

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL

## Votes and Proceedings

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Tuesday March 8, 2005 – 6:00 p.m.  
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

### Votes and Proceedings (SC 2004-23)

- 2004-23/1      **CALL TO ORDER**  
Speaker called the meeting order at 6:05 p.m.
- 2004-23/3      **SPEAKER'S BUSINESS**  
Councillor Sharma's Letter of Resignation  
Please see document VP 04-23.01
- 2004-23/4      **APPROVAL OF THE ORDERS OF THE DAY**  
**BAZIN/WICENTOWICH MOVED THAT** Students' Council approve the orders of the day.  
Items 11c and 11d were struck from the agenda.  
**NICOL MOVED TO** amend the orders of the day to add item 12d from the Late Additions package.  
**Amendment: RULED OUT OF ORDER**  
**Main Motion: CARRIED**
- 2004-23/5      **PRESENTATIONS**
- 2004-23/5a      Tenant Business, presented by Jordan Blatz, President, and Bill Smith, General Manager.  
Students' Council moved in camera.  
**LEWIS/VANDERSLUIS MOVED THAT** Students' Council move ex camera.  
**Motion to Move Ex Camera: CARRIED**
- 2004-23/5b      Bar Revitalization Midterm Review, presented by Alvin Law, Vice President (Operations and Finance).

Students' Council made item 12e and 12f a special order.

2004-23/12e

**MOTION BY BLATZ, RESOLVED THAT** the document "Health Plan Memorandum of Agreement" that was sent to Students' Council on January 11, 2005, be recalled and classified as confidential due to third party business considerations.

The Speaker ordered the Students' Council adjourn at 9:00 p.m. due to lack of quorum.

### ATTENDANCE (SC 2004-23)

Faculty/Position	Name	1 <sup>st</sup> Roll Call
President	Jordan Blatz	√
VP Academic	Lisa McLaughlin	√
VP External	Alex Abboud	X
VP Finance	Alvin Law	√
VP Student Life	Duncan Taylor	√
BoG Undergrad Rep.	Roman Kotovych	√
Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics	Leah Bennett	√
Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics	Chelsy Shillington	X
Arts	Catrin Bergoff	√
Arts	John Chandler	X
Arts	Gabrielle Donnelly	X
Arts	Aaron Johnson	√
Arts	Tamara Larter	X
Arts	Chris Laver	√
Arts	Cameron Lewis	√
Arts	Anand Sharma	√
Business	Chelsea Baron	√
Business	Nandini Somayaji	√

Education	Sean Clovechok	X
Education	Trevor Panas	√
Education	Lillian Patz	√
Engineering	Josh Bazin	√
Engineering	Graham Lettner	X
Engineering	Jamaal Montasser	√
Engineering	Gary Wicentowich	√
Law	Tara Thompson	√
Medicine and Oral Health Sciences	Brock Debenham	X
Native Studies (School of)	Matthew Wildcat	X
Pharmacy	Erica Skopac	X
Faculte Saint-Jean	Sarah Colpitts	√
Science	Justin Kehoe	X
Science	Stephen Kirkham	√
Science	Darren Lau	√
Science	Scott Nicol	√
Science	Shawna Pandya	X
Science	Chris Samuel	√
Science	Kelli Taylor	√
Science	Keith Vandersluis	√
Science	Omer Yusuf	√
General Manager	Bill Smith	√
Speaker	Gregory Harlow	√

VP 04-23.01

March 8, 2005

Fellow Councillors,

I regret to inform you that effective March 9, 2005, I am resigning from Students' Council. My reasons pertain to my non-eligibility as a councillor this semester, as I have taken up employment with the NDP Caucus at the Legislature, as of mid February. Sadly, it seems that after 6 years (!), my undergraduate career has come to a close and I will be graduating this spring.

I want to apologize to my constituents for not carrying through to the conclusion of my term, but I was faced with a truly tough decision and felt it was time to move on. I would like to thank my constituents who have always supported me, both as an executive member and as a two time councillor.

I can still remember the thrill of my first council meeting as a proxy in the year of Leslie Church as President, and our esteemed Speaker Greg Harlow as Vice President (Operations and Finance). I remember my first SU campaign, working for Jon Iverson.

