



# Andrew Noble President's Report

April 2013

Federation of Students  
University of Waterloo

## Executive Summary

Hi Council,

Is it really possible that the year is almost over? Let's take some time to reflect. I analyzed my action plan, which was created in conjunction with the other executive's action plans, and looked at what went well and what wasn't done.

PRESIDENT'S ACTION PLAN REPORT YEAR-END SUMMARY				
Number of failed goals:	Number of goals will little progress made:	Number of goals postponed for future exec to work on:	Number of accomplished goals that met expectations:	Number of accomplished goals that exceeded expectations:
2	3	5	16	17

Overall, that gives me approximately a **77% success rate**. This was a highly ambitious action plan but I'm proud of the work I've completed alongside some dedicated volunteers and hard-working staff. More details on my action plan can be found at the bottom of this document.

Some personal highlights over the past year:

- Negotiated for the **full management control of the Student Life Centre**. 49 year agreement available on feds.ca;
- Successfully advocated for **enhanced student space**; approximately a \$500,000 commitment from the University
- Facilitated the rewrite of our entire **bylaws**;
- Led an extensive **new student building consultations** with over 120 pages of robust data on student perspective on student space;
- Implemented the creation of a new **First-Year Intern** Position;
- Saw an **increased voter turnout** from 9% to 11%; and my personal favourite,
- Developed a brand-new Feds leadership development system and advocacy support network known as the **Feds First-Year Council**.

It's been an awesome year. I've learned so many things and I thank all of the members of Students' Council for your support of my initiatives over the past year. A special thank you to Jesse McGinnis who has done a lot of the grunt work behind the scenes that enabled me to be effective. Below is my final council report but know that I will always be a supporter of Feds and I'd be happy to help anyone involved in Feds beyond my term as President.

Sincerely,

Andrew

1. **Current Projects and Initiatives**
2. **Upcoming Projects / Initiatives**
3. **Committees / Commissions / Boards**
4. **Spring Advocacy & External Meetings Report**

## 1. **Current Projects and Initiatives**

### ***Federation Hall Improvement Report***

- **Priority:** High
- **Partners:** Primarily Feds VP Internal
- **History:** The building was managed since the 80s by Feds. The University administration made the unilateral decision to not renew the lease, but they have publically committed to Fed Hall being a student event venue. Thus far, the following has been committed to in Fed Hall:
  - Low cost student events through a subsidy from the Associate Provost Students
  - The development of a business plan

The funding model of Fed Hall under Feds management was dependent on external groups (RIM, Weddings, etc..) booking the space in non-student event times. That revenue was used to subsidize student events under the management of Feds. However, with the University overtaking the management of Fed Hall, it is unclear where their revenue will stem from as they look to have more faculty, administrative, and departmental events in Fed Hall.

It has been identified by many students that the ideal event venue is not Fed Hall. It's too big, too "airy", and lacks what is needed for a student event. Many student groups prefer bomber, SCH, and the MPR for the size of events they run. However, many events such as comedy shows, large dances, charity balls, and Orientation events utilize Fed Hall quite well. The frustration is trying to figure out how the building can best be utilized.

Students voiced some frustration about the recent "Take me to the thrift shop" event where the coat check was not properly managed by Food Services. This is another example of the inexperience of Food Services in working with student groups and student events.

- **Update:**
  - **Next steps for Feds:**
    - **Look to confirm the length and the amount of the subsidy for student events, look for the University to sign an agreement which binds them to such provisions.**
    - **Continue to meet with Food Services Director to discuss next strategic steps for Fed Hall management.**
    - **Look to consult students in the usage of Fed Hall.**

### ***Federation Hall Negotiations***

- **Priority:** Extremely High
- **Partners:** Board of Directors, Executive Team, Staff, and various Waterloo administrators. In addition, Natalie Cockburn & Luke Burke as advisors.
- **History:** Students, through Feds, paid for Fed Hall. The building was managed since the 80s by Feds, but the land is owned by uWaterloo. uWaterloo made the unilateral decision to not renew the lease but they have committed to discussing compensation with the Federation of Students.
- **Update: The final compensation for Fed Hall is the management of the Student Life Centre. Please check feds.ca to observe the SLC Operating Agreement that we now have signed with the University.**

### ***Representing Part-Time Students Well***

- **Timeline:** Completion date: April 2013
- **Priority:** Medium
- **Partners:** Research & Policy Officer, Registrar's Office, IAP (Institutional Analysis & Planning)
- **Update:**
- **No significant progress made in survey creation.**

