

# STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

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Tuesday April 6, 2010  
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

## LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2009-27)

2009-27/1 SPEAKER'S BUSINESS

2009-27/2 PRESENTATIONS

2009-27/2a Monarchy, the SU, and You! – Presented by Lucas Wagner. Sponsored by Leah Trueblood VP Academic.

Over the years, it's been proven that despite the SU's attempts at democracy, while generally good-natured, have been pretty much a failure. Some have even called Students' Council a dictatorship. Untrue, of course, but that's definitely the direction the SU should be headed in. In this presentation, resident expert Lucas Wagner will explain why converting the SU into a monarchy is not only the best choice for students, but also the most cost-effective for the Union as a business

2009-27/3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

2009-27/4 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

2009-27/5 QUESTION PERIOD

2009-27/6 BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2009-27/7 GENERAL ORDERS

2009-27/7b **MASTEL/SETH MOVES THAT** Students' Council approve Bill 35 based on the following principles:

- The Students' Union purchase the Republic of Iceland
- The Students' Union create a Class A Dedicated Fee Unit for the purpose of purchasing the Republic of Iceland

The fee will be levied on all Students' Union each term at a rate of \$20.00

2009-27/7c **EDWARDS/KUSTRA MOVES THAT** Students' Council reinstate the singing of the "University of Alberta Cheer Song" at the beginning of each Council meeting.

2009-27/7d **DUNN MOVES THAT** council approve the "Make Steven Dollansky History" Bill based on the following principles:

1. Steven Dollansky be abred from holding any more SU postions

2. Steven Dollansky be encouraged to join the Samarasekera Response Team

**2009-27/8**

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2009-27/8b**

Leah Trueblood, VP Academic- Report

Please see document LA 09-27.01

**2009-27/8c**

Nick Dehod, VP Student Life- Report

Please see document LA 09-27.02

6 April 2010

Dear Students' Council,

As discussed in my report of 23 March, I have decided to include the most updated draft of my internal final report for Vice President (Academic) –Elect Eastham as my final report to Students' Council. Again, while this report is no means exhaustive, it is meant to provide a public summarize of the progress made on my eight campaign goals, marked in bold, throughout my 12 months as the Vice President (Academic) of the Students' Union.

You will recall that in November I moved to a different smaller set of eight goals, with three separate internal objectives, in an effort to bite off an appropriate amount of work for the past seven months. While that has been my accountability framework up until 23 March, I thought it important to finish the year by returning to the ideas that got me here.

Thank you to each and every one of you that have made 2009/2010 such an extraordinary year for the University of Alberta Students' Union. We certainly had more than our fair share of failures, but we also experienced many unprecedented successes, and often those were thanks to your efforts.

Yours sincerely,

Leah Trueblood

### **1. Promoting Great Teaching:**

- The success of the academic plan submission I think, in the long run, will help us to promote great teaching.
- Because of the success of the academic plan submission, the promotion and support of the merger of University Teaching Services and e-Learning.
- Our excellent relationship with University Teaching Services got even better this year collaborating on ex) the location of the Centre for Teaching and Learning.
- Challenge for Mr. Eastham: protecting the centre in difficult budget times.

### **2. Raising the Profile of Faculty Associations:**

- And what a year it was for the Council of Faculty Associations. It is an unequivocal truth that, due to the focus by the executive, but mainly because of

the political tumultuousness of the Market Modifier discussion, faculty associations are playing roles in politics like never before.

- The challenge for Mr. Eastham: Understanding those roles, supporting them appropriately, addressing the fall-out of Faculty Associations holding different positions than us, stressed relationships with Faculty Associations.

### **3. Advocate for experiential learning and undergraduate research opportunities:**

- This is, in the short term, the biggest success of the submission. The Academic Planning Committee made the Report of the Subcommittee for the integration of teaching and research a companion document of the academic plan with the office of undergraduate research 'circled in red'
- Challenge for Mr. Eastham: explore the undergraduate research conference, navigate rough political terrain in determining the precise objectives of an office of undergraduate research

### **4. Identify the academic needs of non-traditional student communities:**

- This was a failure of the year. Apart from my 'Who is a student presentations to governance' and a desire to advocate for systems of fairness rather than based on anecdotal experience.
- Challenge for Mr. Eastham: Find ways to make real progress.

### **5. Freeze the Costs of Academic Materials where possible:**

- Great victories were made in areas of research, advocacy preparation and business cases.
- Challenge for Mr. Eastham: Get CRAM back off the ground.

### **6. Make the Academic Experience an Access Issue:**

- As with the Council of Faculty Associations, this was a paramount issues this year.
- Challenges for Mr Eastham: finding ways to work with other VP academics from across the province, and closer with the Vice President (External) to talk about the quality of education.

