted this so that public office was something someone who was not independently wealthy could aspire to. The simple fact is that public office, no matter how lowly should be open to all citizens (if we actually believe in democracy). Suffice to say, we pay our elected officials.

Speaking from personal experience while I have really enjoyed serving as Speaker for the last five years, I would have preferred to serve as a Councillor, but the idea of turning down ~\$4500/year just makes no sense. We see this same choice repeated over and over again each year as students who are elected Councillors resign to take paid SU positions.

No one seems to have a problem with the fact that we pay our executive officers, or the Speaker. I can only assume that this is because people think that these jobs are substantial enough that they require pay but the job of Councillor does not. From my vantage point, to be a good Councillor you need to spend 4h at a meeting once every two weeks and at least that in each committee that you serve on to be effective. This means a minimum of 16h each month, and that is just on attending meetings. If you are going to serve on more than one committee, or volunteer with the SU's various events, the time commitment becomes very substantial.

Finally with respect to things being fine the way they are ... **THINGS ARE NOT FINE.** The fact that some Councillors don't show up for 1/2 a year, don't serve on committees at all, never speak up in Council, were voted in by less than 8 people, or worse yet, a student could not be found to even fill the seat shows that we have some serious problems. This might not solve all the problems, but it is at least worth exploring.

As for the suggestion that other volunteer positions are on par with serving on Students' Council in terms of important I don't agree. Students' Council has the power of taxation over students and exercises it. No other volunteer or group has this sort of power over other students and for that reason alone, Council is unique and more important.

President Report

Students' Council: July 24/07

(Submitted very last minute after the EDGE)

Michael Janz

president@su.ualberta.ca

Meetings Attended:

POWERPLANT: Don Hickey and Doug Dawson

Laurie Hawn MP

Exec today (first in 2 weeks.. yikes!)

SU Council BBQ at my house and there will be many more...

Mike Lake MP

James Rajotte MP

Dave Hancock (ran into him and he had 15min to spare us)

THE STUDENT EDGE Conference

External advocacy ½ day retreat

Meetings with Directors

20 by 2020

Accountability Act

Summary:

Powerplant: The University looked favorably upon our proposal that we brought to them based on our In-camera presentation. I look forward to further cooperation with them and ensuring that a longer term sustainable solution is found to the Powerplant. We have submitted another proposal to them based on the in-camera presentation at council and we should have a response by Friday. If you would like to see it feel free to pop by my office.

Canadian Student Horizons Group: As Justin questioned me last week, the CSHG is a group of SU's (UBC, Queens, Western and the U of A) who got together and formed the CSHG with an interest in promoting global travel and awareness for students. The CSHG owns 24% of the Travel Cuts business and is going to have its AGM now in later September, not this week. The other 76% of the company is owned by CFS-Services.

SUB WIRELESS: Try it out, let me know if you have an issue.

Listserve Proposal: It has gone to the University and I am awaiting feedback.

The Student Edge 07: This conference was over the past week in Halifax. It was a chance for 60 SU executives to get together and discuss the issues affecting us and our organizations while undergoing a bit of Professional Development on the side. The schools ranged from Small technical institutes to giant arrogant behemoths like Western (kidding. Love you Tom ☺). It proved to be a very

valuable networking opportunity while reinforcing our elitism that the UASU is miles ahead of all of the others. Though I wish more “big schools” were present to share their wisdom, it was valuable to hear the different strategies from the smaller schools who operate sometimes more like our FA’s than as SUs.

COUNCIL: WHO IS YOUR SPORTSCENTRE SU 'EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK'?

Janz: Margriet Tilroe-West. Margriet is the master and commander of the good ship SUB. She has worked for us for 33 years and if anyone knows this organization it is her. She knows every nook and cranny in this building and operates it with drill sergeant efficiency coordinating the team of personnel working round the clock to keep us spick and span. When you have 30 thousand people going through your building daily it requires serious coordination! The only thing Margriet loves more than SUB is her Cats. On a fun note, she married a former VP OPS/FI (typically the VP most fond of long-term commitment). High Five Margriet!

VP Operations & Finance Report

July 24, 2007

The Edge

Michael, Bobby and I returned from a week-long conference in Halifax last Thursday, too late to submit our reports to the main agenda. From my perspective, the conference was extremely useful. It is rare that other VPOFs from around the country are able to meet and discuss operational difficulties with possible solutions as well as interesting and diverse alternate sources of revenue. Some include University of Waterloo's Federation of Students idea of competing with Greyhound for student traffic by chartering busses for weekend trips to nearby urban centers among others. All of the ideas from this session, and all other open sessions are available on www.thestudentedge.ca, under "OS harvest". In my opinion the conference was a success for professional development and idea-sharing, and will recommend that my successor attend as well. I will leave it to Bobby and Mike to determine whether it was worth it for their respective positions.

Powerplant

Bill Smith, President Janz, and I had a meeting with Doug Dawson (incoming Director of Ancillaries) and Don Hickey (Vice-President of Facilities) regarding a collaborative solution to our common Powerplant problem. We were in agreement that band-aid solutions have been unsuccessful, so a long-term fix will be the subject of our combined efforts over the course of this school year (since it is much too late and much too expensive to accomplish any structural changes this summer). They seem comfortable with our proposed arrangement that would allow us to pay less rent (and hence be fiscally sustainable for us) for this coming year until a long-term plan is in place (which we will work on together). A proposed agreement should be available by the next meeting of council.

CUPE

A few grievances are still outstanding, but a collective agreement has been tentatively agreed to by the two negotiating parties. The CUPE membership will be voting on the new contract tomorrow. Pending their approval, the contract will appear before council for the next meeting. I will hopefully have that prepared for your perusal well before the actual council date to give you enough time to read the changes and financial proposal.

Light Fixture Retrofitting

I met today with university representatives from the Department of Facilities and Operations as they plan on retrofitting all of the lighting in SUB to a much more sustainable system. There were many technical terms that flew right over my head, but we are moving away from T-12 and incandescent lighting to T-8 lights (I have no idea what that means so don't ask). This is all the responsibility of the university so it will be at no cost to us.

Eamonn Gamble

