



Adam Garcia

Vice President Education

Report

December 2013

Federation of Students
University of Waterloo

1.0 Executive-Related Activities

1.1 Committees:

Education Advisory Committee

EAC will be held Mondays at 6:00p.m.

Undergraduate Student Relations Committee

Responsibilities: A forum to discuss undergraduate student issues in a broad sense at UW.

Timeline: Monthly meetings; ongoing

Partners: Beth Jewkes, Chris Read, Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Feds Executive

Synopsis: I was absent for the November 21 meeting due to CASA LobbyCon. Next meeting: December 19.

1.2 Commissions:

To get in contact with either of the staff:

Andrew Clubine, Municipal Affairs Commissioner, municipal@feds.ca

Maaz Yasin, Academic Affairs Commissioner, academic@feds.ca

2.0 University-Related 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: Beth Jewkes, Peggy Jarvie, Faye Schultz, faculty reps, student representation through faculty VP Academic/Educations

Synopsis: I was absent for the November 19 meeting due to CASA LobbyCon. Next meeting: December 17.

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: UW VP Academic & Provost, Associate Deans of Faculties, student representation through VP Academic/Education

Synopsis: Next meeting: December 10.

English Language Proficiency Working Group

Responsibilities: Advises the Provost and his Special Advisor on English Language Competency on strategies to implement the recommendations of the Stublely Report on English Language Proficiency.

Timeline: Ongoing

Partners: Sheila Ager, Judi Jewinski, Mario Coniglio, Donna Ellis, Associate Deans of Faculties, Writing Centre

Synopsis: Next meeting: December 9.

Provost's Advisory Committee on Scheduling

Responsibilities: Advises the Provost and the Registrar's Office on systems and business practices related to implementation of a new course timetabling software

Timeline: Ongoing

Partners: Mario Conglio, Ken Lavigne, Mark Walker, Registrar's Office representatives, Faculty representatives, FAUW, GSA

Synopsis: Next meeting: December 2.

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: Next meeting: December 9.

3.0 External Activities

3.1 Municipal/Regional-level

Town & Gown Committee, 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: WULSU, Waterloo Community Relations (Kaye Crawford), Councilor Henry, UW, WLU, regional police and fire safety departments, bylaw enforcement, and permanent residents.

Synopsis: Next meeting: November 26.

3.2 Provincial-level

Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA)

Responsibilities: Represent UW students to the provincial government through an alliance of like-minded undergraduate student associations. For more information on OUSA visit: www.ousa.ca.

Timeline: Ongoing

Partners: OUSA Home Office staff, BUSU, MAPS, MSU, Queen's-AMS, TOSA, USC-Western, WLUSU

Synopsis: OUSA Lobby Conference will be held December 3-6 in Toronto.

Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) Steering Committee

Responsibilities: Represent UW undergraduate students to OUSA and serve the OUSA Steering Committee as Secretary of the Corporation.

Timeline: Ongoing

Partners: OUSA Home Office staff, BUSU, MAPS, MSU, Queen's-AMS, TOSA, USC-Western, WLUSU

Synopsis: No updates.

3.3 Federal-level

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

Responsibilities: Represent UW students to the federal government through an alliance of like-minded undergraduate, graduate, college, and polytechnic student associations from across Canada. For more information on CASA visit: www.casa-aca.com.

Timeline: Ongoing, monthly

Partners: CASA Home Office staff, ASU, AUGSA, BUSU, DSU, FEECUM, GSA-UW, GSS-UBC, MSU, MASU, RRCSA, SMUSA, SAITSA, SFXSU, STUSU, SAMRU, UASU, UCSU, ULSU, UNB-SRC, UNB-SU, UPEISU, UFVSU, USC-Western

Synopsis: CASA National Advocacy Week was held November 18-22 in Ottawa. This is the week where CASA aims to meet with as many Parliamentarians and civil servants as possible. I am pleased to report that we held about 120 meetings with MPs, Senators, political staff, and civil servants. Feds was able to participate in about 20 meetings between our four delegates, including local MPs Peter Braid and Gary Goodyear. Others

included the Hon. Thomas Mulcair, which was a very exciting meeting to take part in. The items we were advocating on were: reforms to student financial assistance (CSLP & CSGP), mental health, study permits for international students, research and academic materials, and the Aboriginal Post-Secondary Student Support Program. General feedback from delegates was that there were too many asks in the documents, leading to a lack of cohesion in the messaging in the meetings, and that the layout of the lobby documents was poor.

Additionally, at the Plenary, the membership approved new policies on the Federal Study-Worker Program, Grants for Graduate Students, and Open Educational Resources. The membership did not approve two policies related to the commercialization of research, due to their lack of relevance to post-secondary education and the scope of CASA. We also approved a plan for a CASA Campaign on student debt.

Due to the release of the news article in the Western Gazette mentioned last Council meeting, myself, and the reps from MSU and USC met with the Board to discuss policy and advocacy and it was a very productive meeting. We will be sending a summary of our meeting to the Board for them to discuss further.

4.0 Meetings with Decision-makers

4.1 University-level:

No meetings to report.

4.2 Municipal/Regional-level:

No meetings to report.

4.3 Provincial-level:

No meetings to report.

4.4 Federal-level:

No meetings to report.

4.5 Other:

No meetings to report.

5.0 Upcoming Activities

This is a list of scheduled, upcoming activities/meetings before the next Council meeting:

- OUSA Lobby Conference, December 3-6.