

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday, November 20, 2007
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2007-16)

2007-16/4 QUESTION PERIOD

2007-16/4b **WISHEU-** For Bobby Samuel, Vice President Academic:
With the University Bookstore's purchase of the Espresso Book Machine, is there any predicted impact on academic material costs in the foreseeable future?

Please see document LA 07-16.01

2007-16/5 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

2007-16/5a Budget and Finance Committee

2007-16/5a(i) **GAMBLE/ESPOSITO MOVE THAT** Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee, adopt the following into Standing Orders

Please see document LA 07-16.02

2007-16/5b External Policy Committee – Report

Please see document LA 07-16.03

2007-16/5b(i) **CAMPBELL/DOLLANSKY MOVE THAT** Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the External Policy Committee, amend Political Policy "Student Loans" (1st reading)

Please see document LA 07-16.04

2007-16/5b(ii) **CAMPBELL/DOLLANSKY MOVE THAT** Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the External Policy Committee, amend Political Policy "Tuition Policy" (1st reading)

Please see document LA 07-16.05

2007-16/5b(iii) **CAMPBELL/DOLLANSKY MOVE THAT** Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the External Policy Committee, amend Political Policy "Post-Secondary Learning Act" (1st reading)

Please see document LA 07-16.06

- 2007-16/5b(iv) CAMPBELL/DOLLANSKY MOVE THAT** Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the External Policy Committee, amend Political Policy "Income Contingent Loans" (1st reading)
- Please see document LA 07-16.07
- 2007-16/5c** Bylaw Committee- Report
- Please see document LA 07-16.08
- 2007-16/6** **GENERAL ORDERS**
- 2007-16/6c** **ERUVBETINE MOVES THAT** Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the DRO Selection Committee, appoint Blanche Chymycz to the position of Deputy Returning Officer for the 2007/2008 academic year.
- 2007-16/6d** **ERUVBETINE MOVES THAT** Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the DRO Selection Committee, appoint Myles Hewitt to the position of Deputy Returning Officer for the 2007/2008 academic year.
- 2007-16/7** **INFORMATION ITEMS**
- 2007-16/7c** Fact Lobbying Sheet- 2007 Lobbying Conference
- Please see document LA 07-16.09
- 2007-16/7d** Michael Janz, President- Report
- Please see document LA 07-16.10
- 2007-16/7e** Paul Chiswell, Board of Governors Rep- Report
- Please see document LA 07-16.11
- 2007-16/7f** Bobby Samuel, VP Academic- Report
- Please see document LA 07-16.12
- 2007-16/7g** Steven Dollansky, VP External- Report
- Please see document LA 07-16.13
- 2007-16/7h** Eamonn Gamble, VP Operations and Finance- Report
- Please see document LA 07-16.14

Bobby Samuel
Office of the Vice President (Academic)
University of Alberta Students' Union

QUESTION: With the University Book Store's purchase of the Espresso Book Machine, is there any predicted impact on academic material costs in the foreseeable future?

ANSWER: Great question, complicated answer. With the EBM, it becomes much easier to print books on campus, as evidenced by the article from Express News. In it, Todd Anderson suggested the publishers' costs would be 26 cents/page whereas the EBM does it for 12 cents/page, so clearly there are incredible cost savings!

The reason why it becomes difficult is because we aren't 100% sure how much undergraduates are spending on textbooks. Currently, SFAIC estimates that Arts, Science, Engineering, Nursing, and Education undergraduates will spend \$1200 on books and supplies (shocking numbers unto themselves). If all of these courses utilized the EBM, then the estimate would be reduced, but that's if all of them used this (which would be difficult to do considering the EBM requires access to the pdf files).

Nevertheless, textbooks continue to remain an increasing burden to students, and at NART we look forward to bringing these issues to their attention and seeing action.

PROPOSED BUDGET PROCESS OF THE STUDENTS' UNION

PART 1: PREPARATION FOR 1ST READING OF BUDGET PRINCIPLES IN COUNCIL

General Manager to Initiate

16.1(1) The General Manager will cause the directors of each operating unit of the Students' Union (SU) to create Business Plans for each department under the supervision of senior management.

Strategic Plan

16.1(2) The proposed Business Plans will conform to the Strategic Plan of the SU.

Department Business Plans

16.2(1) The Department Business Plans will include:

- (a) the department strategic plan (mission, vision, and goals) and how these relate to the SU strategic plan,
- (b) the department operating plan (action plans and the performance measurements, or measurable criteria) which is to be used in assessing the performance of each department in achieving its goals;
- (c) the department communications and marketing plan;
- (d) the department performance targets for each of its goals which must be tied to the fiscal budget; and
- (e) an outline of required operating and capital resources.

Three year horizon

16.2(2) The Department Business Plans must be for a period that includes the fiscal year and projections for at least 2 subsequent fiscal years.

Budget Meetings – Budget & Finance Committee

16.3(1) Prior to December, meetings will be arranged by the General Manager and Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee for the purpose of reviewing the individual Department Business Plans, familiarising all the relevant decision makers with the proposed fiscal policy of the SU, and providing political officials with an opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions prior to formulation of the budget principles for 1st reading.

Meeting Participants

16.3(2) The Budget Meetings will include:

- (a) the VP Operations & Finance,
- (b) the members of the Budget & Finance Committee,
- (c) the department head, and responsible senior manager,
- (d) any other executive officer who would like to attend, and
- (e) any staff member deemed appropriate by the General manager.

Political Input

16.3(3) Feedback and suggestions to department heads on their department plans by the elected officials will be made at the Budget Meetings in a manner outlined in the Standing Orders of the Budget & Finance Committee.

Budget Meeting Outputs

16.3(4) Department heads are to consider the feedback they receive at the budget meetings and prepare a final draft of their business plan for submission to the General Manager.

Department heads to respond to suggestions and submit final Business Plan

16.3(5) Where a department head declines to incorporate suggestions made by elected officials the department head will prepare reasons explaining their decision to be included with the Department Business Plan.

General Manager to Compile

16.4(1) The General Manager will compile the Department Business Plans to create draft Budget Principles for the consideration of the Vice-President Operations and Finance no later than December 31.

Form of Budget Principles for 1st Reading

16.4(2) The Budget Principles must be in the following form:

- (a) a top page consisting of all substantive changes from and affirmations of the status quo;
- (b) a bottom page consisting of all substantive changes from and affirmations of the status quo which are confidential in nature.
 - a. This bottom page will be considered in camera at all stages of the budget process.
- (c) the department business plans with executive summary,
- (d) the major assumptions upon which the budget is based including:
 - a. the goals and assumptions each department made in preparing the plan, including the effect changes in the assumptions may have on the finances of the SU in the fiscal years to which the plan relates, and
 - b. the anticipated economic conditions for the fiscal years to which the plan relates,

Vice-President Operations & Finance to Consider/Amend and Submit

16.5(1) The Vice-President Operations & Finance will review and amend as desired the draft Budget Principles prepared by the General Manager for submission to the Budget & Finance Committee in accordance with the Standing Orders of Students' Council.

