



# **Adam Garcia**

## **Vice President Education**

### **Report**

January 2013

Federation of Students  
University of Waterloo

## 1.0 Month Summary

Happy New Year, Council! Hope everyone's holidays were relaxing.

Though the month of December was short, it was a good opportunity have meetings with administrators who had some freed up time, such as a lunch meeting that I had with Natasha Melfi, the Deputy Commissioner of Co-op (Academic Commissioner), and Peggy Jarvie and Rocco Fondacaro from CECA. I was asked by OUSA to attend meetings with Minister of Education Laurel Broten and former Minister of Training, Colleges, and Universities Glen Murray. Andrew and I attended a meeting with local MPP Catherine Fife, who is planning an event on-campus at the end of January.

Over the next couple weeks, I will be working on ensuring that the Commissions are prepared for their events over the term, planning for Local Advocacy Week, and ensuring that the Advocacy Coordinator is comfortable in the job and working towards progress on their projects.

## 2.0 Executive and At-Large Activities

### 2.1 Committees:

#### Education Advisory Committee

Education Advisory Committee will be meeting Mondays 4:30-6:00pm. Committee to resume on January 21.

#### 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 December 4 CSC meeting, heard an update on the ongoing systems project from CECA. At that time vendor demos were ongoing for the replacement software to Jobmine. It has now been announced that ORBIS Communications will be providing the software for the replacement to Jobmine. The Council also discussed Peer Mentorship Program Frameworks, and how student groups can support students on work terms.

### 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!

### 2.3 Projects:

- **Advocacy Coordinator Co-op**

I'd like to welcome Luke McIntosh as the new Advocacy Coordinator for Feds. Luke is busy reading to understand the portfolio, as well as has begun work on some projects and continuing work on projects left from last term. Such projects include: supporting Commissioners with Feds Teaching Awards, Early Outreach Conference proposal (which

will likely be something I leave as a potential project in future years), Student Rights Handbook, and a research report on Exam Deferrals for Illness.

- **New Ancillary Fee Protocol**

The first meeting regarding the creation of a new Ancillary Fee Protocol included: Geoff McBoyle (AVP Academic Programs), Bruce Mitchell (AP Resources/Chair of SSAC), Chris Read (AP Students), and Jennifer Kieffer (Institutional Analysis and Planning), GSA Reps, Andrew Noble, and myself. The meeting was extremely preliminary, and I have to admit I am disappointed with the slow progress on this. I have already requested a follow-up meeting twice, once before the break, and once after, and the administrators are reviewing the information and going to come back to us. I have stressed that our protocol does not follow “best practice” across the sector, and that we should be working towards aligning with Ministry guidelines. I have requested a meeting between the GSA reps and Feds so we can ensure we stay on the same page as we continue down this road.

- **Local Advocacy Week**

WLUSU/Feds have been working to present another Local Advocacy Week from January 21-25. Local Advocacy Week was an initiative started last year as an opportunity to self-advocate for their own issues, and bring students closer to the decision-makers that they may not realize they have access too. While WLUSU has taken the primary lead on this, I have been developing a couple of the briefs, as well as organizing meetings. Currently, we have on-campus meetings arranged with five members of the Executive Council, including the Provost. Externally, we have meetings set up with many of the City of Waterloo and Region of Waterloo Councillors, MPPs and MPs. If interested in participating please let me know.

## 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:** The next meeting will be held January 22, 1:00-2:30pm.

#### **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:** I was unable to attend the December 11 meeting. At the January 8 meeting, we approved a new PD course, and curricular items for Arts. We also discussed updated wording for procedures for deferring re-scheduled examinations to the following:

“A deferred final examination is normally written the next time the course is taught or during the next term the student is on campus, whichever is sooner. The examination may be written earlier than the specified period if a final grade is required for continued enrolment. The Undergraduate Officer should be informed as to the dates and times when deferred final examinations are to be written.

If the course instructor of the deferred examination is not available to set and mark the examination as well as grade the course overall, the Department/School will arrange for these activities to be carried out.”

I raised concern that this did not specify that the make-up examination needed to be **SET** by the course instructor. My comments received push-back because sessional faculty often times have short contracts which makes them unable/unwilling to set a course examination after their contract. However, it would be concerning that a student's examination could be set by a faculty/staff member who had not taught the course, and was not aware of the material actually discussed in the course. I abstained in the vote, because I oppose it, but prefer it to go to Senate to be effectively modified and will discuss with President Noble and the Student Senators.

### **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:** I was unable to attend the December 6 meeting due to being in Toronto for the day. The next meeting of STAC is scheduled for January 10.

### **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 has not met since last Students' Council meeting.

## **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:** At the December 12 Town & Gown meeting, the group heard a proposal for a community event to take place in September which was approved in spirit by all stakeholders. Additionally, I will be part of a small sub-committee to review the documentation from the Strategic Planning Retreat to create our long-term mandate and plan. This sub-committee will meet January 11 and January 18 to complete our work prior to the January 22 meeting of the Town & Gown Committee.

## **5.0 Provincial Activities**

### **5.1 Committees:**

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

The December 10 Steering Committee meeting was short, where we debriefed after the General Assembly, discussed how conference delegate fees are assessed, discussed our

lobbying strategies as we move forward without a sitting legislature, and the Director of Research provided an in depth presentation on the research progress thus far for each of the policy papers to come forward for OUSA General Assembly.

After the Steering Committee meeting, we held an OUSA Alumni Night, where we were able to interact with former Steering Committee members and Home Office staff – it was great to see last year's Steering Committee, as well as former Feds VPs Education Howie Bender (also a former OUSA Executive Director), Jeff Henry (now a Waterloo City Councillor), and a former Feds Councillor/Director Sam Andrey (also a former OUSA Executive Director).

### **Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) Executive**

As Vice-President Administration for OUSA, I spent quite a bit of time organizing the agendas and minutes for this year, as this was not properly done previously. Another project I have been tasked with is to create a succession plan for Home Office, in the event that a staff member suddenly leaves the organization, which involves identifying key accountabilities for each position, and who would take those responsibilities on (if necessary) in their absence. I am working with the Executive Director on this project. I am also liaising with Steering Committee members on bylaw or operating policy changes they would like to see.

### **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)**

The dates for the March AGM have been released as March 20-22, 2013.

#### **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 (FÉÉCUM), McMaster Students' Union (MSU), and CASA Home Office Staff

**Synopsis:** 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. I am currently scheduling a regular meeting time for the Committee and working with Home Office on updating expired policy.

## **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. Please see the EAC report for an extended discussion of the motion provided.