



## **1.0 Executive Summary**

The month of August is typically vacation season for many university staff and

administrators, and therefore was a good time for me to meet with several folks on the external side of my portfolio, while completing some research and analysis on some of the academic items I'd like to work on throughout the rest of the year.

Many meetings were productive and helpful, and now it time to close the loop on some of the items such as: developing a proposal for Waterloo City Council on improving student quality of life (suggested by Art Sinclair from the Greater KW Chamber of Commerce), finalizing my short report on course evaluations for Mario Coniglio and the Provost on course evaluations, and beginning some work on campaigns for Feds, OUSA, and CASA.

Over the next month, I am looking forward to committees resuming, campus being busy, and seeing some progress on some of those bigger items such as the ancillary fee agreement with the University.

## 2.0 Executive-Related Activities

### 2.1 Committees:

#### **Education Advisory Committee**

Will be scheduling times for EAC this week.

#### **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](mailto:local@feds.ca)

Maaz Yasin, Academic Affairs Commissioner, [academic@feds.ca](mailto:academic@feds.ca)

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

## 3.0 University-Related 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:** Next meeting to be held September 10.

## **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:** Next meeting to be held October 17.

## **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, Waterloo Community Relations (Kaye Crawford), Councilor Henry, UW, WLU, regional police and fire safety departments, bylaw enforcement, and permanent residents.

**Synopsis:** Next meeting to be held September 24.

### **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](http://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:** Prior to the August 16 Steering Committee meeting, I had discussed the issue of rising delegate costs for OUSA conferences with Rylan Kinnon (Executive Director) and Becky Hillyer (outgoing Operations Coordinator). We drafted a set of guidelines that were approved by the Steering Committee at the August 16 meeting. Also on the agenda was the final approval of the OUSA Action Plan, the OUSA Student Survey, and an in depth discussion of our employment submission where unpaid internships were a hot topic. It took another phone call to finalize our position on unpaid internships which was that the Employment Standards Act be amended to protect students in work-integrated learning positions, and that the government proactively enforce the updated legislation. Rylan and I have also met with a lawyer to discuss the undertake a bylaw review to ensure we are compliant with the upcoming Not-for-profit Corporations Act.

### **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](http://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:** The last few Board meetings have dealt with the following issues: issues from Ontario undergraduate schools, outreach to unaligned student associations, bylaw & governance updates, financial planning.

## **5.0 Meetings with Decision-makers**

### **5.1 University-level:**

Mark Walker, Associate Registrar

- Maaz and I met with Mark to discuss the STEP project and next steps. This project is currently in limbo and we work to appease the faculty.

Glen Weppler, Director of Housing

- This was a lunch between Glen and the full Executive team – not much related to my portfolio was discussed beyond an update on the mid-term tuition increase.

Rocco Fondacaro, Director, Student-Faculty Relations, CECA

- I meet regularly with Rocco to keep up-to-date on co-op issues. Our biggest project will be mandatory salary disclosure for all job postings, and I am meeting with Peggy Jarvie to discuss this.

Rob Esselment, Senior Manager, Government Relations

- Rob and I meet monthly to discuss provincial and federal issues, as well as some municipal issues. Last meeting I gave Rob a tour of the Feds offices and the Student Life Centre – then we discussed deferred maintenance. One would think that's a buzzkill, but we had a good discussion.

Jason Coolman, Director of Alumni Affairs & Emily Huxley Osborne, Alumni Officer, Students & Young Alumni

- This was a lunch between the office of Alumni Affairs and the full Executive team. It had been on my mind, so we had a very good discussion about the role of "school spirit" in fostering good alumni relations, and how athletics could fit in to that – especially since the University contributes so little to our varsity athletics programs. Jason stressed the importance of new athletics facilities.

Daniela Seskar-Hencic, Interim Director, Institutional Analysis & Planning

- OUSA is undertaking its third Ontario Student Survey this year, so Daniela and I met to discuss the logistics and ensure that its timing did not impact any of the other surveying going on this year. Waterloo will be taking on the National Survey on Student Engagement in the Winter term, so many

of you or your constituents may see that!

## **5.2 Municipal/Regional-level:**

Art Sinclair, Vice President, Government Relations, Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce

- Art and I met at a roundtable on inter-regional transportation back in April and he offered to assist with discussions with the landlord associations on student housing issues. In this meeting, he also suggested that we work to develop a presentation to City Council on the scope of the issues impacting students and to work to make an economic development argument for diversity of housing options, transit, and improving the cultural fabric of the City.

Jennifer Casey, Director, University Relations, Wilfrid Laurier University

- Jennifer sits on the Town & Gown Committee as one of the Laurier representatives. We discussed many of the same issues as I did with Art, but also discussed the new structure of the Town & Gown committee. Jennifer committed to working to bridge the current gap between the Chair of the Economic Development Committee and student representatives.

## **5.3 Provincial-level:**

John Milloy, Member of Provincial Parliament (Kitchener Centre)

- We discussed: credit transfer, billing processes and student financial assistance. As John is a former Minister of Training, Colleges, and Universities he was quite helpful, and wrote a follow-up letter of encouragement to Steve and myself to continue our advocacy.

Michael Harris, Member of Provincial Parliament (Kitchener-Conestoga)

- We discussed: credit transfer, billing processes, student financial assistance, and capital improvement projects. Michael is the PC Critic for Environment, so was quite interested in capital improvement projects for green retrofitting. He committed to writing a letter to Minister Duguid.

Tracey Weiler, Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario Candidate (Kitchener-Waterloo)

- Steve Franchetto from WLUSU managed to secure a meeting with our local PC Candidate, who made the commitment to raise our issues in caucus meetings that she attends. We discussed: credit transfer, billing processes, youth employment, student financial assistance, capital projects and deferred maintenance, the Ontario Tuition Grant, teaching quality, and our likes and dislikes of the PC's White Paper on Post-secondary Education.

## **5.4 Federal-level:**

No meetings to report.

## **5.5 Other:**

No meetings to report.

## **6.0 Upcoming Activities**

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

- Rob Leone, Member of Provincial Parliament (Cambridge-North Dumfries),  
September 13

- Catherine Fife, Member of Provincial Parliament (Kitchener-Waterloo), September 13
- City of Waterloo, Culture Plan Social, September 26
- OUSA Training Day, Trent-Oshawa, September 27
- Community Information Fair, October 3



# **Adam Garcia**

# **Vice President Education**

# **Report**

September 2013

Federation of Students  
University of Waterloo