Responsibilities

16.5(2) The Vice-President Operations & Finance must include a statement attached to the submitted Budget Principles affirming that all the rules and regulations governing the creation of the budget have been followed.

Vice-President Operations and Finance Recommends Principles

16.6(1) The Vice-President (Operations & Finance) shall submit or cause to be submitted a proposed set of Budget Principles to the Budget and Finance Committee no later than January 15.

Budget and Finance Committee Amends and Recommends Principles

16.6(2) The Budget and Finance Committee shall recommend a set of Budget Principles to Students' Council no later than February 1.

First Reading of Budget in Council

16.6(3) Students' Council shall approve a set of Budget Principles no later than February 15.

PART 2: PREPARATION FOR 2ND READING IN COUNCIL

General Manager to Initiate Fiscal Budget

16.7(1) Upon passage in Council of Budget Principles in 1st Reading, the General Manager is responsible for developing the Fiscal Budget that conforms to the approved Budget Principles.

Fiscal Budget

16.7(2) The Fiscal Budget will consist of estimated amounts of the SU for the next fiscal year of:

- (a) the total revenue and a breakdown by sources of revenue per department,
- (b) the total expense and a breakdown by category of expense per department,
- (c) the consolidated net revenue or expense per department,
- (d) the total capital investment, including a breakdown of capital investment by department,
- (e) the amounts needed in the contingency reserve,
- (f) the net financial position,
- (g) the borrowing requirements and debt reduction projections, and
- (h) the Budget Principles passed by Council on 1st Reading (for information).

General Manager to Present to Executive Committee

16.7(3) The General Manager will present and submit the Fiscal Budget to the Executive Committee no later than March 1.

Vice-President Operations and Finance Recommends Principles

16.7(4) The Executive Committee shall submit a final Operating and Capital Budget, reflecting the set of Budget Principles approved by Students' Council, to the Budget and Finance Committee no later than March 7.

Executive Committee to Recommend Final Budget

16.7(5) The Budget and Finance Committee shall recommend a final Operating and Capital Budget to Students' Council no later than March 15.

Second Reading of Budget in Council

16.7(6) When the Budget is being read a second time;

- (a) Students' Council shall approve a final Operating and Capital Budget
- (b) The Budget will be presented in a three-part document consisting of:
 - a. The Budget Principles passed on first reading
 - b. The Fiscal Budget, and
 - c. Additional written instructions providing further instructions on how money within budget categories is to be spent; and
- (c) Debate is confined to the technical merits of whether the Committee properly interpreted the principles passed in first reading.

PART 3: SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET PROCESS FOR NEW COUNCIL

Budget may change during the year

16.8(1) During the year amendments may be made to the fiscal budget by bringing forward additional money motions amending the budget approved by the previous counsel.

Right of Submission year round

16.8(2) Any member of Council may submit a supplementary budget principle to the Budget & Finance Committee for consideration at any time during the year.

Staff Input to be considered

16.8(3) Prior to recommending a supplementary budget principle to Council, the Budget & Finance Committee will inform the General Manager and provide the General Manager with an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed budget principle to the Committee.

Council to Debate Principle (1st Reading)

16.8(4) Council will debate and approve or reject the supplementary budget principle(s).

Staff to Amend Fiscal Budget

16.8(5) The General Manager will draft changes to the fiscal budget in accordance with the supplementary budget principles passed by Council at 1st Reading for the Vice-President Operations & Finance to introduce at the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee to Consider

16.8(6) The Executive Committee will consider whether the draft changes to the fiscal budget reflect the supplementary principles approved by Council and recommend accordingly to the Budget & Finance Committee.

Budget and Finance Committee to Consider

16.8(7) The Budget and Finance Committee will consider whether the draft changes to the fiscal budget reflect the supplementary principles approved by Council and recommend accordingly to Council.

Council to Approve Fiscal Budget (2nd Reading)

16.8(8) Council will consider whether the supplementary principles have been appropriately incorporated into the fiscal budget and approve or reject the proposed amended fiscal budget accordingly, in a manner similar to that governing second reading of the primary budget.

Progress Reports

10(5) The Vice-President Operations and Finance must report to Students' Council on the accuracy of the budget compared to actual with an emphasis on the performance targets set by each department; such presentations to occur on or before August 31, November 30, February 28, and May 30 of each year.

Annual Report

10(6) The General Manager must prepare and make public on the SU Website on or before August 31st of each year an annual report for the SU for the fiscal year just ended.

Report Composition

10(7) The annual report must include:

- (a) the consolidated financial statements of the SU for the fiscal year just ended,
- (b) the financial and non-financial achievements of the SU as compared to the performance targets set in the business plans,
- (c) a message from the Students' Union Executive covering an overview of the past year performance of the SU, as well as an overview of future goals, plans, and expectations of the SU, and
- (d) any other information the Executive Committee considers appropriate, and
- (e) an abbreviated reader friendly version of the annual report must be made public on the SU Website at the same time as the regular annual report referred to above.

AUDIT COMMITTEE STANDING ORDERS**Vice-President Operations & Finance to Report**

?(?) The Vice-President Operations and Finance must report to Audit Committee on the accuracy of the budget compared to actual with an emphasis on the performance targets set by each department; such presentations to occur each month of the fiscal year, on or before the 20th of the following month.

University of Alberta Students' Union
Report to Students' Council

2007/EPC/10

External Policy Committee

November 8 and 15, 2007 meeting

Hello Council,

Here is what you missed by not attending the past few EPC meetings

Summary of Proceedings:

- Amendments and additions to the Student Loan political policy and amendments to the Tuition political policy were made at the Nov. 8 meeting
- Amendments to the Post Secondary Learning Act and Income-Contingent Student Loans policies were made at the Nov.15 meeting

If you have any questions at all please don't hesitate to ask!

Lindsey Campbell

THE STUDENTS' UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

POLITICAL POLICY STATEMENT

<i>Policy Number:</i> 7	<i>Effective Date:</i> November 28, 2006	<i>Page</i> 1 <i>of</i> 2
	<i>Expiration Date:</i> April 30, 2010	
<i>Responsibility for Policy:</i>	External Policy Committee	
<i>Subject Matter</i>	- Category: POLITICAL POLICY (GENERAL)	
	- Specific: Student Loans	
	- Topic:	

WHEREAS education must be viewed as a public good due to the benefits it brings to the tax system and social structure;

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WHEREAS there exists an opportunity cost for those individuals who choose to pursue an education and be away from a job;

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WHEREAS in order for education to be viewed as affordable and accessible the costs of living and the costs of education must be addressed as separate burdens;

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WHEREAS the current student loan system affects students disproportionately by penalizing those who work to pay their way, the diverse costs of living must be recognized;

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WHEREAS the debt load of students has increased dramatically over the past ten years, with the rising cost of tuition eating away the living allowance.

