



Andrew Noble President's Report

January 2013

Federation of Students
University of Waterloo

Executive Summary

Happy New Year,

Over the holiday break I was able to put my time into a number of projects that I was really looking forward to make progress on. One exciting project is the new **First-Year Council**. This will be a key leadership development tool with Feds as well as a meaningful engagement strategy with First-Year Students. We have everything in place for a successful launch and the First Year Commission has been helpful in putting the volunteer support in place to move forward.

The upcoming **elections** will be extremely well advertised this year with rotating voting booths all around campus providing a physical reminder for students to vote.

The **new student building** project continues to move forward, but there is no referendum planned for January as the project committee continues their work. I must say that Jesse McGinnis and Christina Romauldo have done an excellent job advocating for students on the project committee. At this point, the University is not only aware of the lack of student space on campus, but the University is willing to put money forward to improve it. This is an important development for students to realize.

Early this January, we received a final **compensation** proposal from the University to resolve all negotiations regarding Fed Hall to this point.

What happens to **Fed Hall**, regardless of these negotiations, is of important interest to students. Alex Russell and I continue to push the University on their commitment to have 150 student events in Fed Hall each year. In response to council's request at the December meeting, I've provided the full details on what we are doing to improve Fed Hall.

I would encourage you to read my full report; there are lots of interesting nuggets of information inside. Also, I encourage you to go to fed.ca and check out the elections section. Perhaps you could be the next President, the next experienced councillor, or the next Kumar Patel.

See you Sunday,

Andrew

1. **Current Projects and Initiatives**
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1. **Current Projects and Initiatives**

Federation Hall Improvement Report

- **Priority:** High
- **Partners:** Primarily Feds VP Internal
- **History:** The building was managed since the 80s by Feds. The University administration made the unilateral decision to not renew the lease, but they have publically committed to Fed Hall being a student event venue.
- **Update: Thus far, the following has been committed to in Fed Hall:**
 - **Low cost student events through a subsidy from the Associate Provost Students**
 - **The development of a business plan**

The funding model of Fed Hall under Fed management was dependent on external groups (RIM, Weddings, etc..) booking the space in non-student event times. That revenue was used to subsidize student events under the management of Feds. However, with the University overtaking the management of Fed Hall, it is unclear where their revenue will stem from as they look to have more faculty, administrative, and departmental events in Fed Hall.

It has been identified by many students that the ideal event venue is not Fed Hall. It's too big, too "airy", and lacks what is needed for a student event. Many student groups prefer bomber, SCH, and the MPR for the size of events they run. However, many events such as comedy shows, large dances, charity balls, and Orientation events utilize Fed Hall quite well. The frustration is trying to figure out how the building can best be utilized.

Next steps for Feds:

- **Set-up a meeting between those who ran events last term and Fed Hall management to ensure future events (such as charity balls) can run more effectively than previous experiences.**
- **Confirm the length and the amount of the subsidy for student events, look for the University to sign an agreement which binds them to such provisions.**
- **Meet with Food Services Director to discuss next strategic steps for Fed Hall management.**
- **In the exit-survey of the upcoming Feds elections, ask questions tailored to the usage of Fed Hall.**

Federation Hall Negotiations

- **Priority:** Extremely High
- **Partners:** Board of Directors, Executive Team, Staff, and various Waterloo administrators. In addition, Natalie Cockburn & Luke Burke as advisors.
- **History:** Students, through Feds, paid for Fed Hall. The building was managed since the 80s by Feds, but the land is owned by uWaterloo. uWaterloo made the unilateral decision to not renew the lease but they have committed to discussing compensation with the Federation of Students.
- **Update:** In early January 2013, the University submitted their finalized compensation proposal and we have been told there isn't much negotiating room at this point. In the best interests of students, we are working to come to a solution that serves students in 10, 20, even 30+ years from now. That requires due diligence; we are meeting with our lawyer the week of the 14th to review the latest proposal by the University.

