

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

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Tuesday May 12, 2009  
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

## LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2009-02)

- 2009-02/1      SPEAKER'S BUSINESS
- 2009-02/2      PRESENTATIONS
- 2009-02/3      EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
- 2009-02/4      BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 2008-02/4a     BOG - Report  
Please see document LA 08-02.01
- 2009-02/5      QUESTION PERIOD
- 2009-02/6      BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS
- 2009-02/7      GENERAL ORDERS
- 2009-02/7b     TRUEBLOOD/KUSTRA MOVED THAT Students' Council appoint one (1) member to the Student Legal Services Board of Directors.
- 2009-02/8      INFORMATION ITEMS
- 2009-02/8b     Kory Mathewson, President- Report to Council  
Please see document LA 08-02.02
- 2009-02/8c     Leah Trueblood, VP Academic- Report to Council  
Please see document LA 08-02.03
- 2009-02/8d     Beverly Eastham, VP External- Report to Council  
Please see document LA 08-02.04

# Report to Students' Council

May 10, 2009

Prepared by: Steven Dollansky, Board of Governors Representative

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**To:** 2009/2010 Students' Council

## Introduction

Good evening Council,

I will try my best to keep you updated with the latest news from the Board of Governors in regular reports. We will be meeting on a monthly basis throughout the school year and I hope to have a report in to follow each meeting. Our first meeting was held on May 1, 2009 and was quite short. The agendas will likely remain sparse throughout the summer, but will pick up in the fall. During that time I will be working to establish a strategy for achieving some tangible items for students, while attempting to remain in concert with the efforts of the SU executive. Please do not hesitate to email me with questions or concerns, and I will be available for coffee whenever you want to chat. My email address is [steven.dollansky@gmail.com](mailto:steven.dollansky@gmail.com).

Thank you,  
Steven Dollansky

## May 1, 2009 Meeting

- New members of the Board were introduced. Outgoing members will be honored at a dinner in June.
- The Board passed both the Students' Union and Graduate Students' Association Fees for the coming year. The Board was pleased to hear of the limit to our increase and the implementation of the Health and Dental Plan.
- The Board received a presentation from the University Health Centre on the developments related to the H1N1 Influenza A outbreak. The University has a comprehensive emergency management plan that it is continuing to follow. They are monitoring the situation, but are currently sticking to the basic travel warnings as issued by the World Health Organization.

# Report to Students' Council

May 12, 2009

*Kory Mathewson, President*

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## **Executive Retreat – April 29-May 4, Kramer Pond Lodge, AB**

The incoming and outgoing executives, along with Catherine Raitt Executive Assistant, Marc Dumouchel General Manager, and Chris Henderson, Director of Research and Political Affairs piled into vans and headed out to a quiet spot near Buck Lake. The retreat provided an opportunity for team and trust building, a chance for the outgoing executives to share their knowledge of the organization, and time for the incoming to align vision, set goals, and define the orientation of 2009-2010 executive. Major topics discussed were students' engagement and ownership, collaboration and accountability.

## **Board of Governors Meeting – May 1 2009 Edmonton, AB**

I attended my first Board of Governors meeting along with Steven Dollansky, Board of Governors Representative. Discussion points included the 2011 Universiade Bid. Decision on May 23. This decision will have some great influence on the buildings on campus, specifically students' space. The Butterdome was built under major time and budget constraints for the 1983 Universiade Games.

## **Orientation 2009 – May 6 2009**

I met with Carmen Olsen with the Center for Student Development to finalize the presidential address in the Orientation welcome package. I hope that my kind words represent the wonderful Students' Union and help inform conditional students to aid in their transition.

## **Council of Alberta University Students Retreat – May 7-10 2009 Canmore, AB**

University of Lethbridge, University of Calgary and University of Alberta met to set the lobbying priorities of the organization. Including: improving student financial aid (SFA), keeping tuition tied to CPI, increasing base operating funding to Alberta's universities, targeting of deferred maintenance, addressing disability resource funding issues, lobbying for the Elections Act to be more student-friendly. Other sessions included *Media Case Studies*, *Stakeholder Analysis*, *Policy Scan* and an outlook on *Emerging Trends*.

