This past year has been a time of great change for the University of Alberta and our student population. We have achieved amazing successes including winning a province-wide freeze on tuition, breaking ground on the Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre, pushing back the withdrawal deadline, completing our SUB renovation proposal, and implementing the first undergraduate Spring/Summer U-Pass, only to name a few. We have also worked hard to overcome a plethora of challenges including the provincial budget cuts, our conflict with the University over Lister, and have advocated for pro-active solutions following traumatic events such as the HUB Mall shootings.

The Students’ Union is proud to continue providing tremendous value to the students that we represent. This past year we saved students over $1 million by changing our health and dental plan insurer, disbursed close to $1 million to students in need through the Access Fund, awarded over $100,000 in scholarships and bursaries through our Students’ Union Awards program, and gave out nearly $100,000 in student group grants. Students continue to receive an excellent deal in exchange for their $37.50/$31.73 Students’ Union membership and dedicated fees.

I would like to send out a huge thank you to my amazing executive team; Dustin Chelen (VP Academic), Andy Cheema (VP Operations & Finance), Saadiq Sumar (VP Student Life), and Petros Kusmu (VP External) who put in countless hours and effort to make all of this magic happen. I would like to send an even bigger thank you to our staff, the true backbone of the Students’ Union, headed by their fearless leader, General Manager Marc Dumouchel (SU President 91’-92’). All of our staff involved in services, businesses, building operations & maintenance, programming & venues, and governance & advocacy had a tremendous role supporting and fostering the amazing success of our organization.

More than anyone, I would like to thank you, the students, for showing up to our events, utilizing our services, giving back to the community through student groups and volunteerism, and supporting us in times of need. It is your passion and desire to serve your peers that gives us the inspiration to continue fighting for your needs. The need for a barrier-free, affordable and accessible education is more important than ever and I would like to thank groups such as CAPSE, the Lister Hall Students’ Association, every health & wellness group, and our international student groups for supporting a number of our key initiatives this year. I would also like to send a special thank you to our partner associations at Campus St. Jean (AUFSJ) and Augustana (ASA) for helping deliver impeccable service to our students at our satellite campuses.

I am more excited than ever to see our Students’ Union flourishing under its new leadership. The current executive is taking an unprecedented role in developing student engagement and building relationships with our internal and external partners all-while focusing on our core competencies; Building, Businesses, Services, and Advocacy.

It is with great enthusiasm that I present to you the University of Alberta Students’ Union’s 2012-2013 Annual Report.

Sincerely,

Colten Yamagishi
SU PRESIDENT 2012-2013
This annual report—part of the Students’ Union’s framework for remaining accountable to students—is intended to provide students with an overview of the activities of their Students’ Union over the 2012–2013 academic year.

SUB RENOVATIONS
Primary planning and approval for the SUB renovation was a major goal for the Students’ Union in 2012-13.

10,229 Visits to the Financial Aid Office

Project planning and design at the University roughly follows four stages: Functional Program, Schematic Design, Design Development, and final Contract Documents. In 2012-13, our goal was to complete the Schematic Design and Design Development stages of the process.

Throughout the summer and fall of 2012, the Students’ Union held over four dozen consultations with stakeholder groups – from the Bookstore and other tenants, to student groups, and the Dean of Students’ office. These consultations were used in the creation of the Schematic Design report, which was presented to the University’s Facilities Development Committee (FDC) in December 2012. Design Development followed shortly thereafter, being approved by Students’ Council in March and by FDC in April. In May and June, the project went to the Board Finance and Property Committee and then to Board of Governors for final approval.

The design and governance processes took slightly longer than anticipated, delaying the initiation of construction by about two months. This, along with other considerations regarding minimizing conflict with PAW Centre construction and ensuring full financing approvals from government, resulted in the project schedule being modified: Exterior work on the plaza and atrium will be delayed until March 2014. To compensate, interior work has already begun and will continue through the winter, with most of the renovated space re-opened by mid- to late-summer 2014. The atrium and plaza will be substantially completed in Fall 2014, with only the final landscaping remaining to be completed in Spring 2015.

The project has, with the exception of unexpected costs related to storm sewer relocations, remained on-budget. We expect that these unexpected costs will fit within the project’s contingency funds, and that the overall project will remain within its budget envelope.

In addition to the more obvious changes and additions, the project will make a major contribution to the overall sustainability of the building. It’s not a particularly showy element, but changes to the mechanical systems of the lower level of SUB are expected to cut energy use in the lower level by up to 60%. That’s about $24,000 in savings per year!

ADVOCACY & REPRESENTATION
Advocacy
The past year was very active for Advocacy. The advocacy efforts of the Students’ Union remained committed to protecting and encouraging the student voice in decision making, promoting high quality education at the University of Alberta and promoting accessibility and affordability to education throughout Alberta.

Encouraging and Protecting the Student Voice:
• Stood up for Residence Associations when the U of A Residence Life announced major changes to residences late in the summer without consulting students
• Worked with student representatives who felt their voices were not being heard on governance committees to encourage better student representation.
• Developed an agreement with the University of Alberta to create a student consultation framework through a mediated process.

Fostering a High Quality Student Experience:
• Continued to consult with students, administrators and staff on the logistics of a Fall Reading Week to promote student success.
• Developed a plan through University Governance to promote graduate attributes and competencies to improve education outcomes for students.
• Successfully advocated for changes to the elections act to make it easier for students to vote while studying.
• Successfully re-negotiated U-Pass with substantial savings from the City’s initial position.
• Worked with partners to host the Ignite Conference on the future of higher education in Alberta.