Representing Part-Time Students Well

- **Timeline:** Completion date: April 2013
- **Priority:** Medium
- **Partners:** Research & Policy Officer, Registrar's Office, IAP (Institutional Analysis & Planning)
- **Update:**
- **No significant progress made in survey creation.**

Governance Review

- **History:** One of the priorities given to me by our council, board, and Long Range Plan was conducting a governance review. At our board of directors retreat in May, it was determined that we should follow the principles of our Long Range Plan when making governance changes. I conducted that review, council tasked BP&P to implement the review, but changes could not be made in time for the Annual General Meeting. There was some concern over some of the edits made in the bylaws – specifically, trying to determine what the future role of council is.
Next steps: Dependant on time, a bylaw clean-up will be conducted by BP&P so that we align with the New Corporations Act which is set to be implemented by July 1st, 2012. Future governance changes will be an ongoing discussion this year.

New Student Building

- **Timeline:** Undetermined
- **Priority:** High
- **Partners:** Various University department heads, Chris Read, Student Building Negotiating Team,
- **Update:**

- Chris Read is the chair of the review committee which is made up of various uWaterloo administrators, GSA President, and me. The Project Committee is a smaller group made up of Jesse McGinnis (a student rep chosen through a hiring committee made up of society representatives), Christina Romauldo (also a student rep chosen through a hiring committee made up of society representatives), Bud Walker (chair), Geoff Christou (Arch. grad student), Scott Nicholls (University rep), and newly added Dan Parent (University Architect). The Project committee is where all the work has been happening. In order to strategize, ensure consistent messaging, and represent students more effectively, Jesse, Christina and myself make up the "Student Building Negotiating Committee" which was appointed by council. At this point, the University is not interested in going to referendum at this point because there is no unified vision for the building. Some important considerations, such as the allowable height of the building, number of services in the building, and management of the new building, have not been decided. However, the administration has become tremendously open to increasing and protecting student space around campus. This was not the case at the start of my term as President. It might not make the headlines in Imprint, but this is definitely significant progress. There is a meeting the end of January which will determine what our next steps will be.
- **Summary: The new student building plans continue to go forward, however, they are not at a stage in which they are ready for referendum. Instead of bringing an incomplete building proposal to referendum, I felt it necessary to continue the process to ensure this building will be strategically constructed.**
Because of our strong advocacy, our well-researched proposal, and our commitment to improving campus life for students, we are now in a position to request of the University a comprehensive facilities plan in order to ensure that all of campus is student-oriented, not just a couple buildings. The value of this is tremendous, and means that *when a referendum does come, it will be about more than a student building; it will be able a student-focused University.*

2. Upcoming Projects / Initiatives

- **Long Range Plan Review**
 - The long range plan is set to be reviewed and revised in the 2012-2013 year. I plan on drafting suggestions for next year's Executive.
- **More Extensive Advertising for Student's Council 2012-2013**
 - We have a number of exciting new strategies in order to engage students in the upcoming elections. We have videos, news stories, blog posts, and a marketing plan prepared.

- For the first time in a while, we will have physical voting locations all around campus. The hope is that these voting stations will remind students to vote more.
 - Further, I will be using on-campus media, such as MathNews and messaging over FedsConnect, to encourage students to run for various positions on council and executive.
 - The metric of success in this advertisement is candidates for all the open positions of council.
- **First-Year Council**
 - I'm very excited about this! All the information about this can be found on <http://www.feds.ca/firstyearcouncil/apply/>
 - I'm working on creating a robust evaluation plan including metrics of success for this initiative. The area that is the easiest to give metrics to is student learning outcomes using the CAS standards.
- **Orientation Review**
 - I've been conducting an analysis of the current Principles, Expected Outcomes, and Practices within Orientation Week. Instead of trying various techniques to improve Orientation Week – I've taken the approach of simply identifying what is going on in Orientation Week, especially in terms of decision-making and governance structure. There is an Orientation Advisory Committee, but this committee still functions as logistics co-ordination. Strategy for Orientation Week is often discussed without many students in the room. In my conversations with FOC so far, it seems that there is a serious gap in decision-making as FOC are not in a good position to make strategic decisions about orientation as a whole in the same 8 months as running their own events. (for example, redistributed some of the budget for Monte Carlo to faculty events would be difficult for the entire FOC committee to discuss productively). My review will be posted on feds.ca publically, and then I will be bringing it forward to various uWaterloo representatives in order to implement the student driven recommendations.
- **Exit Survey**
 - I'm hoping to conduct an exit survey for the upcoming elections. Any suggestions on what to add to this survey would be welcomed!
- **Environmental Audit**
 - In follow-up to a recent councillor request, we have started extremely initial stages of an environmental audit. We are trying to ensure that we set a budget and ensure we have goals in place before moving forward. Any suggestions from council would be welcome.

