



Adam Garcia

Vice President Education

Report

March 2014

Federation of Students
University of Waterloo

1.0 Executive-Related Activities

1.1 Committees:

Education Advisory Committee

EAC meetings are held Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. in SLC 2122.

Undergraduate Student Relations Committee

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

Synopsis: No items to report from the February 13 meeting, as this was mostly follow up on previous items.

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

Synopsis: The February 18 meeting was canceled due to Reading Week. Next meeting is March 25.

Senate Undergraduate Council

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

Synopsis: Next meeting is March 4, as the February 11 meeting was canceled.

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.

Synopsis: This committee has not met since my last report and no future meetings have been scheduled.

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

Synopsis: This committee has not met since our last Council meeting and no future meetings have been scheduled.

Copyright Advisory Committee

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

Synopsis: This committee has not met since our last Council meeting and no future meetings have been scheduled.

3.0 External Activities

3.1 Municipal/Regional-level

Town & Gown Steering Committee, City of Waterloo

Responsibilities: Bring together a smaller group of municipal stakeholders to assist with direction-setting for the broader Town & Gown Committee.

Synopsis: This committee has not met since our last Council meeting, and no future meeting has been scheduled.

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

Synopsis: At this Committee two working groups, one on Student Housing and one on Fall Welcome Programs, were struck. Andrew Clubine, Municipal Affairs Commissioner is the Fed's rep on the Student Housing Working Group, and Taylor Kerstens, Orientation Administrative Coordinator is the Fed's rep on the Fall Welcome Programs Working Group. Next meeting is March 25.

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.

Synopsis: OUSA General Assembly is approaching! For anyone interested in serving as a delegate, please note that delegate selection will be held Tuesday, March 18, 5:00-8:00p.m. Please email me to ensure that you are on the mailing list confirming the location and receive instructions for how delegate selection will proceed. The date of the next General Assembly is March 28-30 to be held at Queen's. The policy papers to be discussed are International Students, Aboriginal Students, System Growth, and a small update to Online Learning.

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.

Synopsis: At the February 10 meeting, we assigned editors to the upcoming Spring General Assembly policy papers, discussed an application for an observer member association to Spring GA, discussed membership growth and our goals on this theme, discussed a provincial elections strategy, and discussed our former "Honorary Lifetime Membership" structure in the context of the new legislation. Next meeting is March 10.

Additionally, OUSA's bylaw review is nearing completion and will be brought forward for approval at the Spring General Assembly. Further, OUSA's Executive Director will be moving on to an exciting new position elsewhere, and so we have kicked off search process. The job posting can be found on the OUSA website (ousa.ca) for those who may be interested.

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.

Synopsis: On February 25, delegates from Western-USC, MSU, and I got together to discuss some motions we would like to bring forward at the Annual General Meeting in mid-March. These proposals are brought forward after the Board of Directors has failed to respond in an action-oriented manner to some issues and concerns we brought forward at National Advocacy Week.

4.0 Meetings with Decision-makers

4.1 University-level:

Rob Esselment, Senior Director, Government Relations

- Rob and I aim to meet monthly (though we have struggled with our schedules previously) and were able to discuss recent government initiatives and some of the strategic mandate process at the University-level.

Mario Coniglio, Associate Vice-President, Academic

- Mario and I met prior to the Faculty Relations Committee to discuss how I might best leverage the discussion on EAC's proposal regarding coursework return and grading.

Faculty Relations Committee

- I brought forward a proposal (the recommended policy from EAC) to the Faculty Relations Committee as a follow-up to the feedback received at the Undergraduate Operations Committee. The discussion was quite good, and it appeared that this committee was in favour of at least grounding some of what we proposed into principles that students and instructors could refer to and fall back on.

Pam Charbonneau, Virginia Young, & Heather Westmorland, Student Success Office

- I met with the Directors from the Student Success Office on behalf of the Feds Exec to lay groundwork for a more positive working relationship between the SSO and Feds moving forward. We discussed the role of Feds on campus (through our Charter and the Long Range Plan) and where there has been some concern of overlap. We identified that the two biggest areas for improvement in terms of "whose responsibility is _____" are: student communications and representation and student engagement as a part of retention. Pam has proposed a retreat for the incoming Feds Exec and the management team of SSO for the summer, so I will be working with the incoming Feds Exec on whether this is something they would like to pursue and planning it out with Pam.

Rocco Fondacaro, Director of Student & Faculty Relations, CECA

- Rocco and I meet monthly to keep up-to-speed on any new developments in CECA.

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:

Robbie Henderson & Coleen Even, Graduate Students Association

- Robbie, Coleen, Natasha and I met on February 3 to pull together further documentation for the Ancillary Fee Agreement working group. It is now in the hands of the University.

5.0 Recent Announcements

This is a list of scheduled, upcoming activities/meetings before the next Council meeting, that will have me out of office:

- University Tenure and Promotions Committee, March 4
- OUSA Home Office Performance Reviews, March 6 (afternoon)

- OUSA Steering Committee, March 10
- CASA Annual General Meeting, March 13-16
- OUSA Executive Director Hiring Panel, March 19
- OUSA General Assembly, March 28-30