



# **Adam Garcia**

## **Vice President Education**

### **Report**

December 2012

Federation of Students  
University of Waterloo

## 1.0 Month Summary

This has been a short month as I have only been in the office for 7 days since the last Council meeting.

Primarily the majority of my time was at CASA National Advocacy Week, where our Federal Affairs Commissioner and I were advocating for students to Members of Parliament, civil servants and political staff.

Another large portion of these past couple weeks have been on municipal activities. I have felt like municipal activities have become the lowest in terms of dedicated time due to the amount of time OUSA, CASA and on-campus committees take, so it was good to focus on those. I attended the City of Waterloo Council Committee Summit and spoke to the importance of the Town & Gown Committee in providing students a direct link to City Hall through their elected representatives. Also worked to promote the on-campus Public Consultation on GRT Service Improvements (hope you went!). Chris Walker and I also had a meeting with Kim Moser from the Region of Waterloo regarding the Light Rail Transit project so we have a contact on this issue. Waterloo students are extremely lucky that we will have a stop on the route right on campus. Finally, more info below, but attended the full day Town & Gown Committee Strategic Planning Retreat to guide its strategic vision for the future.

Other projects I am working on: Commissions Manual, OUSA Student Employment Policy Paper, CASA Policy Committee, OUSA VP Admin duties (policies, documentation, etc.), Local Advocacy Week, and New Ancillary Fee Protocol.

Another issue on my radar is the UPASS agreement and proposed transit fare increases of 7%. Chris Walker and I will be speaking at the Region of Waterloo Council meeting where the budget is presented.

## 2.0 Executive and At-Large Activities

### 2.1 Committees:

#### **Education Advisory Committee**

Education Advisory Committee now meetings Thursdays, 5:00-6:30P in the Feds Board Room #1 (SLC 1106).

#### **Co-op Students' Council**

**Responsibilities:** Forum for students to provide feedback on initiatives within co-op to CECA, and to suggest new ones.

**Timeline:** Twice per term

**Partners:** Director, Student & Faculty Relations, Co-op Student Experience Manager, Faculty Society VPs, Education Advisory Committee, interested students

**Synopsis:** The next meeting of Co-op Students' Council is on December 4, 5:00pm in TC 1112. I have also been liaising with Val Wilson, Co-op Student Experience Manager of CECA on a new Terms of Reference for Co-op Students' Council to be brought forward to Students' Council for approval.

### 2.2. Commissions:

The Commissioners have two larger projects they are all working with me on: continuing to develop a marketing plan for all of their events and campaigns to ensure that everything is marketed and communicated effectively. We are also all undergoing review processes to prepare for writing stronger job descriptions and procedures to guide the Commissioners in their organizational structures for continuity purposes. The Municipal

Affairs, Provincial Affairs, and Federal Affairs Commissions are all continuing to look or will be looking for student volunteers. Please consider volunteering or promoting these opportunities to your constituents – volunteers are valuable resources that help Commissions do more for students!

Commissions Reports are due to me on December 19, and will be sent to Council for the January Council Meeting.

### **Academic Commission**

The Academic Commission has a full team comprised of the Commissioner, a Deputy Commission of Technology, Deputy Commission of Co-op, and Deputy Commissioner of Educational Quality & Integrity. Some of the projects this team is working on include: cell phone and Wifi coverage on campus, creating Feds Teaching Awards, and some events relating to co-op to assist students in navigating the procedures surrounding finding a job with CECA.

There has been great feedback given regarding the Wifi coverage, and now the Commission is working to determine what next steps will be. The Feds Teaching Awards are coming along well, and I hope there will be a presentation to Students' Council for the January Council meeting.

### **Municipal Affairs Commission**

The Municipal Affairs Commission is currently working Off Campus Housing on promoting off-campus quality of housing focus groups for upper year students. Part of this will include a housing quality campaign to encourage students to discuss what quality housing means to them and how landlords, community members, UW admin, and students are all involved in a quality student experience when it comes to off-campus living. Abraham and I have a meeting with Ryan King next week to follow up on this.

### **Provincial Affairs Commission**

The Provincial Affairs Commission has been hard at work creating a video asking students the question, "Is post-secondary education doing what you hired it to do?" (Part of the *Hire Education* campaign for OUSA). The final product is almost complete! The final video will be in two formats, a larger format with the entirety of the responses from the students, as well as a shorter version that will draw students in to the discussion. The Provincial Affairs Commission has also been assisting the Academic Commission in the development of the Feds Teaching Awards.

### **Federal Affairs Commission**

The Commission prepared for the lead-up of CASA LobbyCon. In the next term, the Commission will be working on developing a policy for CASA, as well as building up the Commission for transition planning.

## **2.3 Projects:**

- **Advocacy Coordinator Co-op**

Danielle has continued to work on the Student Rights Handbook, and is generating an early outreach conference proposal. The early outreach proposal is delayed as we continue to work with Waterloo District School Board on the proposal and engaging with them to generate interest and that their needs/concerns are incorporated into the project. Danielle has also been working with the Commissions on their projects.