3. Committees / Councils / Commissions / Boards

a. **Senate**

Synopsis: In regards to the Dubai campus, there were three reasons for this decision to cease operations. First, the university was losing money in operating the campus, in total approximately \$8 million over the course of the project. Secondly, the demographic profile for the campus did not match the university's ambitions for the project. Thirdly, the university offered only undergraduate programs with no prospect of expanding to graduate and research programs. (Taken from:

https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/sites/ca.secretariat/files/uploads/files/20121119ominsen_0.pdf)

There was interesting discussion regarding the value of University rankings, with many Senators dismissing the importance of rankings.

b. **Senate – Long Range Planning Committee**

Synopsis: Each project is moving forward, with most projects expected to be completed by mid-late 2013. More information here:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/strategic-plan/strategic-plan/action-areas>

c. **Mid-Cycle Review – The Life Cycle of a Student Task Force**

Synopsis: The University is creating multiple task forces as an outcome of their mid-cycle review of their strategic plan. One of those task forces is this "life cycle of a student" one. This team has not yet been determined nor has it met. At USRC we discussed the importance of a primarily student committee.

d. **BoG - Board of Governors**

Synopsis: Has not met since last meeting.

In recognition for reading my council report, I would like to reward you. The first 5 people who send me an email (pres@feds.ca) with the subject line "I love FedsConnect" will receive a free bubble tea. Note: must be an undergraduate student, no skill testing question required.

e. **BoG – Buildings and Properties Committee**

Synopsis: Meeting upcoming will discuss committee terms of reference, committee work plan, new day care facility tender award, current construction stats, Waterloo real estate holdings update, some confidential items and a discussion on the committee work plan execution.

f. **Advisory Committee on Traffic/Parking**

Synopsis: Has only met once. Council, in October, passed a motion to say that students will be against Parking as a revenue stream for the University and that it should remain as a service to members of the campus community.

g. **Athletics Advisory Board**

Synopsis: Has not yet met for the Fall term. A January meeting is upcoming

but no agenda items have been given.

h. ***SSAC – Student Services Advisory Committee***

Synopsis: A number of updates here – but I will differ to my VP reports to report on this.

i. ***USRC – Undergraduate Student Relations Committee***

Synopsis: Watcard is an item on our next agenda and we hope to advocate for a revenue-neutral service oriented Watcard for students.

j. ***FAB – Food Advisory Board***

Synopsis: This body is reconsidering their terms of reference. It has not met since the summer 2012.

k. ***Joint Health and Safety Committee***

Synopsis: Some interested discussion. However, this committee is confidential. Some personal information, such as the number of injuries across campus, seems reasonable to keep confidential. But this committee has discussed how to improve safety of Ring Road, which I think should be made public.

l. ***PACOD - President’s Advisory Committee On Design***

Synopsis: This committee is still not expected to meet in the near future.

m. **Orientation Advisory Committee**

No significant updates to bring forward. I made note that in the Orientation Advisor’s oversight of FOC they must not micro-manage and must give important responsibilities, such as budgeting a \$50,000+ budget, to the FOC and act as support only.

4. Fall Advocacy Meetings Report

The above committee breakdown oversimplifies the job of a student representative. My job is to represent students to the University and in order to do that well I meet with individuals outside of regular committee times. I plan to report on the amount of these meetings once per term.

Number of Meetings Per Term 2012*			
Person, Role, or Area	Type	Spring	Fall
Chris Read – AP, Students	Advocacy	11	13
Various - Student Success Office	Advocacy	8	3
Various - Upper uW Administration	Advocacy	8	7
Various – Housing & Residence	Advocacy	1	4
Student Senators	Advocacy	3	3
Various - GSA Executive	Advocacy	1	2
Imprint	Public Relations	2	1
Former Feds Executive	Advisory/Research	6	3
Miscellaneous	Advocacy	14	5

*This excludes informal, unscheduled meetings. It also excludes any internal

meetings within Feds council, board, or staff. Further, normal committee meetings aren't included. There are many more committee meetings in the fall term as compared to the spring term. If you have any questions about what is discussed when I met/meet with people listed here, please don't hesitate to ask.