



Adam Garcia

Vice President Education

Report

January 2014

Federation of Students
University of Waterloo

1.0 Executive-Related Activities

1.1 Committees:

Education Advisory Committee

EAC meetings TBD.

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: The December 19 meeting was canceled. Next meeting: January 16.

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: The December 17 meeting was canceled as it was late in the term. Next meeting January 21.

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: At the December 10 meeting we discussed curricular items for Environment, Math and Science, program reviews for Physics & Astronomy, Computational Mathematics, Drama and History, and an update on the Strategic Plan – Academic Programming theme group. Next meeting: January 14.

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 Stubleby Report on English Language Proficiency.

Timeline: Ongoing

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

Synopsis: I was unable to attend the December 9 meeting. Next meeting: January 20.

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: At the December 2 meeting, there was a discussion on some of the preliminary results on the third simulation of the scheduling software. The faculty association concerns continue to be related to the adherence of department scheduling representatives with regards to scheduling procedures. At the January 3 meeting we saw full results for the simulation including student data, instructor data, and room bookings data. The vast majority of students' schedules have improved, beyond some Engineering students that had abnormally long days without breaks, though this can be resolved with some "forcing" that the Registrar's Office will do manually. The committee endorsed the project to be implemented for the Spring 2014 schedule generation.

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: I was unable to attend the December 9 meeting. Next meeting: February 3.

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 schedule for January 28.

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: The OUSA Lobby Conference was a grand success! Fall GA delegate Leigh McDougall and I attend the conference in Toronto and between the two of us participated in over 25 meetings, including Minister of Training, Colleges, and Universities Brad Duguid. This was a particularly exciting week as we saw several announcements that were favourable to students including protections for co-op students in the Occupational Health & Safety Act, announcements on tuition-related fees, and the productivity and innovation fund.

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: At the December 6 meeting we discussed some edits to the bylaws, a new media policy, and updates on the upcoming campaigns. We also finalized the authors and deadlines for the Spring GA policy papers including: System Growth, Aboriginal Students, and International Students, and an update to the Online Learning policy paper. Next meeting: January 9.

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-acae.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: No updates.

4.0 Meetings with Decision-makers

4.1 University-level:

No meetings to report.

4.2 Municipal/Regional-level:

Brenda Halloran, Mayor, City of Waterloo & Town & Gown Stakeholders

- The Mayor of Waterloo gathered a meeting of the relevant stakeholders with regards to a solution to the perceived St. Patrick's Day street party. While the process has been frustrating, after some strong-arming by Feds and WLU, the City has been pulling together the logistics for some reasonable alternatives including a street festival in Uptown Waterloo. Next meeting: January 17.

Gethyn Beniston, Region of Waterloo

- Due to Feds' representatives unavailability for the regular UPASS Working Group meeting, Suzanne, Natasha and I met with Gethyn Beniston and other representatives from Grant River Transit to discuss service changes to the route map (which are not to near-campus neighbourhood routes), to discuss implementation of a smartcard pass system, and to notify us that the proposed fare increases would lead to a 7% fare increase.

Council, Region of Waterloo

- On January 7, Stephen Franchetto (WLUSU) and I presented to Regional Council at the Public Input Budget session with regards to fare increases. Should the Region increase fare rates at the same rate as proposed Feds will be required to put the UPASS to referendum this year. The budget will be announced January 15.

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 Steering Committee, January 9
- OUSA Budget Submission to Standing Committee on Financial and Economic Affairs, January 16 (Tentative)