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BE IT RESOLVED THAT the University of Alberta Students' Union advocate for a financial aid system that:

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- a.) includes a greater proportion of non-repayable assistance, including but not limited to grants and bursaries;
- b.) is accessible to all Albertan students attending not-for-profit post-secondary institutions and addresses the real financial need;
- c.) recognizes the complete overhead costs of education to the learner including, but not limited to: rent and utility costs, textbook costs, transportation costs, food, personal care, internet and computer costs;
- d.) includes adjustments to all forms of financial assistance to reflect changes in market realities as they affect students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University of Alberta Students' Union advocate to make immediate changes to the student loan system to include:

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- a.) the complete exemption of part-time earnings;
- b.) the enhancement of scholarship exemptions and spousal working exemptions;
- c.) the removal of the parental contribution requirement;
- d.) to improve the remission program to become more transparent, consistent and accessible;

Policy History:
Reference/Vote
Create 2006-12

Board/Committee
EPC

Date of Council Approval
November 28,2006/ SC 06-15/5a(i)

e.) to lower interest rates on the Alberta portion of all new and outstanding student loans;

f.) the removal of accommodation requirements.

g.) adjust monthly living allowance to more accurately reflect costs of living determined by a market-basket method

Policy History:
Reference/Vote
Create 2006-12

Board/Committee
EPC

Date of Council Approval
November 28,2006/ SC 06-15/5a(i)

THE STUDENTS' UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

POLITICAL POLICY STATEMENT

<i>Policy Number:</i> 19	<i>Effective Date:</i>	<i>Page</i> 1 <i>of</i> 2
	<i>Expiration Date:</i> April 30,2009	
<i>Responsibility for Policy:</i>	External Policy Committee	
<i>Subject Matter</i>	- <i>Category:</i> POLITICAL POLICY (GENERAL)	
	- <i>Specific:</i> Tuition Policy	
	- <i>Topic:</i>	

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has shown an increased awareness of the importance of post-secondary education in our province;

WHEREAS the Government of Alberta has the duty to fund the cost of a post-secondary education system that has the capacity for all eligible individuals to participate given the increased importance of an educated populace and the growing demands of an emerging knowledge economy;

WHEREAS the current tuition levels and costs of obtaining a post-secondary education are contrary to the values of a public post-secondary education system;

WHEREAS it is essential that the Government of Alberta craft a policy recognizing the need to alleviate the financial burdens borne by Alberta's students and families in accessing the post-secondary education system;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the University of Alberta Students' Union advocate for a legislated tuition policy that:

- a.) Provides long-term, sustained base operating funding for our universities that will be protected from negative changes in our government's financial situation;
- b.) Ensures tuition levels are stable and predictable;
- c.) Has as its primary indicator of affordability the ability of students to pay without having to accrue the burden of debt;
- d.) Provides for the fact that tuition is only one of the costs of pursuing a post-secondary education;
- e.) Ensures that no student will ever be denied the opportunity to pursue post-secondary education because of their inability to pay;

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the University of Alberta Students' Union advocate that the Government of Alberta legislate a policy on tuition fees that:

Policy History:

Reference/Vote	Board/Committee	Date of Council Approval
Created 2006-24/4/0/0	EPC	April 10,2007/SC06-25/5e(i)

- a.) Provides strict guidance to an institution's ability to set tuition, including annual limits on the maximum amount of tuition fees that can be levied on students;
- b.) Requires post-secondary institutions to provide to the Board of Governors of the institution, the Auditor General of Alberta and the Minister of Advanced Education & Technology a detailed and verifiably transparent public plan on how additional tuition revenues will be spent.

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Policy History:

Reference/Vote

Created 2006-24/4/0/0

Board/Committee

EPC

Date of Council Approval

April 10,2007/SC06-25/5e(i)

THE STUDENTS' UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

POLITICAL POLICY STATEMENT

<i>Policy Number:</i>	<i>Effective Date:</i> January 11, 2005	<i>Page</i> 1 <i>of</i> 1
	<i>Expiration Date:</i> April 30, 2008	
<i>Responsibility for Policy:</i>	External Policy Committee	
<i>Subject Matter</i>	POLITICAL POLICY (GENERAL)	
- <i>Category:</i>		
- <i>Specific:</i>		
- <i>Topic:</i>	Post-Secondary Learning Act	

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WHEREAS the Students' Union of the University of Alberta is a corporation organized and existing under the Post-Secondary Learning Act;

WHEREAS the fulfillment of the mandate of the Students' Union of the University of Alberta requires financial and political independence from the Government of Alberta;

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WHEREAS the ability of the Students' Union of the University of Alberta to fulfill its mandate may be seriously compromised as a result of provisions of the Post-Secondary Learning Act relating to the intervention of the Minister of Learning in cases of financial irregularity;

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WHEREAS the assets of the Students' Union of the University of Alberta rightfully belong to its members;

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BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

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The Students' Union of the University of Alberta opposes the authority of the Minister of Learning to intervene in the management of its business and other affairs, as set out in the Post-Secondary Learning Act;

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

The Students' Union of the University of Alberta believes that the ability of the Minister of Learning to suspend and terminate the office of members of Students' Council breaches the political independence of the Students' Union; and

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Policy History:

	Reference/Vote	Board/Committee	Date of Council Approval
Created	2004-19/9a	External Affairs Board	January 11, 2005

The Students' Union of the University of Alberta most strongly opposes the authority of the Minister of Learning to dissolve the Students' Union under section 102(5) of the Act in the absence of a dissolution agreement between the Students' Union and the Government of Alberta as to the disposition of assets and liabilities of the Students' Union.

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Policy History:

	Reference/Vote	Board/Committee	Date of Council Approval
Created	2004-19/9a	External Affairs Board	January 11, 2005

THE STUDENTS' UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

POLITICAL POLICY STATEMENT

<i>Policy Number:</i> 8	<i>Effective Date:</i> November 28, 2006	<i>Page</i> 1 <i>of</i> 1
	<i>Expiration Date:</i> April 30, 2010	
<i>Responsibility for Policy:</i>	External Policy Committee	
<i>Subject Matter</i>	POLITICAL POLICY (GENERAL)	
- <i>Category:</i>	POLITICAL POLICY (GENERAL)	
- <i>Specific:</i>	Income-Contingent Student Loans	
- <i>Topic:</i>		

WHEREAS the Alberta Student Loan Program is intended to ensure no financial barriers exist to Albertans receiving a post-secondary education;

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WHEREAS income contingent loan repayment schemes are a method of shifting the cost of post-secondary education away from the government and on to students;

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WHEREAS income contingent loan repayment schemes result in those with lower incomes paying substantially more for the cost of their education;

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WHEREAS jurisdictions such as New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom that have income contingent loan repayment schemes have seen a corresponding and dramatic increase in tuition fees and other education costs;

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BE IT RESOLVED THAT the University of Alberta Students' Union oppose the introduction of an income contingent loan repayment scheme for the Alberta Student Loan Program, and oppose any income contingent loan repayment scheme that:

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- a.) will directly result in further increases of tuition at Alberta universities;
- b.) through the use of annual interest rates ensures that lower-income Albertans will pay more for their education than higher-income Albertans;
- c.) erodes the commitment of government to funding public post-secondary education or transfer the responsibility for funding from government to students and their families.