## **Canadian Alliance of Student Associations West Retreat – May 11-12 2009 Canmore, AB**

Representatives from University of Lethbridge, University of Calgary, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, Mount Royal College, University of Fraser Valley were in attendance. Sessions included *Active Participation in CASA*, *History of the Student Movement*, *Mock Lobbying* and *Media Communication*.

## **Council Retreat – May 22-24 2009 (upcoming), Nordegg, AB**

The ideas that we have developed at Executive Retreat will be shared in detail at Council Retreat, which will allow each of you an opportunity to scrutinize, and help define the best path toward accomplishing some of these goals this year.

*For the Good and Welfare of the University of Alberta Students' Union,*

*I remain,*

*Kory Wallace Mathewson*

*President*

*University of Alberta Students' Union 2009-2010*

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## **Structure of Reports**

Dear Council,

Since this executive is committed to tracking their goals throughout the year, my council reports will be separated into eight sections based on the eight goals I established while I was running for election. I have also added a ninth section so that I can cover issues I was not farsighted enough to anticipate before May 1<sup>st</sup>.

I would also like to take this opportunity to emphasize that the issues of the academic portfolio such as textbooks, teaching, class sizes and transfer credits transcend the student experience. Often thought to be a detached and committee-heavy portfolio, I strongly encourage you to think about running for this terrific portfolio next year, and to sit down with me anytime if you are.

Thank you so much for your hard work for students,

Leah

### **1. Great Teaching**

Working with UTS (University Teaching Services) to politicize and publicize teaching award winners, and to highlighting the importance of teaching Dean's, for instance.

Working with the advocacy department to do research on the sort of models I want to propose, what we know works: department oriented peer-to-peer support for instructors

### **2. COFA: Council of Faculty Associations**

The Associate Vice President Academic and I have been in touch with COFA recommending the meeting schedule for the year. The dates needed to be set already because COFA meetings will take place in Council Chambers next year to recognize the increasing profile and power of COFA.

September	16th	2009	6:00pm-8:00pm	2-1 University Hall
October	14th	2009	6:00pm-8:00pm	2-1 University Hall
November	12th	2009	6:00pm-8:00pm	2-1 University Hall
January	13th	2010	6:00pm-8:00pm	2-1 University Hall
February	10th	2010	6:00pm-8:00pm	2-1 University Hall
March	10th	2010	6:00pm-8:00pm	2-1 University Hall
Retreat	10th	2010	9:00am-12:00pm	TBA

Dan and I will spend the month of May meeting with all 14 Faculty Associations in their own offices and listening to their concerns. We are also pursuing an aggressive branding process for COFA, and establishing the mandate of the new two subcommittees of COFA: a working group and a granting committee.

### ***3. Undergraduate Research***

The premise of this goal is that if a student receives all of the disadvantages of a research intensive university, than they should receive all of the advantages.

The Dean of Students' Radar so I will be sitting down with him shortly, and following up on the conclusions of the Discovery Learning Task Force which advocates for a web presences supporting students with, say, approaching a professor to ask to supervise an honors thesis.

### ***4. Textbook Price Freezes***

Currently we are interviewing and hiring a new person to work with me a little, and in SUBtitles. This person will be going through textbooks to figure out what percentage of pages change from one edition of a textbook to another, and making a cheat-sheet for students in case they want to buy old editions. This position will also evangelize with professors about opportunities for price freezes.

Once this individual has identified classes with large multi-section student populations, Dan, this individual and I will sit down with them to pursue price freezes. The tools we learn will be presented to the Canadian roundtable on Academic Materials, or CRAM, when I attend in June.

### ***5. Make the Academic Experience an Access Issue***

TBA.

### ***6. Open the Portfolio***

a) End of June Dan and I will reevaluate the committee's we sit on and see where we can introduce students at large.

b) Tuesdays throughout the summer from 10-11 I'm walking around SUB listening to students talk about their academic experiences.

c) Blogging, since I was elected made available so that if you are wondering about what transition is like, say, for the VPA academic this might be a good place to start.

## ***7. Academic Advising***

This is the perfect issue for COFA because it's such a faculty specific issue. Hopefully FAs will apply to our new granting committee in the fall, and we can collaborate with them on improving the quality of advising on campus.

## ***8. Non-Traditional Student Communities***

Namely reaching out to international students.