### ***Governance Review***

- **History:** One of the priorities given to me by our council, board, and Long Range Plan was conducting a governance review. At our board of directors retreat in May, it was determined that we should follow the principles of our Long Range Plan when making governance changes. I conducted that review, council tasked BP&P to implement the review, but changes could not be made in time for the Annual General Meeting. There was some concern over some of the edits made in the bylaws – specifically, trying to determine what the future role of council is.  
**Update:** Our new bylaws have past. Our bylaws have been updated without any changes to governance. I'm very proud of these bylaws and I hope they increase the effectiveness of Feds. I believe our current governance structure is adequate, but ideal it should be improved to a different structure. My governance review is still available through here for those who wish to review it <http://lists.feds.ca/pipermail/council/attachments/20120913/f623dda7/attachm ent.pdf>. I'm still in favour of the recommendations in that review. I believe you could have the VPs report to the President and elect all executives; elect the President before reading week and the VPs following reading week.

### ***New Student Building***

- **Timeline:** Undetermined
- **Priority:** High
- **Partners:** Various University department heads, Chris Read, Student Building Negotiating Team,
- **Update:**
- See attached Student Building Negotiating Team report. It is an ad-hoc committee of council.
- **Summary: The University will be making investments in student-space and classroom usage for students in the coming years. A new student services building continues to be in the works but it must be determined through various department heads who will go into that building. A timeline for referendum is unclear but significant work has gone into the research surrounding this project.**

### **First-Year Council**

- This went amazingly well. Details to be posted on feds.ca before the end of the month.

## **2. Upcoming Projects / Initiatives**

- **Long Range Plan Review**
  - The long range plan is set to be reviewed and revised in the 2012-2013 year. I plan on drafting suggestions for next year's Executive.
- **Orientation Review**
  - I've proposed a new structure within Orientation Week to include a Students' Advisory Committee on Orientation. The details of this group will be publicly available soon upon the final internal bureaucratic analysis of my proposal.
- **Exit Survey**
  - Results to be published soon.
- **Environmental Audit**
  - This has been postponed to next year.

## **3. Committees / Councils / Commissions / Boards**

### **a. *Senate***

**Synopsis:** The University is facing significant budget reductions due to lower increases in tuition and decreased government funding. Here's the latest President Report to Senate -

[https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/sites/ca.secretariat/files/uploads/files/president\\_2.pdf](https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/sites/ca.secretariat/files/uploads/files/president_2.pdf) .

Find more information about Senate here:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/governance/senate/senate-agenda-and-minutes>.

### **b. *Senate – Long Range Planning Committee***

**Synopsis:** The Strategic Plan of the University of Waterloo is in its final draft. There is a good emphasis on experiential learning, entrepreneurship, and campus spirit. Chris Read, Associate Provost Students, will be coming to Students' Council at 2pm to take some student consultation on some potential priorities in the Strategic Plan.

c. ***Mid-Cycle Review – The Life Cycle of a Student Task Force***

**Synopsis:** This group no longer exists.

d. ***BoG - Board of Governors***

**Synopsis:** Most interesting was a presentation by Professor David Cory. He is doing some fascinating research that really embodies what the research University of Waterloo is all about – the relevance of our research to benefiting society.

e. ***BoG – Buildings and Properties Committee***

**Synopsis:** The graduate students association president has been added to this committee. Further, I successfully advocated for a yearly review of the Campus Master Plan to become a part of this committee's work.

f. ***Advisory Committee on Traffic/Parking***

**Synopsis:** Meeting scheduled for mid-April. The committee has only met one other time this year.

g. ***Athletics Advisory Board***

**Synopsis:** Met in January and discussed many proposals. At the Student Services Advisory Committee students voted down all of Athletics' proposals which would have caused a fee increase.

h. ***SSAC – Student Services Advisory Committee***

**Synopsis:** A number of updates here – but I will differ to my VP reports to report on this.

i. ***USRC – Undergraduate Student Relations Committee***

**Synopsis:** This committee has discussed many things, most of which are covered in other areas of this report. Please contact me for more details.

j. ***FAB – Food Advisory Board***

**Synopsis:** This body is reconsidering their terms of reference. It has not met since the summer 2012.

k. ***Joint Health and Safety Committee***

**Synopsis:** This is a confidential committee. This committee will soon be evaluating some recommendations from an external review on the safety of ring road.

l. ***PACOD - President's Advisory Committee On Design***

**Synopsis:** This committee is still not expected to meet in the near future.

**m. Orientation Advisory Committee**

No significant updates to bring forward.

**4. Winter Term Advocacy Meetings Report**

I plan on reporting on this in my final blog post to students on feds.ca.