### **7. Changing the Portfolio:**

- While I am very skeptical that it is attributable to anything I did, I think the running of two over-qualified candidates for the VPA position has done a lot for the portfolio.
- The mastery of the Vice President Academic on the executive blog

- Challenges for James: continue to maintain the blog and social media mastery known by the VPA.

#### **8. Pursuing Great Academic Advising:**

- Coming out of the institutional access plan, which many of you were a part, is the new '3 R's initiative' and committee
- Work for James: coordinating efforts to get the '3 R's' initiative off the ground. Making sure that is a positive exercise for all concerned. Taking the results of this project and turning them into tangible plans and results for students.

**Prepared by:** Nick Dehod, Vice President (Student Life)

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

### **Shortened Week**

There is not a plethora of items to report due to the long weekend last week and because of the time intensiveness of the Dean of Students' Selection Committee, Nomination Committees, and Transition. I am trying to take some time to get my life in order before I begin doing another year. That said, I have begun transitioning myself out of the portfolio and focusing my energies on making sure that everything is in order for Rory Tighe when he takes office May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Dean of Students' Selection Committee**

The Dean of Students' Selection Committee took up much of my time following our last council meeting. The process is ongoing and it is unclear when exactly we will be able to give any further information before the end of this year. The selection of a dean is an exhaustive process and it has been a pleasure to be a part of it.

### **Transition**

We had another group incoming executive meeting over the weekend. We should be having at least two more before retreat. For the rest of the month Rory and I will be having regular meetings twice a week to ensure that he has the tools he needs to get the job done next year. Rory has some really exciting ideas and I'm really looking forward to seeing what he accomplishes with the portfolio.

### **Final Report**

I have begun working on my final report. It will likely act as a follow-up to my mid-term report from November. I would be happy to distribute this to Council when it is completed if you'd still be interested after exams.

**Thank you** all for a great year. I really believe we had a strong council this year and because of that we were able to accomplish a lot. Best of luck in the future and we'll see you out there.

**"To hell with circumstances, I create opportunities" – Bruce Lee**

# Report to Students' Council

April 6, 2010

Beverly Eastham, Vice-President (External)

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Hello Council,

Eeek! This will be my LAST report to council, ever! After two years of (in most cases) bi-weekly council reports, this seems like a reasonably big deal.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your dedication to serving in the best interests of students this year. Thank you for your support with events and issues, for the time that you volunteered most willingly and graciously. Thank you for your smiles and words of encouragement, but also for your hard questions and (constructive) criticisms. While this year has been anything but easy, it has been an incredible honour to serve the students of this institution in my position of Vice President External. All the best to all of you and keep in touch!

## Meetings

### Past Meetings (Highlights)

- Mar 23: Dean of Students Selection Process: Candidate Meeting 2
- Mar 24: Dean of Students Selection Process: Candidate Meeting 3
- Mar 25: CAUS Changeover Retreat Planning Meeting
- Mar 25: CAUS Summer Student Interviews
- Mar 26: Meeting with Niki Ashton, MP, Churchill and NDP PSE Critic and Linda Duncan, MP, Edmonton-Strathcona
- Mar 29: Exec Meeting
- Mar 29: CASA Governance Officer Call
- Mar 29: SU Awards Night
- Mar 30: UASU VPX Day Off
- Mar 31: Transition Meeting with Aden
- Mar 31: Student Resources Task Force Meeting
- Apr 1: Search Committee for UofA Vice President (External Relations)
- Apr 1: CASA Special General Meeting via Teleconference
- Apr 2-4: Easter Weekend (No Work)
- Apr 6: Stakeholder Meeting
- Apr 6: CASA Governance Officer Call
- Apr 6: Senate Executive Committee Meeting

### Upcoming Meetings

- Apr 7: CAUS, ASEC, AGC Meeting with Minister Horner
- Apr 7: CAUS Changeover Retreat Planning Meeting
- Apr 7: Transition Meeting with Aden and Duncan Wojtaszek
- Apr 8: SU Exec (Incoming/Outgoing) Meeting with Registrar's Office

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Apr 8: Exec Meeting  
Apr 12: CASA Governance Officer Call  
Apr 14: SU Year End Staff Meeting  
Apr 15: Exec Meeting  
Apr 16: Senate Plenary  
Apr 16: University of Alberta Vice President External Relations Search Committee –  
Candidate Interviews (All Day)  
Apr 19: CAUS Meeting  
Apr 19: CASA Governance Officer Call  
Apr 22: Exec Meeting  
Apr 26: CASA Governance Officer Call  
Apr 29-May 4: UAUS Executive Retreat  
May 6-9: CAUS Changeover Retreat (Canmore)  
TBD: CASA Western Region Transition (location also TBD)