Promoting Accessibility and Affordability:
• Successfully advocated for the elimination of rental contributions within student loan calculations.
• Continued to promote the regulation of Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees to improve student control over the fees that they are charged.
• Advocated to the Province for the creation of a Rural and Aboriginal bursary.

Representation & Governance
The Students’ Union takes governance issues—transparency, fairness, and responsiveness—very seriously. We believe that good governance is essential to our success.

Discover Governance continued its mission of advising student and representative organizations, providing professional development and advice to representatives, and seeking to find ways to make governance more effective and broad-based.

A major disappointment was the lack of contested elections in several executive election races and the continued dearth of female candidates. The SU’s staff makeup remained gender-balanced, but at both the Students’ Council and Executive levels, gender representation continued to be unbalanced.

SERVICES
The Students’ Union offers members a wide range of services that exist to support students’ academic, financial, and personal needs. Our services unit also provides job and professional development opportunities to more than 50 staff and 800 volunteers.

Highlights
Center for Student Development: Student retention for day 2 of orientation was up significantly; partnership with the Alumni Association led to excellent events for continuing students, highlighted by a standing-room-only event by Dan Riskin of Daily Planet, and the co-curricular record was finally formally launched.

InfoLink: Renovated the SUB info desk and finalized partnership agreements regarding new info kiosks in HUB mall and Student Connect.

The Engineering info desk was closed and the space turned over to the Engineering Students’ Society.

Peer Support Centre: Increased volunteer and client numbers, and modified the volunteer training program.

Student Group Services: Revised granting processes, improved event planning resources, and increased staffing levels to meet growing needs.

Safewalk: Began a summer walk program and increased collaboration with Campus Protective Services.

Student Financial Aid Information Centre: Expanded financial literacy programming and worked with the Student Financial Aid Task Force to plan improvements to the U of A’s student financial support system.

Sustain SU: Farmer’s Markets added to regular program.

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108,059 Visits to InfoLink

601 Visits to the Peer Support Centre

The renovation project represents an effective collaboration between the Students’ Union and the administration. Though there have been occasional disagreements, these have been resolved fairly easily and with good will, and the University’s support of, and assistance with this project has been both invaluable and much appreciated.

Funding for the project is provided through a combination of a referendum-approved fee that will be assessed beginning 2014 (generating $520,000 to $590,000 per year) and a contribution of approximately $560,000 per year from the Students’ Union’s ongoing operations.
Gender-Based Violence Prevention Program. Completed a gender-based analysis, a community plan and collaborated with several other groups on a variety of projects, including Feminist Self Defense and educational speakers such as Jacklyn Friedman.

**PROGRAMMING & VENUES**

The SU organizes various events including Myer Horowitz Theatre, Dinwoodie Lounge, and SUStage, as well as coordinating a variety of major campus events. These events are designed to welcome students to campus and engage students in life outside of the classroom. Programming varies from entertainment to friendly competition.

UASUevents produced annual campus wide events such as Week of Welcome, Campus Cup and AntiFreeze. In addition to these large-scale events, UASUevents hosted free monthly movie nights in the Horowitz Theatre, a Singer/Songwriter series, and Comedy Nights.

The Myer Horowitz continues to be a very busy venue catering to student and university groups as well as community groups. Some of the acts hosted by UASUevents last year include Royal Wood, the CBC’s Irrelevant Show and Frank Warren of Post Secret. Dinwoodie was used by a variety of groups for a range of activities including the Imagineus Poster Sale, the campus musical, toga parties, gala dinner and dance space. UASU presented Faber Drive with Victoria Duffield and Christian Hansen.

**BUSINESS, LEASE, & BUILDING OPERATIONS**

The Students’ Union Building has traditionally served as the ‘living room’ of campus, a place for students that is comfortable, accessible, and friendly. SUABS acts as a hub for student services, for student groups, and for the social and study needs of students.

Our excellent facilities staff continued to provide a clean, safe environment for students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As always, when doing cleaning or maintenance, sustainability is a key consideration. We use environment-friendly cleaning products and are well-known on campus for our inventory of recycled and repurposed building materials. Much of the furniture that the SU uses is original building equipment from 1967 or from

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**THE STUDENTS’ UNION, THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**

**YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2013 WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GENERAL REVENUE</strong></td>
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<td>Student Fees (includes Health and Dental Plan)</td>
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<td>Business Activities</td>
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<td>Student Service Activities</td>
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<td>Representation Activities</td>
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<td>Reserve Activities</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL GENERAL AND DEPARTMENTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>GENERAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td>General Administration</td>
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<td>Operations and Maintenance</td>
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<td>Amortization of premiums and discounts on investments</td>
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<td>Realized loss (gain) on disposal of investments</td>
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<td><strong>SUBTOTAL: General Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>506,247</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL GENERAL AND DEPARTMENTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NET REVENUE (EXPENSES)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>506,247</td>
<td>506,247</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
the 1993 renovation—we just refurbish and re-

540 Number of Volunteers

Funds from business and lease operations go di-
rectly to offset the cost of our advocacy, student
services, and building operations. Without this
contribution, providing services at the level we
do would require Students’ Union fees to be ap-
proximately $50 higher than they are currently.

560 Number of meals made
by Safewalk

Finally, a new five-year lease was negotiated
with SUBphoto, which has proved successful
since launching in SUB a few years ago.

540 Number of Volunteers

at Orientation

The 2012-13 fiscal year was a major lease-cycle
year. Every five years, most of the space leases
in the building come open, including those in the
food court, and significant effort is devoted to re-

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