



Adam Garcia

Vice President Education

Report

November 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: At the most recent Undergraduate Student Relations Committee we heard an update from the Secretariat's Office on their policy and procedure review and how that might impact policies affecting students. Ken Lavigne and Mark Walker from the Registrar's Office also came to solicit suggestions for feedback on the new scheduling system outcomes. For the working group on online access codes, the Bookstore has now put a statement on the course adoption page (where instructors submit requests for course packs and textbooks) encouraging instructors to check the guidelines on online access codes prior to determining their academic materials. Next meeting is November 21.

1.2 Commissions:

After some staff changes to the Commissions, I should announce that Taylor Emond has resigned from her position as Local Affairs Commissioner. I would like to thank Taylor Emond for her contribution to the portfolio over the past six months. However, Andrew Cubine has been hired to take on the role of Municipal Affairs Commissioner and I am very excited to see what projects and initiatives result from his time in the role.

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: At the October 30 meeting there was discussion of new PD courses for the School of Computer Science, which led to substantial discussion of using WatPD resources for program-specific courses. Other items included an update on the WaterlooWorks project, a proposal for a co-operative education living learning community pilot project, and a tribute to Bruce Mitchell, former AP Resources.

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 October 8 meeting, a number of curricular items were discussed and approved from all faculties. Additionally, the 2014-2015 academic calendar dates were recommended to Senate, the 2014 admissions requirements were approved, and the undergraduate awards section of the undergraduate calendar was update.

At the November 12 meeting, there were brief curricular changes for AHS and Engineering and revisions to the undergraduate awards in the undergraduate calendar. Finally, there was substantial discussion on a proposal for handling final assessment reports and two-year updates for programs. The suggestion was to empower Undergraduate Council with taking more of a leadership role in ensuring that programs are of the highest quality. However, this turned to a discussion of who should have the authority to recommend that a program be ended: Senate and its Committees or Faculties? The discussion will continue into the December meeting. Next meeting:

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: At the October 7 meeting, there was discussion about the ability of this working group to make change due to its lack of decision-making authority and having too many stakeholders around the table. Other items were on the timing of the ELPE to best suit student success as well as discussions of Math's move to put first year courses into the curriculum as a replacement to the ELPE. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the November 4 meeting due to another committee meeting.

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: This committee has not met since I last reported. Currently working with the Registrar on developing a survey for students to provide feedback.

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: Unfortunately I missed the October 28 meeting due to the Annual General Meeting, however I was able to attend the November 11 meeting where we had substantial discussion of communications on copying procedures for different groups in particular with respects to learning management systems and faculty and staff. However, good news is that the cost of some course packs will decrease next term due to the new copyright legislation and clarity on its impact on the production and sale of course packs.

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: We have held two Town & Gown Steering Committee meetings, where we have agreed that the most important direction for the committee at this time is to ensure that we have a data/research-driven process. Our first project will be a holistic student housing data project to understand where students live off-campus, what types of dwelling they choose, and access to services.

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 November 1-3 General Assembly was a great weekend with all three policy papers being approved. The Feds General Assembly delegates will make a presentation to Council at this meeting. The next General Assembly will be held at Queen's University, likely in March.

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: The October 16 Steering Committee was first a roundtable discussion with Dr. Paul Genest, who is leading the Ministry's Strategic Mandate Agreement/differentiation process with all of the Ontario universities and colleges. Then we focused on Steering Committee overviewing the three policy papers in advance of the General Assembly. The November 2 Steering Committee meeting was a discussion of General Assembly feedback and preliminary discussion of LobbyCon topics.

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: CASA National Advocacy Week is this week November 18-22.

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: As noted above, I have resigned from my position as Director-at-large on the CASA Board.

4.0 Meetings with Decision-makers

4.1 University-level:

Mario Coniglio, Associate Vice-President Academic

- Continued discussions with Mario on course evaluations being made public and utilizing a common instrument. Mario and I met with Cynthia Struthers from the Faculty of Math with Stephane Hamade from MathSoc and Alanna Benson from ASU to discuss the issue and discuss successes and challenges from Math's perspective. Mario and I have agreed that the best course of action will be to ensure that all Faculties make course evaluation data public (Arts and AHS are the only two who do not currently do this).