## External Updates

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

**www.caus.net | twitter: #caus10**

Not much has changed on the CAUS front since my last report. While CAUS is in the process of winding down for the year there is still quite a lot of ongoing work to be done in regards to the non-instructional fee proposal and other random wildfire-issues that seem to creep up and need fighting:

Meeting with Minister Horner and Announcement of Approved Market Modifiers  
CAUS, ASEC (Alberta Student Executive Council), and AGC (Alberta Graduate Council) will be meeting with Minister Horner tomorrow morning. This is a meeting that the Minister called with our three groups, in which we expect to hear his decision about which market modifier proposals will be moving forward with his approval.

### Draft of Possible Non-Instructional Fee Regulation (Update)

After being asked by the Minister to think about what a potential regulation for Non-Instructional Mandatory Fees would look like, CAUS has been working on two documents containing our recommendations to the province should they consider moving forward with creating such a regulations. The documents will contain roughly the same ideas, but one will be a short over-view document, and the other will go more in-depth into the issues and possibilities. We will be presenting the shorter version of this document to Minister Horner at our meeting with him tomorrow.

Interesting to note is that New Brunswick government has frozen ancillary fees. You can check out this article <http://dailygleaner.canadaeast.com/cityregion/article/1007658> if you are interested to read more about this change.

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### CAUS Summer Student

CAUS has found a summer student that we would like to hire, however, we are still waiting to hear if we have received the STEP grant funding that we require in order to be able to hire this position. The STEP program has recently undergone cuts and this may impact whether or not CAUS receives funding this year, and could be adding to the delay in us hearing about whether or not our grant application has been approved.

### CAUS Changeover Retreat

I am continuing to work with Duncan to plan the CAUS changeover retreat which will be held in Canmore from May 6-9. We are currently looking at how we have delivered sessions at past retreats and how we can ensure that the program for this year's retreat contains the most pertinent information for our incoming members and is delivered in a way that is both informative and interesting (this is a more difficult task than one might imagine).

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

**www.casa.ca | twitter: CASAdaily, #casaacae**

My CASA work is winding down quickly. As most of the annual business was completed at the recent lobby conference I am not doing nearly as much CASA work now as I had been doing throughout the rest of the year. I am helping to plan the Western Region transition conference which will likely be held in May (we are still trying to pin down a date that works for everyone), and staying involved in the Governance Officer weekly phone calls.

### Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting of the CASA membership was held on April 1 in order to discuss the process that will be used for hiring a new National Director. The membership moved to appoint the Chair of CASA, Tina Robichaud, as the Interim National Director until the Policy and Strategy Conference which will be held in June (this is the conference at which the membership will be choosing a new National Director). As Tina will be moving to Ottawa and spending much of her time at Home Office the membership also moved to compensate her for her time at a rate equivalent to what the National Director would have been making.

### Canada Student Survey

The second report is back from translation now and is on its way to a graphic designer. It should be coming out in the next week or two. I have not yet received the institutional or provincial data for the survey, but we will likely be getting this fairly soon (it won't, however, have been analyzed and will only be given to us in raw form).

### **Student Resources Task Force**

The first meeting of the Student Resources Task Force was FINALLY held on March 31! While we had had a few previous meetings to figure out terms of reference for the committee, we had not actually had a task force meeting, so it is incredibly exciting to see this committee (that has been in the works for over a year now) getting up and

going. Most of the substantial work that the task force will do will be carried out during Aden's term, so I will be transitioning him on the issues that will be dealt with and then leaving it in his very capable hands. Former UASU President, Janelle Morin, and current Dean of Students, Frank Robinson co-chaire the task force which reports to the Provost's Advisory Committee.

### **Transition**

Transition is going well both in terms of me wrapping up the issues that I am working on and in terms of ensuring that Aden has all of the information that he needs in order to take over the portfolio. A decent amount of Aden's transition will also take place during the CAUS and CASA changeover retreats in May, but for now we are having one-on-one meetings to discuss pertinent external-portfolio issues and he is coming to as many of the meetings the I attend as possible.

### **Stakeholders Meeting**

We (Zach, Nick, Aden, Chris, and I) had an incredibly good meeting with ASUA, NASA, the GSA, and the Post-Docs about the current state-of-affairs that the university seems to find itself in. We discussed the possibility of writing a joint letter to Minister Horner regarding the funding cuts and other harmful decisions that are being made when it comes to our institution – something that there was a lot of support for and that we will be working on in the hours and days that follow. Hopefully this letter will be in Minister Horner's hands by the end of the week.

As Always,

### **Beverly Eastham, VP External**

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