Policy History:
Reference/Vote
Created 2006-12

Board/Committee
EPC

Date of Council Approval
November 28,2006/SC 06-15/5a(ii)

University of Alberta Students' Union
Report to Students' Council

2007-11-20

Bylaw Committee

Summary of Proceedings

Hello Council,

Bylaw had a short and efficient half-hour meeting on Thursday the 15th. The main thing we discussed was the changes to Bylaw 2000 that Rachel Woynorowski (and others) proposed, so look for that on the next order paper (Dec. 4th).

November has been a reasonably quiet month for Bylaw as there has been no drafting of referendum or plebiscite questions. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday November 27th at 5:00pm.

Please send any questions/concerns to beastham@ualberta.ca
~Beverly Eastham

List of all Motions

McKINNY/NICOL move to recommend the changes to Bylaw 2000 to Students' Council for second reading

NICOL/McKINNY move to adopt all still-relevant editorial amendments of Bylaw 100

Documents Appendix

None



FACT SHEET 2007 LOBBYING CONFERENCE

Labour Market and Economic Trends

- Over the next 10 to 25 years, the demographic of the labour market will change radically, and result in a labour shortage. By 2015, retirees should catch up with workforce newcomers, but by 2015, retirees are expected to surpass entrants by **34%**. This means there will be less than one newcomer for each person retiring.¹
- Nearly two out of every three new jobs created between 2004 and 2008 will require some form of post-secondary credential.²
- By 2007, over **70%** of new jobs require post-secondary, yet currently less than 45% of working aged Canadians (25-64) holds post-secondary credentials.³ It is clear that Canada needs more highly-educated, skilled workers to compete in the global knowledge economy, and to confront the challenge of a massive demographic shift.

Societal Value for PSE

- Post-secondary education is a public good and is fundamental to securing a higher quality of life for all Canadians. Overall, post-secondary graduates, who make up approximately 45% of the working-age population, pay nearly 65% of the nation's personal income taxes, while receiving less than a third of government transfers to individuals (e.g., for EI, or social assistance).⁴ "It is not an exaggeration to say that the Canadian welfare state as presently constituted would be unable to function without the net tax revenues of post-secondary graduates."⁵
- Post-secondary education provides great benefit to society. Studies have shown that a highly-educated society results in reduced crime rates, increased charitable giving and volunteering, increased civic engagement, stronger social cohesion and appreciation of diversity, improved ability to adapt to new and emerging technologies, and less reliance on the health care system.

Parental Aspirations

- 93% of Canadian parents of children aged 0 to 18 hope that their children will receive some kind of post-secondary education⁶

¹ Office of the Chief Actuary, Actuarial Report on the Canada Student Loan Program as at 31 July 2005.

² Bergon et. Al. (2004). *Looking Ahead: A 10-Year Outlook for the Canadian Labour Market, 2004-2013*. Ottawa: Human Resources and Skills Development Canada.

³ Human Resources Development Canada, *World of Work: Overviews and Trends, 2000*, as cited in Government of Canada, *Canada's Innovation Strategy, Knowledge Matters, 2002*. OECD, *Education at a Glance 2006*.

⁴ Statistics Canada, *Survey of Income and Labour Dynamics 1995 to 2002*, as cited in Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation, *Price of Knowledge, 2004*.

⁵ Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation, *Price of Knowledge, 2004*.

⁶ Statistics Canada, *Survey of Approaches to Educational Planning*, November 20, 2003

- Almost three-quarters (74%) of children up to the age of five have parents who expect that their youngsters would complete a university degree⁷.
- Expectations change, as the children get older. In 2002, 68% have parents with children aged 6 to 12 anticipated that their children would finish university. But by aged 13 to 18, parental expectations of the same fell to 61%.
- The CMSF has found that 80 per cent of children whose parents held post-secondary credentials pursued some form of post-secondary education by the age of 24, compared with just 53 per cent of children whose parents only held high school diplomas.⁸

Tuition and Student Debt

- Tuition has skyrocketed in Canada over the last decade, and despite controls in several provinces, it continues to increase. In 2007, average tuition was now \$4,524 for full-time undergraduate students. With \$663 in compulsory fees in 2007, an average undergraduate university student now paying \$5187 in tuition and fees. Since the 1990s tuition has tripled.
- Differential tuition between provinces also negatively affects students' mobility. Ex: average tuition in Quebec for Quebec residents is \$2,025, where as in Nova Scotia, tuition cost undergrads \$5,878
- International students pay an average of \$13,985.⁹
- Canadian full-time graduate students are paying an average of \$5,447 in tuition fees for the 2007/2008 academic year.¹⁰
- Average college tuition in Canada has increased twofold since the early nineties, to a national average of over \$2,000.¹¹ While the increases may be less than for universities, college tuition varies considerably from program to program.
- According to Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium (CUSC) survey data, 59 per cent of **undergraduate students** graduated with debt in 2006, accumulating an average of **\$24,047 worth of debt during their 4-year degree.**¹² Students at the **college level** also accumulate debt. Data from the Canadian College Student Survey (CCSS) reports that almost 4 in 10 students expect to accumulate over **\$10,000** worth of debt by the end of their program.¹³

⁷ Statistics Canada, *Survey of Approaches to Educational Planning*, November 20, 2003

⁸ *ibid*, 20

⁹ Statistics Canada, "University Tuition Fees", *The Daily*, October 18, 2007

¹⁰ Statistics Canada, *University Tuition Fees*, *The Daily*, October 18, 2007.

¹¹ Manitoba Council on Post-Secondary Education survey cited in Millennium Scholarship Foundation, *Price of Knowledge 2004*.

¹² PRA Inc. (May, 2007). *Report on Student Debt: Canadian College Student Survey and Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium*. Montreal: The Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation. pp. 5

¹³ *Ibid* pp. 8

- While this number is disturbing there are many more who are ineligible for student loans because of strict assessment criteria. These students must turn to private sources of borrowing such as credit lines and credit cards. Many students combine these types of borrowing, and as such graduated with \$32,200 worth of debt before interest.¹⁴

Participation Rates and Barriers to PSE

- In 2002–2003, there were just under 1.7 million Canadians enrolled in courses leading to degrees, diplomas and certificates at universities, colleges and technical institutes across the country. Students represent just over 5% of the Canadian population as a whole. There are more students in Canada than there are Manitobans or Saskatchewanians, and the total student population rivals the entire population of the Maritimes.
- Although Canada has seen its overall post-secondary participation rates surge in recent decades¹⁵, at the same time, participation by particular segments of the Canadian population has remained virtually stagnant.
- Just over half of youth from our nation’s lowest income families pursue post-secondary training, while more than 80% of youth from high-income backgrounds are taking advantage of the tremendous opportunities offered to post-secondary graduates.¹⁶ And youth from low-income families have a chance of attending college roughly equal to that of high-income youth, **youth from low-income families are only half as likely to attend university**¹⁷. This gap continues to widen.¹⁸
- Financial barriers play a large role in deterring low-income individuals from pursuing post-secondary education. Financial barriers are still the single most cited reason for not pursuing post-secondary,¹⁹ 36 per cent of individuals who complete high school, but do not continue on to post-secondary, state that this is because of financial barriers.²⁰
- Other barriers include parents not having a post-secondary education (i.e. children/youth are not encouraged to pursue PSE), lack of information about programs, financial assistance available, and the benefits of pursuing a PSE (i.e. youth from low-income families over-estimate the costs and under-estimate the benefits).