Chris Read, Associate Provost, Students & Robbie Henderson, President, Graduate Students' Association

- Chris, Robbie and I had a follow-up on the ongoing Athletics discussions prior to SSAC.

Rocco Fondacaro, Director of Student & Faculty Relations, CECA

- Rocco and I meet monthly, and there was nothing of note this meeting.

Rob Esselment, Senior Director, Government Relations

- Rob and I met to discuss an update on the MTCU's Strategic Mandate Agreement process.

Ken Lavigne, Registrar

- As noted above, Ken and I met to discuss how to solicit student feedback on the scheduling project.

4.2 Municipal/Regional-level:

IBM Smarter Cities Challenge Consulting Team

- Stephen Franchetto from WLUSU and I met with the IBM Smarter Cities Consulting group to provide the student perspective on student housing and community-building challenges within Northdale, but within the City in general. We are hopeful that our feedback will be reflected in the final report which is to be released later in the Winter/early Spring.

4.3 Provincial-level:

No meetings to report.

4.4 Federal-level:

No meetings to report.

4.5 Other:

Robbie Henderson, President, Graduate Student Association & Coleen Even, Vice-President Student Affairs, Graduate Student Association

- Robbie, Coleen, and I met to discuss the ancillary fee agreement and ensure that GSA and Feds were on the same page with respects to this project.

5.0 Upcoming Activities

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

- November 18-22, CASA National Advocacy Week
- November 25, "Outstanding Academic Programming" Theme Group ½-day session

6.0 Action Plan Update

Here is an update on the items from the Executive Action Plan that I am responsible for/leading.

Utilize part-time staff positions to support academic and municipal advocacy efforts.

Academic Affairs Commission

Status: Complete

- Full volunteer team
- Academic Advocacy Week
- Establish working relationship with IST

Status: In Progress

- Develop student feedback mechanism for wireless Internet
- Establish relationship with various learning services (Student Success Office, Student Accounts, SAFA, Centre for Teaching Excellence)
- Plan and execute Feds Teaching Awards
- University adopts an assignment grading and return policy
- Establish a support structure for academic petitions, grievances, and appeals
- Establish a strong working relationship with the VP Academics of Faculty Societies (AHSUM, ASU, MathSoc)

Local Affairs Commission

Status: Complete

- Recruited two student volunteers
- Developed proposal for a student-run housing quality support service

Status: Incomplete

- Community Information Fair
- Student surveys/focus groups
- Monthly roundtables
- Develop relationship with GRT

Status: Municipal Affairs Commissioner hired, plan to hire Advocacy, Policy & Research Assistant (ASAP) and Co-op Affairs Commissioner (Winter 2014).

Run University Lobby Week (Academic Advocacy Week)

Number of meetings during Academic Advocacy Week: 14

Number of student participants: 12

Number of asks decision-makers in agreement with: 4 (assignment grading & return guidelines, mandatory salary disclosure, course and instructor evaluations, online scholarship finder)

Number of follow-ups: TBD

Run Local Advocacy Week:

Number of meetings during Local Advocacy Week: TBD

Number of student participants: TBD

Number of asks decision-makers in agreement with: TBD

Number of follow-ups: TBD

Complete a full Students' Council policy review, and add cited Executive Summaries to all policies.

Number of modified policies: 0

Average number of citations per policy: 0

Determine federal advocacy strategy for Feds.

Status: Incomplete

Continue with strong advocacy to academic, municipal, provincial, and federal decision-makers.

Number of meetings with decision-makers: 48

Number of asks decision-makers in agreement with: 4 (course and instructor evaluations made public and consistent instrument), credit transfer, online learning, billing processes

Number of follow-ups: On-going

Sign a new ancillary fee agreement with the University of Waterloo.

Status: Incomplete – Meetings scheduled for November 27, December 16, January 14

Run an awareness campaign on course and instructor fees with an inquiry-system fees@feds.ca.

Number of student submissions: 11

Number of instructor follow-ups: 4

Number of fees removed from course syllabi: TBD

Expand the Feds Teaching Awards program.

Number of nominations received: TBD

Number of instructors accepting nominations: TBD

Number of award winners who attend presentation ceremony: TBD