

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

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Tuesday August 13, 2013  
ETLC 1-008

## LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2013-08)

2013-08/1      **SPEAKER'S BUSINESS**

Fall meetings will take place in ETLC E1 018

2013-08/2      **PRESENTATIONS**

2013-08/3      **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

2013-08/4      **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

2013-08/5      **QUESTION PERIOD**

2013-08/6      **BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

2013-08/6b      **MILLS/CHELEN MOVE TO** amend item 6b to include the following principles:

8. Undergraduate student associations are autonomous organizations that exist to advocate for the students they represent.

9. Faculty and department support is appreciated by the Students' Union and student organizations.

2013-08/7      **GENERAL ORDERS**

2013-08/7a      **BINCZYK/HODGSON MOVE TO** appoint two (2) SU Councillors to the Council Engagement Task Force

2013-08/8      **INFORMATION ITEMS**

2013-08/8f      Brent Kelly, BoG Rep- Report

Please see document LA 13-08.01

2013-08/8g      Petros Kusmu, President- Report

Please see document LA 13-08.02

August 13th, 2013

**To:** Students' Council

**Re:** Report to Council

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Hey Council,

Before I proceed with my report, I would like to acknowledge that our university and our Students'

Union are on Indigenous land. Specifically: Cree, Saulteaux, Metis, Blackfoot, and Nakota Siou.

They are faculty, staff, students, family, and friends, and they are still here. I acknowledge that we

meet on treaty 6 territory. That treaty governs the relationship between first-nations and non-first

nations citizens. I am thankful for this opportunity for us to meet on this land today. This statement

will be included at the front of my report to council until either the time that my term ends, or

Council moves to makes a similar statement available for public viewing.

Once again, it's been very quiet on the Board front. Just about finished my summer class and I'm

looking forward to getting back into the swing of fall and winter semester classes.

Looking forward to seeing you all tonight (on Skype)!

In Solidarity,

**Brent Kelly**

Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative 2013-2014 | [University of Alberta Students' Union](#)

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August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**To:** Students' Council

**From:** Petros Kusmu, President 2013-2014

**Re:** Report to Students' Council (for August 13<sup>th</sup>, Meeting)

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Hello Council!

### **I. Budget Cuts + Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

For the past two weeks, some executives, staff, and I have been talking more about the SU's strategy in dealing with the institution's upcoming budget cuts and its draft MOU (since feedback is due by this Thursday). This has been an excellent exercise to make sure that we're all on the same page and that we strategically reflect on what we've done so far and what we should be doing in the future. Once we have something more concrete, I'd be sure to brief Council more about it.

### **II. Fall Reading Week (FRW)**

Vice President Chelen and I met with the Engineering Faculty's Dean and his Associate Dean to discuss the possibility of implementing a FRW. We had a lengthy and lively discussion surrounding various FRW scenarios. Right now we're currently waiting to hear back for more information from the Dean on how some of the scenarios we proposed may or may not impact the Engineering Faculty's accreditation. I'll be sure to keep you posted on this.

### **III. Community Standards Review Committee (CSRC)**

Vice-President Lau and I continue to spend a lot of time working with on CSRC – a committee that reviews the policies surrounding students living in residence. A point of large contention between the University and ourselves is the fact that we believe there is little accountability surrounding students being evicted. Right now Lau and I are planning of working with members of the CSRC to ensure that there is greater accountability and transparency when it comes to what's evictable. Furthermore, Lau and I are interested in implementing an appeals process within the university's Community Standards policy. We met with a Discipline Officer to further discuss any possible amendments to the Community Standards Policy and other-related policies. It's been a difficult and frustrating process but hopefully some good will come out in the end of it.

### **IV. Ignite Alberta**

Last year, as Vice-President External, I spent a tremendous amount of time on a provincial-wide, student engagement plan entitled *Ignite*. Phase I, the conference that took place last year in February, is complete and now Phase II is pending – provincial-wide student consultation on what the future of post-secondary education (PSE) should look like in this province. As President, I've continued to work on this project and assist the new members on Ignite's Steering Committee move forward. The Ignite Steering Committee solicited Request for Proposals (RFP) from external agencies to assist us in Phase II of the project due to how large the project is. I ended up spending a bunch of time working with the Steering Committee on this selection. An external agency was finally selected last week. Additionally, I recently did an interview with the Gateway on how Ignite is progressing.

### **V. Government Orientation/First Quarterly Meeting with the Deputy Premier**

Vice President Woods and I attended a Government Orientation session with the Ministry of Enterprise

and Advanced Education (EAE) and all the other student unions/student associations (SU/SAs) in the province. Furthermore, this also doubled as the First Quarterly Meeting that the Deputy Premier promised to have with students. Takeaways? The Deputy Premier was unbelievably impressed with the work that SU/SAs have done on Ignite and is looking forward to the results of Phase II, he has made it very clear that he wants SU/SAs more involved in the governance process of their institutions, and that everything is on the table when it comes to reviewing the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA) in the Fall (which is both a concern and an opportunity for students – e.g. tuition).

Furthermore, I asked the Deputy Premier a question regarding the University of Alberta increasing international students' International Differential Fee (IDF) and how it violates his government's rhetoric that tuition increases won't take place. His response? That the tuition freeze only applies for domestic students. When I asked him how he would justify the University of Lethbridge's (U of L) large international tuition increases (ours is only by the Consumer Price Index, CPI, and the U of L has a large tuition increase beyond CPI) he said he wasn't aware that took place. This does not sit well for me. As a result, we've been applying pressure on the provincial government and the University in the media regarding international students' tuition and it seems like a movement is starting up amongst international students. I'm excited to see where this goes.

#### **VI. Students' Council Goals Planning Session**

Last week Council continued the conversation of having Councillor Goals from retreat to a lengthy session in ECHA that was facilitated by Speaker Turner. Special thanks to Councillors Kareema, Natalia, Jessica, and Dylan for attending! Despite the poor turnout, the conversations that took place were excellent. This is the first time Council has ever done something like this in recent memory so let's take advantage of this opportunity and leave a legacy behind for our successors.

#### **VII. Students Union Development Summits (SUDsummit) 2013**

The other executives and I had the opportunity to attend the SUDsummit at the University of British Columbia this weekend. It was excellent participating in two-day's worth of intensive roundtables and keynote lectures regarding SU/SAs and hearing the thoughts of the other 50+ student leader delegates from across the nation. I can for sure say that I was really inspired by some of the talks I had with my peers and keynote speakers and that I'll be bringing forward some new ideas here and there to the SU.

That's it for now folks! Till next time!

Signing off,



**Petros Kusmu**

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