



# **Adam Garcia**

## **Vice President Education Report**

April 2013

Federation of Students  
University of Waterloo

## 1.0 Month Summary

March has been a busy month for a number of reasons, not least of which due to the number of conferences I have attended and been out of the office. Also, as it's budget season for both universities and governments, there have been a number of announcements relating to (your) money.

First, the Co-op Fee will be increasing by 3% from \$596 to \$614, which means with the \$25 fee for the Tatham Centre the fee will be \$639. I should say that originally, CECA proposed a fee increase of 5.4% so this is better than the worst case scenario.

Second, a new tuition framework has been announced. For those of you who have been involved in the Education portfolio over the past few years, you'll all know that this has been a long time coming. While OUSA's recommendations were not adopted, tuition fee increases will be capped at 3% on average, and notable 5% for professional and graduate programs (this is down from 5% and 8%, respectively). The Minister also noted that deferral fees and flat-fees will be tackled through consultations over the summer, which is good news for students in programs like Computer Science, Engineering, Architecture, and Pharmacy where flat-fees still exist.

I have posted two part-time jobs that would make two Commissioners, part-time positions. Over the month of April I'll be interviewing and training the new part-time staff, developing my budget, working on marketing action plans for the VPED portfolio, and working on setting up meetings with key folks related to my platform priorities.

## 2.0 Executive and At-Large Activities

### 2.1 Committees:

#### **Education Advisory Committee**

Education Advisory Committee had a very difficult time meeting quorum and setting up meetings for Mondays (also due to my travelling) so we held our last two meetings on Tuesdays.

#### **Co-op Students' Council**

**Responsibilities:** Forum for students to provide feedback on initiatives within co-op to CECA, and to suggest new ones.

**Timeline:** Twice per term

**Partners:** Director, Student & Faculty Relations, Co-op Student Experience Manager, Faculty Society VPs, Education Advisory Committee, interested students

**Synopsis:** At the March 27 meeting we discussed the new Terms of Reference for Co-op Students' Council and mandatory salary disclosure. The discussion on mandatory salary disclosure was good, and I think it's something for Feds to pursue over the upcoming year as we work with CECA on developing the new job placement system.

### 2.2. Commissions:

Please see their attached reports for information on their work this term.

### 2.3 Projects:

- **Advocacy Coordinator Co-op**

Luke has been working on a number of projects including finishing up and coordinating the publishing of the Academic Rights Handbook, research on course evaluations, examination deferrals, graduate retention programs, working on creating a coordinated strategy for Feds in the event of a provincial election, some research on technology issues on campus and the disconnect between infrastructure and students. Luke is also

doing some data collection and analysis on institutional growth and its impact on students.

- **New Ancillary Fee Protocol**

I have followed up with Chris Read on this, who has mentioned that change in senior administration has delayed progress. Mario Coniglio, AVP Academic, is being briefed on the issue so that we can get back on track. I am definitely disappointed in the progress so far.

- **Graduate Retention Strategy**

Although this was something I brought up during my re-election campaign, I have begun some preliminary groundwork on this particular item. I've actually had the opportunity to discuss with Mayor Halloran, who is very eager to pursue the idea and come to some sort of outcome sooner than later. I am working on meeting with some other partners including Tim Jackson (VP University Relations), and Jennifer Casey who is in a similar role at Laurier, and also sits on the Waterloo Economic Development Advisory Committee.

- **P/T Student & Volunteer Hiring**

Currently working to hire the two part-time Commissioner positions, and once hired will work on training & development, and hiring their volunteer positions.

## 3.0 Internal University Activities

### 2.1 Committees:

#### **Co-operative Education Council**

**Responsibilities:** A forum to review and advice on Co-op at UW

**Timeline:** Monthly meetings; ongoing

**Partners:** Bruce Mitchell, Peggy Jarvie, Faye Schultz, faculty reps, student representation through faculty VP Academic/Educations

**Synopsis:** CEC met on March 18 to discuss a few small items, including the Co-op Fee and the WatPD course re-design process. There were some very interesting discussions on huge growth to co-op over the year, which is catching up with CECA next Winter term.

#### **Senate Undergraduate Council**

**Responsibilities:** To consider questions involving academic quality and undergraduate studies and provide recommendations to go forward to Senate

**Timeline:** Monthly, ongoing

**Partners:** Associate VP Academic, Associate Deans of faculties, student representation through VPs Academic/Education

**Synopsis:** Next meeting to be held April 9, 2013.

#### **Student Technology Advisory Committee**

**Responsibilities:** advises UCIST on issues relating to the provision of information technology and information technology support to students.

