



# **Adam Garcia**

## **Vice President Education Report**

May 2013

Federation of Students  
University of Waterloo

## 1.0 Month Summary

Three days or 368 days in? Either way, I'm very excited to work with all of you on Students' Council this upcoming year. I wanted to write a quick report since the last Students' Council meeting was at the beginning of April and a few committees of the University have continued to meet.

## 2.0 Executive and At-Large Activities

### 2.1 Committees:

#### Education Advisory Committee

To be elected.

### 2.2. Commissions:

Next year, there will be two active Commissions headed by two part-time staff who will work approximately 20 hours per week: the Academic Affairs Commission and the Local Affairs Commission. Currently, we are doing our Training & Orientation over May 10-11<sup>th</sup>. In particular, there is an opportunity for Councillors to come, meet the Commissioners and talk with them about advocacy priorities for the next year. Please take advantage of this opportunity – it is Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 10:30-12:00p.m. To represent your constituents well, you will want to discuss any academic or municipal/regional issues with these Commissioners!

## 3.0 Academic-Related 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 did not meet over April. CECA is bringing forward some changes to how co-op will interact with Faculties on academic-related discipline and in absence of CEC I have asked Rocco Fondacaro, Director of Student & Faculty Relations, to attend the Undergraduate Student Relations Committee.

#### 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:** The April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting saw a number of changes to Arts courses due to some reorganizing of cross-listed courses between main campus and the colleges, which also impacted some AHS and Science courses. Engineering also included allowances for completing degrees after students have taken time away from school. Other minor changes were made in other Faculties.

#### 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:** This committee did not meet over April.

## 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 months

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

**Synopsis:** Town & Gown is working through our governance model since it was not approved at the last committee meeting. Next meeting is to be held in June.

## 5.0 Provincial Activities

### 5.1 Committees:

- Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) Steering Committee

The OUSA Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from each member organization, typically the VP Education or University Affairs, but from smaller organizations the President or a staff member. I have met most (6/8) of the other Steering Committee members, and look forward to seeing them and the rest at OUSA Transition Conference and further building relationships with them all. For more information on OUSA visit: [www.ousa.ca](http://www.ousa.ca).

### 5.2 Current/Continued Projects:

- **OUSA Transition Conference**

OUSA's Transition Conference will be held from May 15-17 in Toronto, ON. David Collins and I will attend.

## 6.0 Federal Activities

### 6.1 Committees:

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

CASA is a national post-secondary education lobby organization that Feds is part of. There are 26 member associations from all across Canada. While education is primarily within provincial jurisdiction, there are several issues that impact post-secondary education from the federal level such as international students due to work and study visas, copyright issues, tax credits, and the Canada Student Loans Program. Last year, Students' Council voted to become Associate Members with CASA (rather than full members) with the intention of fully withdrawing membership. For more information on CASA visit: [www.casa-acae.com](http://www.casa-acae.com).

### 6.2 Current/Continued Projects:

- **CASA Transition Conference**

CASA's Transition Conference will be held May 18-22 in Ottawa. This is the first year we have held a national transition as opposed to regional transitions. I am attending, as well as Natasha, our VP Operations & Finance, who will be there primarily to evaluate CASA from an outside perspective and also consider if continuing to attend conferences this year is valuable to Feds, since last year's Council made it clear it was our intention to leave CASA.