Aboriginal Students

- Aboriginal students have made enormous strides in educational attainment in the past 25 years, but while Aboriginal college attainment rates are now equal to

¹⁴ Statistics Canada, *National Graduates Survey*, April 26, 2004

¹⁵ BC Ministry of Advanced Education, *Labour Force Statistics*, August 2001.

¹⁶ Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation, *Price of Knowledge*, 2004.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ Berger Joseph, Anne Motte and Andrew Parkin. Chapter 1, “Why Access Matters” *The Price of Knowledge 2006-07*. Montreal: The Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation, pp. 12

¹⁹ Human Resources Development Canada/Statistics Canada, *At a Crossroads: First Results for the 18 to 20 Year old Cohort of the Youth in Transition Survey*, January 2002.

²⁰ Statistics Canada, *Youth in Transition Survey*, 2000

those of non-Aboriginal students, their attainment rates at the university level continue to lag significantly behind those of other students.

- Aboriginal students are 3 times less likely to pursue a university education as compared to the general population.
- Aboriginal Canadians are the fastest growing segment of the population, and by 2017, the Aboriginal population 20-29 years of age will have increased over 40 per cent. Unfortunately just 23 per cent of Aboriginal Canadians have post-secondary credentials, over 15 percentage points below the non-Aboriginal population.²¹
- Status Indian and Inuit students receive funding from their bands which is provided through the federal *Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP)*. This is a \$270 million program whose funding has not increased since 1994. This means that very few dollars available to Aboriginal students to attend post-secondary education.

Canada Access Grants (CAGs)

- CASA lobbied for the creation of a Canadian Opportunity grant and the federal government responded with the creation of the Canada Access Grants.
- Canada Access Grants provide assistance to *students from low-income families* and *students with permanent disabilities*. To qualify for the low-income Canada Access Grant, family income must be low enough to qualify for the National Child Tax Benefit supplement (less than \$37,178 in 2007)
- Low-income students studying for the first time at the post-secondary level can receive a non-repayable grant of 50 per cent of their tuition up to \$3,000 (note that the amount they receive cannot exceed the Canada portion of the Canada Student Loan assistance they are eligible for).
- Qualifying students with *permanent disabilities* may be eligible to receive up to \$2,000 per loan year to help meet educational costs (e.g., for tuition, books, and supplies) and living costs.
- CASA supports the expansion of these grants to cover a portion of educational costs (not just tuition) and advocates that they be expanded for all years of study (not just first year).
- In November 2005, the previous (Liberal) government made a pledge that the Canada Access Grant would be made available to eligible low-income students for the duration of their post-secondary program. Canada's current (Conservative) government has not yet acted upon this pledge, and CASA is keen to see that it does. Expanding Canada Access Grants would help to ensure that not only are

²¹ Statistics Canada, *Projections of Aboriginal populations, Canada, provinces and territories 2001 to 2017*.

students enrolling in college or university, but are able to continue their studies all the way to graduation.

- Currently, the Access grant covers only the first year of study and costs about \$30 million per year. It would cost \$240 million per year if this grant covered the full cost of tuition for a 4 year program. A grant that covered the full tuition costs of an undergraduate degree would be a huge incentive for lower-income Canadians to pursue a post-secondary education, yet this would cost the government a little over half the amount the Canada Learning Bonds (a savings top-up program for low-income families, see below).

Canada Study Grants (CSGs)

- Canada Study Grants (CSGs) were created to aid students whose needs were not fully met by student loans. The grants target *part-time students in financial need, students with disabilities, women pursuing doctoral studies* and since 1998, *students with dependants*.
- In 2003-04, over 50,000 CSGs were disbursed to 15.5% of CSL borrowers. The majority of CSGs went to students with dependents (74.5%). In the same year, there was an actual decrease in grant recipients but increase in total value of grants.
- According to sources within the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP), 42.6% of student borrowers are at the maximum weekly loan limit. For full-time students this maximum is \$210 (with provincial loan added, the average is \$320). The cost of post-secondary education, however, continues to rise. Average unmet need for undergraduates is over \$3500, while the average unmet need for Master's students is over \$6500.
- Each of these groups targeted by CSGs are underrepresented in Canada's post-secondary institutions. For instance, while students with dependents make up 22% of the Canadian college student population, they are just 8% of the university undergraduate population, with far fewer enrolled at research intensive universities.²² Moreover, women of doctoral study age and part-time students are also more likely to have dependent children or dependent parents.
- CASA believes the federal government should expand the CSG to include a category for high-need full-time students by providing them with upfront grants equal to the average amount of unmet need in the CSLP.
- CASA also advocates that the award level of Canada Study Grants be increased to cover a larger percentage of the total educational costs, not only unmet need.

Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation (CMSF)

²² Canadian College Student Survey, 2003

- In 1998, Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation (CMSF) was established by the Government of Canada in order to broaden access to post-secondary education.
- The federal government endowed \$2.5 billion to CMSF and gave it a 10-year mandate to distribute the funds. The 10-year life for the Foundation and its \$2.5-billion endowment will run out in 2009.
- Each year since 1999-2000, the CMSF has awarded approximately 90,000 needs-based bursaries at approximately \$3000 each, as well as approximately 900 merit-based awards at approximately \$4000 each. The Foundation now also awards 34,000 access bursaries (for under-represented students such as low-income students, Aboriginal students or rural students) valued between \$1000-\$5000.
- To date the Foundation has delivered more than 2.2 billion dollars in student financial assistance.
- 95% of the scholarships (or bursaries) allotted are based on need, while 5% are granted based on merit.
- The Foundation has reduced student debt by more than \$1.6 billion, improved persistence year to year among bursary recipients (estimated at 30%), and have reduced individual borrowing by about 25%.
- *The Foundation provides 30 per cent of student grants in Canada, and nearly half of grant funding in many provinces.*
- *Without the Foundation, students are facing a \$350 million hole in student financial assistance annually.*
- In light of the devastating impact that the loss of the Foundation will have on SFA, CASA is strongly advocating for its renewal. External reviews show that the Foundation is an effective mechanism by which to deliver these important grants. The Auditor General of Canada notably found that the Foundation's programs are well managed and functioning effectively.²³ Further, the Foundation's research program and pilot projects help ensure that well-informed post-secondary policy decisions can be made. An external review of the Foundation in 2003 by the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations concluded that: "the CMSF research program is worthy of high commendation and its policy relevance is especially noteworthy."²⁴

Canada Educational Savings Grants (CESGs)

- The Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG) was designed to encourage families to save for education through Registered Education Savings Plans (RESPs).