- a) Working with Nick Dehod and Dan Vincent on a strategy
- b) Listening, power dynamics, sure receptive to concerns
- c) Ownership: advisory body of sorts (potentially)
- d) ----I would love your thoughts on this issue

## ***New!***

Because President Samarasekera has been rehired for another year, that means we will see Dare to Discover 2.0. The Students' Union submission will take up a lot of our time in the fall, and we will be soliciting your input throughout this process so stay tuned.

# Report to Students' Council

May 12, 2009

Beverly Eastham, Vice-President (External)

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Hello Council,

Since our last meeting I was only in the office for Tuesday and Wednesday, as Kory and I took off for Canmore on Thursday to attend the CAUS transition (May 7-10) and the CASA Western Transition (May 11 and 12). We shall be leaving the CASA transition Tuesday afternoon and, assuming all goes well, we should both be back for the council meeting on Tuesday evening.

## **Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) Transition**

As noted in my introduction, CAUS transition was held in Canmore again this year. The four days of the transition were filled with a number of information sessions regarding what CAUS has been working on for the past year, what the current provincial political climate is, and what considerations should be made when looking at priorities for next year. We also had an intense goal setting day and came up with our priorities for the year which include:

- Student Financial Aid
- Ensuring tuition increases by no more than CPI (while also lobbying for a roll-back)
- Lobbying for continued base operating funding for universities
- Deferred maintenance
- Finessing the electoral process for students so they are better able to vote
- Addressing funding cuts to disability services at universities

More information will be provided about these priorities in the coming month, but feel free to ask me questions about them in the interim (and also at any point during the year).

## **Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Western Transition**

The CASA retreat was also held in Canmore in the two days following the CAUS transition. This transition is held to provide the schools in the Western Region with a general overview of what CASA is, what CASA does, ongoing issues, challenges, and opportunities that exist for the coming year. At sometime in the near future I will be making a presentation to council with much of the same information.

As usual, there will be three CASA conferences during the year. The first conference is the Policy and Strategy Conference, which will be held in Calgary from June 8-13. This is the conference where the CASA membership will set that advocacy and policy priorities that will be worked on throughout the rest of the year. The next conference will be the Lobby Conference that is held in Ottawa and is where CASA members have a chance to meet with MPs, Senators and other government officials

## **Transition and Goal Setting**

Transition is going quite well, as is hopefully evident from the first part of this report. It is quite interesting being both an outgoing and an incoming exec, and it is actually a lot more work than I had initially thought it would be, but is also quite rewarding. I am currently working on preparing my goals in a format that can be presented to council. Please stay tuned for more information in the coming month (which is a current theme on most things right now).

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## **Communications/Social Media**

One of the major goals of the executive team this year is communication. We will be working on a strategy for implementing our communication-related goals in the next little while, but in the mean time feel free to check out the following:

Blog: <http://www.ualbertasu.blogspot.com>\*

Twitter (Personal): beastham

Twitter (Executive): uasuvpexternal\*\*

Notes:

\*according to the advocacy department the blog is currently on-hold until we come up with a communication strategy. I may try to blog anyways, as I am unsure how long the communications strategy will take.

\*\*something is currently not working with the search function for new people who sign up for twitter so you may not be able to search for my uasuvpexternal account through the normal search function in twitter. It should work if you type [www.twitter.com/uasuvpexternal](http://www.twitter.com/uasuvpexternal) into the address bar though.

## **Students' Council Retreat**

As you know, Students' Council retreat is being held on May 22 and 23. I hope that all the 2009-2010 council members are able to make it to the retreat as it is an extremely good opportunity for you to learn more about what you can do with your position on Students' Council, how you can get involved in council activities, and what you are responsible for as a councillor. Along with a number of information sessions, there should be a decent amount of free time, fun and relaxing (I also hear there are hot tubs). In my time as a councillor I found council retreats to be extremely valuable and, again, would encourage you to attend if at all possible.

If you have any question about anything Council or Students' Union related, please feel welcome to come to 2-900 (on the second floor of SUB right by the top of the main stairs) and visit the executive. I may not always be in my office when you stop by, but I am more than happy to set up a meeting with you if you like. I can be reached at 780.492.4236 or [vp.external@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:vp.external@su.ualberta.ca).

Cheers!

~ Bev