- **New Ancillary Fee Protocol**

The Feds exec have been liaising with the Graduate Students' Association on matters relating to the Student Services Advisory Committee and the new protocol. There is definite passion to have this accomplished by the end of our term. A small working group has been put together and will meet on Tuesday, December 4 to begin work on this project.

## 3.0 Internal 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:** I was unable to attend the November 20 meeting of CEC. At this meeting the major topic of discussion was the presentation of the final report from the Co-operate Education review. Next meeting will be held in the new year.

#### **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:** Associate VP Academic, Associate Deans of faculties, student representation through VPs Academic/Education

**Synopsis:** The next meeting of SUC is scheduled for December 11, 12:00.

#### **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:** The next meeting of STAC is scheduled for December 6.

#### **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:** CAC continues to monitor the policies and guidelines released by the Association of Universities and Colleges Canada (AUCC), so that we can update our Copyright FAQ to align with the expanded definition of fair dealing. At this time, course pack prices will not be impacted as we wait for clarification and more information on copyright for course packs.

## 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 month

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

**Synopsis:** On November 29, Andrew and I attended the Waterloo Town & Gown Committee Strategic Planning Retreat. This was a very productive day, with a lot of information and ideas shared. I am looking forward to the summary documents from

that day to review the outcomes, and the further discussions at the Committee finalize a strategic document to improve the impact of the Committee in the community. My emphasis for the day was to focus on actionable items, ensuring the Committee did not shy away from tackling complex issues, and challenging the student-community dichotomy that often occurs – many students are permanent residents, and many permanent residents are students. They aren't mutually exclusive group.

## 5.0 Provincial Activities

### 5.1 Committees:

#### **Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) Steering Committee**

The next OUSA Steering Committee meeting will be held December 10.

### 5.2 Current/Continued Projects:

- **Student Employment Policy Paper**

I am now the lead on the Student Employment Policy Paper. Much of the work for this will be throughout the month of January. There will be less room for student input due to the shorter amount of time we have, but OUSA is looking to engage students through the Campus Researcher network. This paper will focus on:

- In-study employment
- Post-graduate employment
- Summer employment
- Work-integrated learning
- Career services/skills development

## 6.0 Federal Activities

### 6.1 Committees:

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

CASA National Advocacy Conference (Lobby Con) was November 19-23 in Ottawa. Sam Estoesta and I attended the conference on behalf of Feds. This was a very action-oriented conference, and I am proud to say that CASA held over 130 lobby meetings that week (conversely, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities held 116 in the same timeframe). I held meetings with: Hon. Carolyn Bennett (MP – St. Paul's), Industry Canada Policy Advisors, Hon. Steven Fletcher (Minister of State (Transport)), Elizabeth May (MP – Saanich-Gulf Islands/Leader of the Green Party), Nathan Cullen (MP – Skeena-Bulkley Valley/NDP House Leader), Francoise Ducros (Assistant Deputy Minister for Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada), & Sean Speer (Policy Advisor to the Minister of Finance). Sam held meetings with such folks as Niki Ashton (MP – Churchill/NDP Critic for Status of Women), Ryan Cleary (MP – St. John's South-Mount Pearl/NDP Critic for PSE), Marc Garneau (MP Westmount-Ville-Marie), and the Canada Student Loans Policy team. We had a great set of meetings!

The lobby priorities were focused around improving student financial assistance, and improving the impact of research – through expansions to financial assistance and existing grants programs, as well as advocating for research in open access formats, and incenting intellectual property policies at PSE institutions.

The Plenary was also very productive. We finally repealed the policy on converting tax credits to up-front grants (this has come forward at all three plenaries I have attended), which is a huge step forward for the alliance. As well we were able to approve policy on improving access to advance polling on campuses. Another issue that came up, that we should watch, is a member association brought forward a motion that CASA take an advocacy stance on the Canadian Blood Services' policy banning blood donations from men who have sex with men. The decision was to postpone indefinitely (since it did not

fit within our post-secondary education mandate, but we did not want to vote against the motion), but there was desire to revisit CASA's focus on PSE at the March AGM.

### **CASA Policy Committee**

#### **Responsibilities:**

**Timeline:** 2012-2013

**Partners:** Representatives from Federation of Students (UWFEDS), Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS), Athabasca University Graduate Students Association (AUGSA), St. Thomas University Students' Union (STUSU), Fédération des étudiants et des étudiantes du Centre universitaire de Moncton (FÉECUM), McMaster Students' Union (MSU), and CASA Home Office Staff

**Synopsis:** The Policy Committee is to be commended for already having completed on policy from our list of priorities. The policy on Mental Health is coming along quickly, and several others are being worked on as well. Policy is also being developed by member associations on Open Educational Resources and Summer Jobs which is great. There is buzz that we will have a big year for policy development through our increased capacity at Home Office as well as a renewed Policy Committee.

### **6.2 Current/Continued Projects:**

- **CASA Deliverables Framework**

I have provided notice to CASA of our intention to vote on membership status at the January Students' Council meeting. EAC will make a recommendation to Students' Council on this matter.