



Adam Garcia

Vice President Education

Report

November 2012

Federation of Students
University of Waterloo

1.0 Month Summary

Mid-way through my term, and I have learned the lesson that the political landscape can change on a whim completely altering plans! I describe it more in detail, but McGuinty's resignation and prorogation of Legislature has altered advocacy plans with OUSA and our tuition plans are slower and more nuanced. Luckily, OUSA General Assembly united student leaders from our member associations to set new policy and continue to work towards our vision for an accessible, affordable, accountable, and high quality undergraduate experience.

As outlined below, the Commissions are very active with their volunteers and plans, which is very exciting from a student engagement perspective – something I wanted to dramatically improve over my time in this role. I am very pleased with how this team is working together and supporting each other in their projects.

In October, I was able to meet with Dr. David Porreca, the Faculty Association President, and we were able to share priorities on what each other is working on. The relationship between faculty and students is very important, as our collective voices represent two of the largest and most powerful stakeholders on campus. I learned that Queen's Alma Mater Society has a Student-Faculty Relations Committee and have suggested to Dr. Porreca that perhaps we start something similar here at uWaterloo to promote relationships and a common voice on issues that impact both groups.

Coming up this month is some travelling for CASA Lobby Conference in Ottawa, several municipal activities such as crime prevention plans, cultural plans, and a strategic planning retreat for Town & Gown, and continued work with CASA Policy Committee to research and develop policy for CASA.

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: At the October 16 meeting of Co-op Students' Council, CECA was able to give a comprehensive systems update to the student representatives in attendance. We also had a fantastic discussion of student performance evaluations, and CECA gave an update on the new performance evaluations that will be rolled out over the next two terms. Notably, the performance evaluations allow employers to rank learning outcomes of students, and how important these are to them, allowing CECA to gather important feedback on what employers are looking for from their co-op students' skillsets. Another important piece was the discussion of a report created by the Arts Student Union on how to strengthen and diversify employment opportunities for Arts students.

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!

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.

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.

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! Skaidra has also been heavily involved in the selection and preparation of OUSA General Assembly delegates and held sessions to help delegates to prepare for the conference. Future projects include: supporting research for the OUSA Student Employment policy paper and involving OUSA GA Delegates in the promotion of OUSA in the lead-up to General Assemblies to promote our relationship with OUSA.

Federal Affairs Commission

The Federal Affairs Commission is working on preparing a Federal Advocacy Student Survey for the student societies to gather information from them and raise awareness of CASA and how it functions. The Commission is also preparing for CASA LobbyCon and may be working towards some policy creation to promote some Waterloo priorities for CASA on innovation and entrepreneurial grants.

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. Danielle also worked tirelessly to support the OUSA GA here at Waterloo, and was a fantastic support and troubleshooter during the weekend.

I have completed rankings for the Winter term student and have been matched. The day-to-day duties of supporting Commissions and media scanning will continue, as well as the generation of research reports and university submissions on important topics for students.

- **New Ancillary Fee Protocol**

One project that has been on the backburner, but will begin again soon is the creation of a new ancillary fee protocol between the university and student groups. Andrew and I have been in discussions with Provost Keller, Chris Read, and Bruce Mitchell on this –

and we will be having a small working group of UW Admin, Feds representatives, and Graduate Students' Association representatives meet before the end of the month.

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: At the October 23 meeting we heard updates on international risk management processes for the University, had Rick Wolfe of PostStone Inc. come and present the recommendations from an external strategic review of cooperative education, and approved the ARCHPD program (PD for Architecture). The Rick Wolfe report brought forward the following four strategic priorities for co-operative education:

- Positioning students for success in the first work term
- Social support for students in their work terms
- Employer insight and employer engagement
- Integration of classroom and work term learning

These four priorities will guide co-op in a number of new initiatives (yet to be released) over the coming months and years. I have set up a meeting with Peggy Jarvie, Executive Director of CECA to discuss feedback and how Feds can be involved.

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 was to be held November 13, but will be held via e-vote to approve new scholarships and bursaries.

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: At the November 6 meeting, we discussed CECA Systems, heard an update on the IT Strategic Plan, a presentation by co-op students from the Student Technology Services Team, and briefly discussed Cell & Wifi Service on campus and how to improve. A fairly good discussion was had at the committee regarding student consultation and based on "low student interest" that there may not be passion for improvements to technology on campus. Several student members were able to express that there was passion for improvements, and that low interest in consultation may be related to several years of students not feeling listened to by the administrators when their feedback is sought.