**Timeline:** Ongoing

**Partners:** Bud Walker, representation from IST and faculty computing offices, undergraduate and graduate at-large student representatives

**Synopsis:** I was unable to attend the March 26 meeting due to an Education Advisory Committee meeting.

## **Copyright Advisory Committee**

**Responsibilities:** Advises the Provost and Library to promote and ensure copyright compliance within the university

**Timeline:** Weekly; ongoing

**Partners:** UW Librarian, Centre for Extended Learning, Retail Services, representatives from Faculty Association, Graduate Students' Association.

**Synopsis:** CAC has not met since Fall term. Heard word from Mark Hasslett that we may convene another meeting later in April or early Spring term.

## **4.0 Municipal Activities**

### **4.1 Committees:**

#### **Town & Gown Association, City of Waterloo**

**Responsibilities:** Represent UW students to all of the stakeholders involved in the Town & Gown Association, bring forward student concerns, and identify opportunities for integration in the community

**Timeline:** Ongoing, once every other month

**Partners:** UW Admin, WLU Admin, WULSU, Community Relations (Kaye Crawford), Councilor Henry, regional police and fire safety departments, bylaw enforcement, and permanent residents.

**Synopsis:** After the sub-committee on committee structure met three times, we forwarded a draft committee structure to the Town & Gown Committee for feedback and approval. It appeared that there were some concerns with the draft as presented, so we will be meeting further to discuss this. Other items discussed were St. Patrick's Day, Town & Gown putting for a bid to host the Town & Gown Association of Ontario Conference in 2014, and the City of Waterloo's Culture Plan. Next meeting scheduled for June 25.

## **5.0 Provincial Activities**

### **5.1 Committees:**

#### **Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) Steering Committee**

We have not had an official Steering Committee meeting since March 7. We have had a few conference calls relating to the new tuition framework.

#### **Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) Executive**

As Vice-President Administration for OUSA, I continue to organizing the documentation at OUSA Home Office in collaboration with the Operations Coordinator. I have been tasked with is to create a succession plan for Home Office, in the event that a staff member suddenly leaves the organization, which involves identifying key accountabilities for each position, and who would take those responsibilities on (if necessary) in their absence. This project will have to move to next year's Steering Committee as I only recently received the response from the Executive Director and I have been unable to complete it in time for the April 4 (last) Steering Committee meeting. I will be working with the other OUSA Executive to develop transition materials for next year.

### **5.2 Current/Continued Projects:**

- **OUSA Spring General Assembly**

OUSA Spring General Assembly was held March 15-17 at Brock University in St. Catherine's. The conference went very well, and it was a much different perspective as a policy author than as a conference host. As mentioned before, the three papers up for approval will be Student Employment, Online Learning, and Students, Universities, and the Private Sector. Though there were significant concerns with Online Learning and

Students, Universities, and the Private Sector, all three papers were approved, and if I recall correctly only Online Learning did not pass unanimously.

## 6.0 Federal Activities

### 6.1 Committees:

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

The CASA AGM was held March 19-21, by the University of British Columbia Graduate Students' Society. This conference is a "year in review" sort of year, with a final plenary that approves much of the work that was completed this past year as well as approves frameworks for next year such as the budget. If you are interested at going through the conference materials please visit: <https://sites.google.com/a/casa.ca/agm2013/>.

Some notable things to provide information on:

- Although no targets or metrics were set, the National Director and Chair of the Board provided an update on the Strategic Review. My favourite quote was when speaking on the year's "losses": "Committee attendance and general participation."
- The new budget was presented and it was acknowledged that CASA is taking "a hit" financially due to the withdrawal of membership by WLUSU, and change in membership status by Feds.
- All policies put forward by the Policy Committee (8 policy updates, 4 new policies) were approved.
- A new conference structure for next year is being implemented as there will be a National Transition as opposed to a Regional Transition.

#### **CASA Policy Committee**

##### **Responsibilities:**

**Timeline:** 2012-2013

**Partners:** Representatives from Federation of Students (UWFEDS), Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS), Athabasca University Graduate Students Association (AUGSA), St. Thomas University Students' Union (STUSU), Fédération des étudiants et des étudiantes du Centre universitaire de Moncton (FÉECUM), McMaster Students' Union (MSU), and CASA Home Office Staff

**Synopsis:** The Policy Committee held an electronic ballot to approve our policies prior to AGM due to schedules not lining up effectively. I have sent out a survey to committee members to gather some feedback on the year so that I can pass on recommendations to next year's Policy Committee.