²³²³ http://www.millenniumscholarships.ca/images/Reports/evaluation_en.pdf.

²⁴ http://www.millenniumscholarships.ca/images/Reports/evaluation_en.pdf. pp. 15

- The amount of the grant is based on your family income.
 - If your net family income is below \$37,178, the grant will be 40 cents for every dollar on the first \$500 you save in your child's RESP each year.
 - If your net family income is between \$37,178 and \$74,357, the grant will be 30 cents for every dollar on the first \$500 you save in your child's RESP each year.²⁵
 - If your family income is over \$74,357, grants provide 20 cents for every dollar on the first \$500 you save.
 - Regardless of your net family's income, if you save over \$500, the Canada Education Savings Grant will give you 20 cents for every extra dollar up to \$2,000.²⁶ The limits of the CESG are \$500 per year and \$7,200 over your lifetime.²⁷

- These funds have been overwhelmingly going to higher-income Canadians – about 61% of children living in high income households had parents who were using RESP's plans to save, compared with 42% of children living in low-income households²⁸.

Canada Learning Bond

- The Canada Learning Bond (CLB), introduced in the 2004 Budget, enhances the matching rate for the Canada Education Savings Grant to help modest-income families start saving for their child's education

- Government will add to a child's RESP by making a first payment of \$500. Families that receive the Learning Bond will also get extra payments of \$100 a year for up to 15 years, as long as they receive the National Child Benefit Supplement. The maximum CLB available for a child is \$2,000.

- A child born next year who qualifies for CLB contributions for the full fifteen years could have \$3000, with interest, to put towards their post-secondary education.

- The Government of Canada claims that if a low-income family adds \$4 per week to a child's RESP, in addition to the CLB, the RESP could be worth \$10,500 by the time the child is 18.

- While this number may appear significant, in reality it would cover only about a year's costs at university today. In 18 years, if current trends continue, it will not even be enough for a single semester of undergraduate education.

The Cost of the Saving Programs: Could the money be better spent?

²⁵ Ibid. These income figures are as of May 2007.

²⁶ <http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/hip/lld/cesg/publicsection/files/CESG-E-brochure.pdf>. Accessed October 2007.

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ Statistics Canada, *Survey of Approaches to Educational Planning*, November 20, 2003

- The Learning Bond will cost the government \$410 million per year at maturation. This includes \$325 million per annum for the CLB and \$85 million per annum for enhancements to the CESG.
- For the same cost as the CLB, the government could lower university tuition in Canada by 15 per cent or provide full-tuition grants for 15 per cent of students.
- For the cost of the CESG and CLB programs, the government could lower tuition by 30 per cent or provide full-tuition grants for 30 per cent of students.
- For the same cost as the CLB, the government could also provide students in Canada with grants that would replace 25 per cent of their Canada Student Loans, thus reducing their debts.

Parental Savings for PSE

- According to Statistics Canada, while 80 percent of low-income families hope their children will attend post-secondary, of those families in the lowest income quintile (those with incomes of \$25,000 or less), only 26 per cent were saving in 2002, with an average amount of \$2400 saved.
- 70% of those families in the highest income quintile (with incomes of \$85,000 or greater) are saving for their children's education, with an average amount of \$7000.²⁹
- 19% of children – some 1.4 million - will not have access to parental savings when they became eligible for postsecondary enrolment. Parents who had not yet started to save, or did not intend to save, most frequently reported lack of money as the main reason for not saving³⁰.
- Less than 30% of families with incomes below \$25,000 are saving for their children's education. The proportion is more than two and a half times greater (69%) among families with incomes above \$85,000.³¹
- Parents who have a university education themselves are 4 times more likely to be saving for their children's education than parents who did not complete high school.

Income Contingent Loan Repayment Plans

- Income contingent loan repayment (ICLR) plans are in place in many jurisdictions, including Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, and Sweden³².
- ICLR can result in longer repayment plans and excessive interest payments, unfairly penalizing those graduates who need assistance the most. Low-income

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ Statistics Canada, *Survey of Approaches to Educational Planning*, November 20, 2003

³² Unlike the other jurisdictions mentioned, Germany and Sweden do not charge tuition fees.

borrowers have to extend their repayment period, and therefore paying the most in interest.

- ICLR is also very expensive to administer and would require harmonization with all jurisdictional loan programs in order to be successfully administered.

International Students

- Canada is falling behind other OECD countries in terms of support for international education. Canada's per capita investment was just \$0.08, far behind Australia (\$9.07), Japan (\$4.94), and the United States (\$4.70), and Germany (\$3.02)³³
- At the undergraduate level, average tuition fees for international students pay over \$13,985, about three times the average tuition fees than Canadian students.

Tax Credits

- Finance Canada estimates that the tax support for post-secondary education will cost the federal government \$1.3 billion in 2004 (provincial costs would be an incremental \$750 million). Almost 50 per cent of the tuition and education credits are claimed by tax-filers with incomes above \$30,000 (roughly the median income for individuals), while more than 25 per cent are claimed with incomes exceeding \$50,000³⁴.
- Canadian governments collectively spend almost 40 percent of all their student financial aid dollars in the form of education-related tax credits, but these tax credits are distributed almost entirely without reference to need. As noted above, much of the money goes to "students from higher-income families – or their parents (or even grandparents) – who do not really need the assistance to ensure their access to post-secondary studies³⁵."

Types of Tax Credits and Tax Deductions

- **The tuition tax credit:** Ensures students don't pay taxes on the money they use to pay for tuition. Worth \$640 if a student pays \$4000 in tuition. Introduced in the 1972 budget to provide "assistance to students by recognizing non-tuition costs associated with full and part-time education³⁶."
- **The education tax credit:** Gives students a tax break for some of their costs incurred in school. Worth \$512 if a student is a full time student for 8 months. Introduced in the 1960 budget to provide "tax relief to students (and their parents) by recognizing the costs of enrolling in qualifying programs or courses³⁷."

