

1.0 Executive Summary

The past few weeks have gone by quickly, since I've only been in the office about

a week and a half since our last Council meeting, due to the OUSA Strategy Conference.

I've also had the chance to have several meetings with Members of Parliament, which is always fun. I feel we have the opportunity to make some good progress on co-op income exemptions from the Canada Student Loans Program needs assessment, which should lead to some additional financial assistance for co-op students. I'll be working with CASA and OUSA to develop some research and briefing materials as follow-up for all the MPs we have met with on the issue.

Some of the upcoming projects for August will be developing a campaign to educate students about ancillary fees and a process for Feds to address "sketchy fees," initiating some municipal plans on student quality of life off-campus, trying to have meetings with our local MPPs, and beginning work on the OUSA Policy Paper I will be co-authoring!

Some things to note: the University has approved two new sets of guidelines, one to address online learning systems outages (e.g. LEARN) and one to address ancillary fees in the classroom check them out: <https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/service-interruptions-online-learning-environment-guidelines-instructors> and <https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/textbooks-clickers-field-trips-and-use-online-resources-guidelines-instructors>. It's great that these have been developed so instructors are aware of protocols, but also so students have guides to refer to.

2.0 Executive-Related Activities

2.1 Committees:

Education Advisory Committee

EAC meetings are to be held Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Please contact me ahead of the meeting if you would like to attend due to a larger committee.

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: Next meeting to be held September 19.

2.2 Commissions:

To get in contact with either of the staff:

Taylor Emond, Local Affairs Commissioner, local@feds.ca

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

They are sharing an office in SLC 3107, holding sporadic hours as their weekly schedules change with meetings and courses, etc.

Commissioners will be providing reports to me towards the end of August identifying their term summary and plans for the Fall term. Once complete, they can be circulated to Council as well.

3.0 University-Related University Activities

3.1 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: Meetings to resume in September.

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: Meetings to resume in September.

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: Meetings to resume in September.

4.0 External Activities

4.1 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, Community Relations (Kaye Crawford), Councilor Henry, regional police and fire safety departments, bylaw enforcement, and permanent residents.

Synopsis: At the July 17 meeting, the new Terms of Reference were approved, which will now be forwarded to City Council for approval. This means that the Town & Gown Committee will soon have two tiers to it: a Steering Committee similar to OUSA's Steering Committee made up of the "bigger" stakeholders, and the Town & Gown Committee will be the broad-based multi-agency committee it was before. The Steering Committee will be responsible for higher level strategies and identifying funding opportunities, whereas the Town & Gown Committee will be the broader base of input, issue identification, and solution-finding.

4.2 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, monthly Steering Committee meetings

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

Synopsis: No updates.

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: Our annual Strategy Conference was held in Collingwood July 9-12, with all available Steering Committee members (MAPS' delegate was unable to attend) and all Home Office staff. The week was very productive, culminating in the beginnings of the creation of our annual action plan, the approval of our budget, and approving almost all of the important dates for the next six months. The six papers we plan to bring forward this year are all re-writes: Access Strategy, Ancillary Fees, Student Success, Aboriginal Students, International Students, and System Growth. I'll be co-writing Access with TK Pritchard from Queen's to be brought forward at the Fall General Assembly, which will be held November 1-3. If you are interested, you should mark it in your calendar!

Moving forward, the Executive Director and the Executive have each taken sections of the action plan to finalize (I have selected Communications), and will be bringing the final plan to Steering Committee at our next meeting on August 16th.

I have also been asked to support the hiring process for one of OUSA's Home Office staff positions, the Operations Coordinator, and will be out of the office on August 12th for this as well. If you are looking for a full-time job starting in late August or know someone who is, please consider suggesting this position to them.

4.3 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.

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Board of Directors

Responsibilities: Act in the best interests of CASA from a legal and financial perspective.

Timeline: Ongoing, weekly meetings

Partners: CASA Home Office staff, Amanda Nielsen, Chair (AUGSA), Lauren MacLean, Treasurer, (RRCSA), Shane Potter, Secretary (UFVSU), Missy Chareka (SAMRU), Ben Gunn-Doerge (SFXSU), Raphael Jacob (UCSU)

Synopsis: I was unable to phone in to the July 11th Board meeting due to the OUSA Strategy Conference, but from the agenda, nothing substantial was discussed. The Board is having difficulty finding a time that all members are available, but

5.0 Meetings with Decision-makers

5.1 University-level:

Rob Esselment, Senior Manager, Government Relations

- Rob and I meet monthly to discuss provincial and federal issues, as well as some municipal issues.

Chris Read, Associate Provost, Students & Dennis Huber, VP Administration & Finance

- Met to discuss the mid-term tuition increase. Specifically focused on communications strategies moving forward, as well as student financial support for international students.

Kelly McManus, Senior Manager, Community Relations and Events

- This was a preliminary meeting between Kelly, Suzanne, David and I on Kelly's role and how it fits in with Feds and student community activities.

5.2 Municipal/Regional-level:

None to report.

5.3 Provincial-level:

Stephen Franchetto and I have been working to meet with all local MPPs over the summer. Our only scheduled meeting with John Milloy (MPP Kitchener-Centre) was rescheduled for later in August. Catherine Fife (MPP Kitchener-Waterloo) has indicated that Fall would be best for her.

5.4 Federal-level:

Peter Braid, Member of Parliament (Kitchener-Waterloo)

- Preliminary meeting to touch base on build on relationship. Discussed deferred maintenance and capital improvements projects as well as exempting income earned on co-op work terms from the CSLP needs assessment.

Stephen Woodworth, Member of Parliament (Kitchener Centre)

- Preliminary meeting to touch base on build on relationship. Discussed deferred maintenance and capital improvements projects as well as exempting income earned on co-op work terms from the CSLP needs assessment. Stephen made a commitment to follow up with CSLP on the co-op earnings issue once we provided some more information.

Gary Goodyear, Member of Parliament (Cambridge-North Dumfries)/Minister of State (Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario)

- Preliminary meeting to touch base on build on relationship. Discussed deferred maintenance and capital improvements projects as well as exempting income earned on co-op work terms from the CSLP needs assessment. Gary was very interested in co-operative education and how to promote that model to ensure students become more entrepreneurial.

5.5 Other:

Robbie Henderson, President, Graduate Students Association

- Discussed the Scheduling, Timetabling, and Examinations Project and some concerns raised by FAUW and how student concerns align.

6.0 Upcoming Activities

This is a list of scheduled, upcoming activities that will take me out of office:

- OUSA Think Tank on Access Strategy Policy Paper (August 2 – Tentative)
- OUSA Operations Coordinator Hiring Panel (August 12)

- OUSA Steering Committee (August 16)

Adam Garcia
Vice President Education
Report

August 2013

Federation of Students
University of Waterloo