It seems like only yesterday that we witnessed a monumental battle between dedicated fee units and the SU executive, led by Chris Samuel Sr. (at council meeting that would never end!). I remember my first motion calling for the SU to oppose the privatization of services and contracting out of Non-Academic Staff. I recall the fight to assert that a tuition freeze was a legitimate goal to advocate, to the scoffs of many. Who can forget the raucous and charged question periods, where the executive was challenged over and over again on a variety of issues in order to hold it to account?

I remember running for executive office: the dejection and sheer pain of losing a close battle, only to be reminded of the incredible people in my life who were there to pick me up off the floor when I was down (and I don't know if any of you have ever tried to pick me up, but it takes some doing!).

I proudly recall the elation of victory one year later, not just for myself, not even for my volunteers and friends, but rather as affirmation that my ideals aren't all that crazy.

Tenting for tuition, campaign rallies (PEAS, Day of Action, our Tuition Rally), road trips through every goddamn small town in Alberta talking about high tuition, meeting politicians in Ottawa and lobbying at the legislature to conceited Conservatives and arrogant Liberals, pulling out of the useless Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, arguing with stubborn assholes on my Executive (but secretly enjoying every minute of it) - I remember it all.

When people ask me whether they should run for office, my answer is usually yes (unless you're Mike Reid or one of his incarnations). It is a life-changing experience that is so hard to get so early. It can make you, if your intention is good, a better human being and a better advocate.

Politics in the SU have changed, some for good, some for bad. I lost that motivation early this term, because I foolishly had to learn that you can't duplicate good memories, you can only create new ones. I also realized that many of the battles that I entered Council to fight have already been won. The ones remaining will take many years to occur, and at 23 I am nearing the quarter century mark and can't give much more of my life to a student organization!

*Effective March 9, 2005*

I truly realize now that it isn't the institution, it's the people. In realizing this I want to say thanks to this Students' Council for its dedication to the Students' Union. Each of you has worked to enhance the life of students on campus. I consider many of you friends, and these friendships are what have kept me coming back for these many years.

A special shout out to the old school: Greg Harlow, Steve Smith, Chris Samuel, Josh Bazin, and Roman Kotovych.

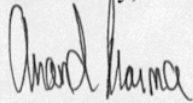
A quick shout out to the next generation: Justin Kehoe, Shawna Pandya, Jamaal Montasser, Chelsy Shilington, Leah Bennett, Catrin Berghoff, Samantha Power, Omer Yusuf, and everyone else who's progressive and going to be around a while ☺.

Finally I want to leave you with two requests. The first is to never compromise on issues related to accessibility and affordability. We have come a long way in finally articulating that tuition fees are too high and act as a serious barrier to participation, that a system of grants is a much better solution than to perpetuate student debt via student loans, and that students have the right not to live in poverty to get an education. Whether you yourself can make ends meet and have the support system needed to make it through post-secondary, we must always remember that many people are not as privileged and lucky. Never compromise on the right to an education.

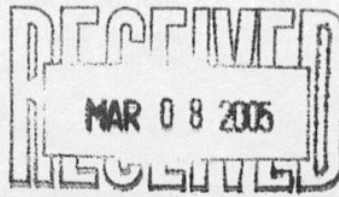
Secondly, national representation is an issue I hold close to my heart. People have often asked me why I dislike CASA with such a passion. While there are many reasons to never look their way twice, the one that I think is most important is that these "student leaders" have created a deep culture of personal gratification. It isn't about representing students, it isn't about how they can best obtain government help for students in the areas of accessibility and affordability, it is about cronyism and a sense of being important. This organization stands by and allows governments to consider concepts like Income Contingent Loan Repayment and other programs that adversely affect students, and refuses to challenge them publicly or even privately for fear of falling out of their good books. Influence cannot be measured by the number of lunch meetings you have being told what to think, but rather by your capacity to force a government or organization to act for the benefit of your sector. CASA does nothing but pander to ill-advised ideas drawn up by adversaries of a publicly-funded accessible system, like the Millenium Scholarship Foundation. My second request is that this body not consider joining CASA.

With these political requests I say so long. It was a crazy long ride with its highs and lows, and I'll miss it greatly. To everyone in the SU family, good luck, stay in touch, and make a difference in this screwed up world.

In solidarity,



Anand Sharma  
Arts Councillor 2004 - 2005



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