³³ *Brief on International Student Recruitment*, Association of Universities and Colleges Canada, 2003:2

³⁴ TD Economics, *Time to Wise Up on Post-Secondary Education in Canada*, March 15, 2004

³⁵ Finnie, Ross, Alex Usher, and Hans Vossensteyn, *Meeting the Need: A New Architecture for Canada's Student Financial Aid System*, in "Policy Matters," August 2004

³⁶ From *Tax Expenditures*, Government of Canada, 1998

³⁷ *Ibid.*

- **The textbook tax credit:** Commencing 2006, post-secondary students were able to claim a non-refundable textbook tax credit. The amount on which the credit is calculated is: \$65 for each month the student qualifies for the full-time education amount; and \$20 for each month the student qualifies for the part-time education amount. Can be carried forward.
- **Education and tuition tax credit carry forward:** These credits rollover indefinitely, meaning that a graduate can use them whenever they want and can save them until they are earning enough money to benefit from the tax credits. Alternatively, they can transfer these credits to supporting individuals, such as their parents or a spouse.
- **Education and tuition tax credit transfer:** Allows students to transfer tax credits to their parents or spouse instead of carrying them forward; surprisingly a more popular option than carrying forward.
- **Scholarship exemption:** All scholarship, fellowship and bursary income received by a post-secondary student to be considered tax exempt (previously only the first \$3,000 of bursary/scholarship monies were tax-exempt). Effective from 2006 tax year, and will give tax relief about 100,000 post-secondary students³⁸ at cost of about \$50 million annually.
- **Student Loan Interest Credit:** Makes it so that former students are paying no taxes on the interest they pay on their student loan. **This is the only tax credit that is in anyway targeted towards need.** The tax credit effectively lowers the interest rate on federal student loans to prime + 1% floating from prime +2.5% floating. Also applies to provincial student loans. This credit was introduced in the 1998 budget “in recognition of the costs of investment in higher education, and to help ease the burden of student loans³⁹.”
- **RESP Tax Credit:** Makes it so that no taxes are paid on the interest or capital gains on Registered Education Savings Plans.

Innovation, Research and Development

- Canadian universities perform 1/3 of all research and development in Canada
- After decreases in research funding in the early 1990s, investment in university research grew significantly in Canada in the past five years, with an estimated 35 percent increase in real terms since 1997. Despite these gains, Canada continues to lag behind several of its key competitor nations in R&D investment.
- According to the Association of Universities and Colleges Canada (AUCC), the key issues facing universities are: establishing a permanent program to better fund indirect costs of university research, improving research capacity, boosting enrolment in graduate education, increasing federal investment in the research

³⁸ The Budget Plan 2006, p. 83

³⁹ *Ibid.*

granting councils and enhancing federal support for the growing interest in international collaboration in research.

- To put the target in perspective, Sweden, the leader in the index, spends 3.8% of GDP on R&D, while the average OECD country spends 2.2%. In contrast, Canada spends 1.8%. Other countries who have a better investment base than Canada are also topping up their spending and are moving further ahead.

Michael Janz
President U of A Students' Union
G10: BPSL (Best Practices in Student Leadership) Report
Nov 5-8th 2007

One lesson that I learned from the G10 conference is that our student unions are linked together in reputation and perception nationwide, and the failings or successes of students nationwide are inextricably linked together. When the students of Kwantlen College are accused of financial malpractice or the students of our own local Arts Students Association mishandle funds, the public do not recognize distinctions in organizations but rather paint students as a whole with a brush stroke of unprofessional behavior and impropriety. These actions stain all of our white gowns, no matter how pure we may be. It is crucial for us as leaders to ensure the collective support is present so that we may teach our peers in the student movement how to fish so that they can share the same successes that we do. Everytime that we have to explain our accountability mechanisms or service decisions to another peer organization, we inadvertently also take a long look in the mirror at ourselves and critique our performances.

The G10 or the "friends of Bill Smith" club as we jokingly call it, is an opportunity for us to gather together and share some of the perspectives from the Presidents and GM's of 10 like-minded institutions. Some of the topics covered ranged from Alternative Sources of Revenue (ASR), non-academic advocacy, service delivery via Web 2.0, future professional development conferences for student leaders, collective bargaining agreements, collective sponsorship agreements, and much more. I have a copy of our agenda in hard copy if you would like to look at it and I will be filing it in my Presidential Vault.

The intangibles of this conference were some of the most valuable. Though much could be learned by reading a document on future demographic changes in Canadian colleges or looking at a website of another Students' Union, the OTR chats, the dialogue regarding specific trials and tribulations and the stories behind what each school perceives to be their upcoming challenges are incredibly interesting and valuable for our leaders to know. As President I have been made more acutely aware of potential long term issues that I must incorporate into my vision for our organization. I am sure Bill would testify as well that the dialogue with his peers has been exceptionally valuable.

For follow up, I have some relationships to continue to develop through email and telephone, I have some important conversations to have with my exec and some of our senior managers, and I have a detailed .doc of personal notes for future executive candidates for potential pitfalls and plateaus that they should be made aware of.

My only regret with this conference was that it was not earlier in the year and I didn't have more of a chance to take advantage of this knowledge at an earlier date. But the year is not over until May 5th for me, and I fully intend to utilize these benefits until the last of my days as President.

Michael Janz
President U of A Students' Union
CASA lobby Report
Nov 12-17th 2007

As illustrated in the report by Steven Dollanksy Vice-President (External) to the Executive Committee, our decision to participate in the Canadian Alliance of Students' Associations (CASA) Lobby Conference sought to 1) provide us a valuable opportunity to meet with many Members of Parliament from across Canada and convey to them the importance of support for Post Secondary Education (PSE) and 2) to provide Steven and I a chance to examine the activities of CASA and assess the strengths and weaknesses of their lobby efforts.

In our meetings with the members and the bureaucrats our efforts centered around 5 priorities: A direct transfer for PSE, A Pan-Canadian accord, Reform to the student financial assistance system, the renewal of the millennium scholarship, and increasing accessibility for underprivileged groups. In order to further inform council of the nuances of these points, I have forwarded a fact sheet and a .pdf document for all of their reading pleasure.

The time outside of the meetings provided valuable networking opportunities for us to learn about advocacy at the other schools and some of the more important issues affecting students nationally. For example, many offline conversations were held with the Ontario schools who recently finished a provincial election campaign and were willing to inform us of strategic considerations that may be extremely valuable for us to know going into an impending provincial campaign.

There were many opportunities to network the UASU with national organizations that play a role in PSE. The AUCC for example, (Association of University and Colleges of Canada) were present and gave us some insight into their priorities and national trends that they are encountering in Canada on everything from the internationalization of our education to the Indirect Costs of Research.

This report will not present any recommendation on whether to join CASA or not, but will declare our latest foray a roaring success. The relationships we strengthened with very influential members of the parliament (let us not forget the years in opposition that many of these western folk spent with Stephen Harper before he was elected and the bonds they formed) will doubtlessly benefit us in future. The province has been giving us the run-around on the \$800 million that was 'earmarked' for PSE in the last budget by giving us absolutely no indication on how they will be allocating those dollars. Building relationships with these MPs will help us secure a better lobbying position to ensure that these earmarked dollars stay in the regions Stephen dicated them for.

It is indisputable that the Federal Government plays a role in PSE that has a direct effect on the undergraduate student.

Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative
Report to Student Council
Nov 20, 2007

Fellow Councilors,

I attended the Board of Governors meeting held on Nov. 2, 2007. It consisted mainly of various updates from committees and on upcoming projects. Of particular interest was the presentation from the Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, Mr. Ernie Ingles. The Board congratulated Mr. Ingles on a variety of topics, including the Bookstore's work to reduce the money students spend on textbooks. The new Espresso machine, which has since received campus and city media attention, was introduced and it is encouraging to see the possibilities that could develop for printing course packs and other class materials at low costs for students.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2007.

I also attended the Board Educational Affairs Committee meeting on October 17, 2007. Of particular interest was the discussion of the University's International Strategy which will help implement the international aspects of the broad vision documents: Dare to Discover and Dare to Deliver. The strategy calls for the establishment of a Standing Advisory Committee on International Engagement reporting to the Provost and President. The Provost confirmed that there would be student representation on this Committee.

The next BEAC meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2007.

Lastly, I attended the Board Community and Government Relations Committee meeting on Nov. 19, 2007. We discussed the new Canada School of Energy and Environment and the University of Alberta School of Energy and Environment (SEE) within the Canada School. Many new and interdisciplinary courses are being developed by SEE. I recommended that the SEE look at developing a certificate for students who have completed a certain number of SEE courses, to further integrate and involve students within the school. The Committee also discussed the Report to the Community, the Calgary Office, Centenary updates and the Enterprise Square Opening.

The next BCGRC meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2008.

As always, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Paul Chiswell
Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative

November 20, 2007
Vice President Academic
Bobby Samuel

Hey Council, I apologize for not being there (I'm sure my presence will be SORELY missed) but I am currently in Toronto (well, not at the time of writing but when you're reading this, that's when I should be in Toronto if you read it right when Late Additions come out). Anywho, here's what I've been up to:

GOALS:

Enhance Technology – more to come.

Improve Teaching – Attended a CLE dinner (where we discussed general academic issues) and the AASUA Teaching & Learning Committee (basically going over student evaluations and how to make them better).

Increase Bursaries – We are still in the process of gathering data on this endeavor, as well it will come in the form of a political policy later on in council so as to provide direction.

Reward Involvement – Not much has changed, still working on the original strategy.

Reduce Textbook Costs – NART!!!!!!!!!! I'll submit a report when I get back, we gave out materials prior to the conference so that all the student leaders are on the same page. Also, I may be presenting to AASUA in December on academic materials.

EMERGING ISSUES:

Exam Registry – The letter has been sent out and we actually got some increased submissions.

Online Fees – Same story as before, TELL ME ABOUT THEM!!!

Augustana Visit – The Exec ventured to Augustana campus in Camrose. We got a tour and discussed various issues that were coming up.

General Faculties Council (GFC) – Academic Standards Committee, Facilities Development Committee, and Academic Planning Committee occupied a lot of my time (normally the President attends APC, but since Mike was in Ontario I attended in his stead). Biggest thing is the name change for the Faculty of AFHE.

Faculty Associations (FAs) – We are working on offering some services to FAs in order to make their lives easier as executives. Currently, we are gathering data to find out costs. As well, we met with ESS and are trying to meet as many of the FAs as possible.

Professor of the Week – Congratulations to the recent winners, remember to submit nominations to Brittney at avpa@su.ualberta.ca!!!!!!

Bear Scat/Tracks – Negotiations are pretty much at an end. We're wrapping up some final details and the contract will be coming to Students' Council at the December 4 meeting. I tried to get it in for November 20, but there were some concerns still brought up.

HECOL 300 – I gave a presentation on advocacy, ask Councillor Geller how I did as she was in attendance, along with VP Gamble and Le.

VPX Report to Council
November 20, 2007

1. CASA Report – I learned an incredible amount at the CASA lobby conference and was very impressed with the organization and attention to detail that head office staff was able to provide. Next week I will be providing two reports for the next council meeting, one that evaluates CASA and one that includes a three year plan for expansion of our advocacy efforts. In addition, Janz and I will be presenting to council to try and paint a more accurate picture of the amount of influence and control the Federal Government has on undergraduates. I had meetings with the following individuals while in Ontario.
 - a. Rosaline Frith – Director General Canada Student Loan Program
 - b. Bonnie Brown – MP Oakville
 - c. Brian Jean – MP Athabasca Fort McMurray
 - d. Ken Epp – MP Edmonton Sherwood Park
 - e. James Rajotte – MP Edmonton Leduc
 - f. Laurie Hawn – MP Edmonton Centre
 - g. Rahim Jaffer – MP Edmonton Strathcona
 - h. Rob Merrifield – MP Yellowhead
 - i. Blaine Calkins – MP Wetaskiwin
 - j. Bob Mills – MP Red Deer
 - k. Leon Benoit – MP Vegreville Wainwright
 - l. Gerry Breitkruez – MP Melville Yorkton
2. Campaigns Planning and Action Committee (CPAC) – We are planning a large campaign for the third week of January leading up to the Board of Governors meeting. If you are interested in getting involved, please email Pam at avpex@su.ualberta.ca
3. Student Finance Board – I am out of the office at a Student Finance Board meeting Wednesday through Friday which is a Ministerial advisory committee that provides policy recommendations on financial aid reform. I'm looking forward to the opportunity.
4. Senate – There will be a plenary meeting next Friday where I will be distributing our lobby document.
5. Textbooks – We are working on our Government Relations strategy alongside several CASA members and are looking to utilize two helpful MPs.
6. Policy Document – You should all have one. We are launching the document to the media next Wednesday.

Have a great meeting.
-VPX

VP Operations & Finance Report

November 6, 2007

Print Centre

As promised, we looked into feasibility of debit/credit card in the Print Centre and am happy to announce that that should all be installed fairly quickly. A major attraction is that these systems no longer need dedicated phone lines, but can run through the internet.

Casino

Went great, with a few snags here and there, including me needing to stay an extra shift. Its all worth it when you think of the things that we can purchase for our services and building that would have been unavailable otherwise. I will be compiling a list of things that this money is directed towards when we know a) how much we will be receiving and b) the list of approved items that we can spend on.

Off-Campus Fees

I will be meeting late this month with the Presidents of a few college student associations around the province to hopefully conclude the issue related to fees paid by U of A students that attend their colleges. Currently we give to their respective student associations 80% of the fee that we collect from these students. The issue has been raised whether this split is still equitable considering the move to more online services, our advocacy efforts, and the idea of "Campus Alberta".

Surveys

A few groups from a marketing class have approached me about doing customer satisfaction surveys in RATT and Dewey's. They intend to create reports about results which will be shared with us. Awesome.

Eamonn is:

Meeting with parties interested in Students' Union support (Make Poverty History, dub5, a student, etc), plastering the executives giant images on the Wall of Gold, looking into Forestry Standards Council to see if they are any better than just recycled paper, and starting to write budget principles.

In solidarity
Eamonn Gamble