<b>Number of Meetings Per Term 2012*</b>			
<b>Person, Role, or Area</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Fall</b>
Chris Read – AP, Students	Advocacy	11	13
Various - Student Success Office	Advocacy	8	3
Various - Upper uW Administration	Advocacy	8	7
Various – Housing & Residence	Advocacy	1	4
Student Senators	Advocacy	3	3
Various - GSA Executive	Advocacy	1	2
Imprint	Public Relations	2	1
Former Feds Executive	Advisory/Research	6	3
Miscellaneous	Advocacy	14	5

\*This excludes informal, unscheduled meetings. It also excludes any internal meetings within Feds council, board, or staff. Further, normal committee meetings aren't included. There are many more committee meetings in the fall term as compared to the spring term. If you have any questions about what is discussed when I met/meet with people listed here, please don't hesitate to ask.

# PRESIDENT'S ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

## Colour Legend

<b>Failed action item</b>	<b>Did not complete but made some progress</b>	<b>Postponed for future exec to work on</b>	<b>Met expectations</b>	<b>Exceeded expectations</b>
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## Expand Communications

### *Two-Way Communication*

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Run extensive student consultation sessions (new building, Bomber, tuition/education, etc.)	<i>as needed</i>	Extensive Student Building consultations. Excellent Exit Survey Consultations. Exceeding my own expectations.
Develop Road Runners team to be more two-way communication focused	<i>Fall 2012</i>	We have a 3-page internal document that includes a proposal for a "Feds Ambassadors" program that would dramatically increase the amount of students involved in exec level decision making and further increase our engagement and communications efforts.

### *Student-Related, Consistent, and Accessible Information*

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Have first-year commission facilitate the delivery of this information to first-years	<i>Fall 2012</i>	We have redesigned the first-year commission alongside the new first-year council to develop relationships not just posters. Residence tours will soon start giving Feds information.

### *Serve as a Reliable and Central Information Source for Students*

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Provide training to council (not just councillors) on Feds info	<i>Spring and Fall 2012</i>	From council conference to FLOW to having consistent PAC meetings, I think this has gone swimmingly well.
Facilitate interactions between student leaders (council, dons, etc.); potentially via council	<i>Fall 2012</i>	Attempted at FLOW with low participation rates, however the Feds leadership awards brought together a great combination of awesome.
Host first-year campus life info sessions that introduce students to life beyond class and residence	<i>Fall 2012</i>	The first-year council is so much better than this idea. So the idea has been scrapped.

## Effective Advancement of AAAQ Education

### *Lobby at all Levels of Government and the University*

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Start a University Lobby Week	<i>Fall 2012</i>	Due to miscommunication between VPED and myself on the timelines on this and who's responsible it never happened. Was meant to be a joint effort. Instead of doing this, the first-year council has engaged in quite a bit of University advocacy over multiple weeks.

<i>Positions/Stances are Student-Focused</i>		
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Create a Policy Committee to separate policy from bylaws and procedures	<i>Fall 2012</i>	Lack of clarity about how this committee fits with EAC and PAC. Something for the future potentially.
Create more rigorous data collection standards and methods to gather student opinion	<i>October 2012</i>	Completed. It's not the most well-researched document, but it was developed as an outcome of the PNSB consultation.
<i>Efforts are Coordinated with External Partners</i>		
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Maintain relationship with WLUSU through continued partnership ...	<i>ongoing</i>	Good productive relationships with Laurier's WULSU President, Queens AMS President, and McMaster Student Union Presidents
<b>Strong Operational Management Practices</b>		
<i>Maximize Efficiencies in the use of all Assets</i>		
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Develop clear accountability and task division within Staff Structure	<i>ongoing</i>	Although we did some work on this as exec, it something that needs more review as time goes on.
<i>Motivated Team of Staff</i>		
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Host regular staff events	<i>ongoing</i>	Good success.
Ensure that we are sending regular updates to the full-time staff email list	<i>Rotating, at least weekly</i>	Good success.

<b>Promote Student Engagement and Student Experience Initiatives</b>		
<i>Obtain Student Feedback on Current Offerings</i>		
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Analyze data gathered indirectly through student building survey	<i>Spring 2012</i>	Completed
Administer an exit survey on all Feds offerings during the general elections for all students	<i>Winter 2013/elections</i>	Completed. Some interesting results on how Engineering and Math students are willing to pay more tuition than other faculties.
Gather feedback from student leaders and volunteers each term via an engagement experience survey	<i>starting Spring 2012; termly</i>	Completed in the Spring by VP Internal Russell
Develop a Student Union Survey, in collaboration with other student unions	<i>March 2013</i>	Not completed.
<i>Ensure Services are Up-to-Date and Meeting Students' Needs</i>		
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Define "services" and the parameters around use of student fees to sustain services	<i>Fall 2012</i>	Completed (by VP Internal)