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: After not having signed the Access Copyright agreement (great work, on this Council!), the Copyright Advisory Committee has been created and waiting patiently for news on a new Copyright Bill to come into effect. At the November 5 meeting members discussed that Bill C-11 would likely be proclaimed within the coming week(s) and once in effect will dramatically alter the landscape of copyright in Canada and expand the definition of fair dealing. In the meantime, course packs must be created for Winter term, meaning that students will not see a decrease in the cost of these resources. Once proclaimed, it is Retail Services' hope that course pack costs will decrease. The Faculty Association has been a great ally to students on this front; Aimee Morrison, the FAUW representative, has been an incredible resource to the committee on copyright issues.

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: With the cancellation of OUSA Lobby Conference, I am now able to represent Feds at the Town & Gown Committee Strategic Planning Retreat. I am submitting some preparation materials over the next week and will be making the suggestion that Grand River Transit representatives sit on the Town & Gown Committee so that transit connectivity for students can remain a part of the discussions at this committee – something that remains important for students when discussing community relations.

5.0 Provincial Activities

5.1 Committees:

Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA) Steering Committee

We have held two Steering Committee meetings since our last Council meeting. At the October 18 Steering Committee, we finalized our Tuition stance and government submission on tuition fees and payment processes. I am happy to report that OUSA's stance calls for a minimum one-year funded tuition freeze, and that any subsequent tuition increases must be tied to the rate of inflation. Unfortunately, on the train ride back from Toronto, Premier McGuinty announced his resignation and prorogation of Legislature. This has led to the cancellation of our annual OUSA Lobby Conference which is normally held at the end of November, and halted our ability to make progress on our tuition stance.

Our most recent Steering Committee meeting was held during the OUSA General Assembly right in the Feds Board Room! At that meeting we discussed some of our financial operating policies on membership fee deadlines, and set an inflationary increase to our fee. Due to a resignation, I was also elected to the position of Vice-President Administration for OUSA. I will take on additional duties as an Executive of OUSA, acting as the Secretary for Steering Committee and supporting operational policy amendments to increase the functionality of the organization.

5.2 Current/Continued Projects:

- **OUSA Fall General Assembly, University of Waterloo**

The weekend of November 2-4 delegates from nine student associations (eight member associations of OUSA and one observing student association) were here at University of Waterloo to debate and approve policy priorities for OUSA. Three policy papers were up for approval: Rural & Northern Students, Students with Disabilities, and Student Financial Assistance.

Overall, there were certainly kinks in the logistics of the conference, but we overcame them and all three policy papers incorporated great feedback from the delegates and were approved at the final plenary.

Waterloo's delegation was very strong and although I did not get to spend the time I wanted to with them to hear their thoughts on the process, Skaidra (Provincial Affairs Commissioner) was a great lead contact for them. Unfortunately, Waterloo was unable to send a full delegation due to a last minute drop-out, but the other delegates made up for this and I am confident we will be able to send a full delegation to the next General Assembly at Western University, March 9-11, 2013.

- **Student Employment Policy Paper**

Myself and Alysha Li, VP University Affairs of the USC at Western and OUSA President, took on the policy paper on Student Employment that is currently slotted to be brought forward at Spring General Assembly. Now that Fall General Assembly is finished, activity on this policy paper will begin fairly quickly over the months of December and January.

6.0 Federal Activities

6.1 Committees:

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

The CASA National Advocacy Conference (Lobby Con) is coming up November 19-23 in Ottawa. Sam Estoesta and I will be attending the conference on behalf of Feds.

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: As Chair of Policy Committee, I have less impact on the decisions of the committee, but work towards the organization and execution of the committee goals. After another month of struggling with regards to scheduling meetings and gaining quorum and meetings, the committee is on track with several policy projects on Advance Polling, Tri-agency Funding, Mental Health, Quality Metrics, and the Canada Summer Jobs program. I am also working with CASA Home Office staff on providing feedback on a policy manual to support the policy development process.

6.2 Current/Continued Projects:

- **CASA Deliverables Framework**

EAC continues to monitor the CASA Deliverables Framework. There may be a session coming up soon for folks to meet with CASA National Director; please contact me for further details on this.