<i>Provide Skill Development Opportunities to Students</i>		
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Increase the scope and number of PD opportunities available for volunteers	<i>ongoing</i>	Facilitated at FLOW and through First-Year Council.
<i>Develop Relationships with Groups and Departments on Campus</i>		
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Set up regular meetings between the SSO and Feds	<i>ongoing(bi-weekly)</i>	Completed.
Develop a defined, complementary relationship between Feds and the SSO; collaborate where appropriate	<i>ongoing</i>	Definition found around Orientation Week. Students' Advisory Committee on Orientation is soon to begin recruiting members.
Create an undergraduate Senators Caucus	<i>Fall 2012</i>	Done informally through meetings
Develop a relationship with the Residence Councils	<i>Fall 2012</i>	Implemented through a First Year Council
Remove voting membership from COPS	<i>Winter 2012</i>	This is a VP Internal thing now. But it's being done.
Increase first year involvement in first-year commission and potentially first-year council	<i>January 2013</i>	The First-Year Council has been a great success with lots of support around it.
Work with the SSO as they review Orientation Week	<i>Fall 2012</i>	MOU signed and new Students' Advisory Committee on Orientation to begin talking strategic development of O-week.

<b>Enhancing Involvement in Governance, Elections, and Representation</b>		
<i>Provide Updates to Interested Students</i>		
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Provide an annual organizational report	<i>March General Meeting</i>	If all executive complete something like this, then it will be easy to throw it all together into a document. Should be done soon.
<i>All Seats will be Explained and Filled</i>		
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Advertise open council seats	<i>ongoing</i>	Should have almost a full council to start 2013-2014 Students' Council.
Develop and train our Board of Directors	<i>ongoing</i>	Going well. Multiple formal training. They are prepared to handle their responsibilities.
<i>Student Representation will Accurately Reflect Diversity</i>		
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Perform a governance review	<i>Fall 2012</i>	Completed. I love it but not everyone else does.
Complete an elections review	<i>ratification at Fall</i>	Completed. Edits made. Could always use improvement though.
<i>Increased Participation in Student Government</i>		
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Actively solicit student feedback on issues and	<i>ongoing</i>	Actively being done on Feds Connect. Also the exit survey helped to see what

solutions to issues; present students with potential solutions to choose between		method students would desire in the implementation of a change of executive reporting structure (referendum).
Explore the implementation of a First-year students' council	<i>Mid-Fall term</i>	This has been the highlight of my year. Full info to eventually be posted on feds.ca.
Explore the potential for first-year intern	<i>Fall 2012</i>	Hired Brandon Gaffoor, who will be the First Year Council Director
<i>Broader Awareness of Electoral Process</i>		
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Use the potential new building referendum to promote the elections	<i>Winter 2013 elections</i>	It's hard to utilize something that doesn't exist. However, next year a referendum will surely happen. Vote yes for more student space!

<b>Develop and Utilize Collaborative Partnerships</b>		
<i>Align with a Variety of Stakeholders</i>		
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Develop key items to be included in a new Operating Agreement with the University	<i>ongoing</i>	I've made a little bit of progress on this but ultimately this is a big job that will take a ton of time.
Maintain regular communication with other student unions	<i>ongoing</i>	Good relationship with Queens, McMaster, and Wilfred Laurier Presidents.
Make an OUSA Presidents caucus	<i>Fall 2012</i>	Isn't working out as well as hoped. We're all too busy.
<i>Seek Out New Potential Partnerships</i>		
<i>Goal</i>	<i>Timeline</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Support the development of a new student building that is in the best interests of students	<i>Spring/Fall 2012, referendum in Winter 2013</i>	Going very well. We've successfully improved space around campus and a student services referendum is just around the corner.
Attend UBC's student union executive conference (Student Union Development Summit)	<i>August 2012</i>	Completed. Was a very helpful conference. Feds should look into hosting it next year.
Plan a Student Union Summit for similar sized student unions for June/July 2013	<i>April 2013</i>	I don't really have time to do this. I'll let David Collins determine his plan of action for this.
Develop a Feds Alumni Network; look at Queen's for an example	<i>ongoing/end of annual term</i>	We had 7 generations of Feds Executive at the Feds Leadership Awards dinner. Lots of positive feedback. Queens doesn't have a very good network anymore. Informal & social contacts is the best way to go.
Develop new media relationships	<i>ongoing</i>	Thanks to our communications coordinator, we are doing an excellent job being quoted across various media outlets including CTV, TheRecord, TheCord, and Imprint.