



Office of the **PRESIDENT**

Maleeka Thomas

Report: May 2023

President

403-329-2221

su.president@uleth.ca

Message from the President

Hello Students,

I hope this message finds you well and that you are enjoying the nice summer weather. As the newly elected President of the ULSU, it is both an honor and privilege to represent you and bring this report for the Month of May forward to you. First and foremost, I want to express heartfelt congratulations on the completion of your spring, it was filled with lots of ups and downs, but we go through it. It is with great pleasure that I share with you a comprehensive report on the tasks, meetings, and events that I was charged with attending as your President. It's been a very busy yet exciting first month for the ULSU office. Here is my report on what I've been up to.

Meetings, Events, and Tasks Breakdown

During the month of May, I had the privilege of attending the following meetings and events listed below:

- Strategic Planning Committee
- General Faculty Council Meeting
- Canadian Alliance of Students Association (CASA) Onboarding
- Arts & Science Council Meeting
- Food Security Meeting
- Ahead of the Herd Planning
- General Assembly Meeting (May 8th)
- ULSU Strategic Planning
- Convocation Committee Meeting
- Council of Alberta University Student (CAUS) Changeover/onboarding
- Canadian Alliance of Student Association (CASA) Foundations
- Curriculum Coordination Committee Review
- Senate Executive Committee Meeting
- Board of Governance & BOG Prep



- HR meeting
- Staff Meeting
- Partner Service Manager, City of Lethbridge Meeting
- Equity Diversity Inclusion Project Meeting
- City of Lethbridge and ULSU council meeting
- General Assembly (May 29th)
- Pride Month Planning
- CAUS Board Meeting
- CASA Board Meeting
- New Student Jane's Walk Meeting

Description of Meetings:

Strategic Planning Committee

On May 1st, I meet with this committee and discuss the proposed strategic plan and the renewal timeline seeing that there will be a new president starting his term on July 1st. The budget plan was also discussed, and an annual progress report was given in addition to a people plan update which highlights the incredible work that Uleth students do while they complete their programs.

General Faculty Council Meeting

This GFC meeting (May 1st) marks the first GFC I was a part of as president and within GFC meeting we have the opportunity to discuss and vote on academic and operational changes. For this Month's meeting, I was able to bring forward the diversity statement for changes in the GFC Bylaws to ensure an inclusive approach to the staffing of voting members as well as representation for the students, staff, faculty, and admin. This implementation seeks to ensure that the practice of EDI is reflected in our bylaws and in our practices. There were also discussions around the 2023-24 budget plan and questions were asked and answered to ensure that students are able to see the value despite provincial reductions.

NB: All GFC meetings are open to non-voting members unless otherwise stated. So, if you wish to attend a meeting you are welcome to contact governance@uleth.ca to attend as a guest.



Canadian Alliance of Students Association (CASA) Onboarding

As a part of the advocacy work that the ULSU does, I and the VP-External Rachele Preston sit as secondary and primary delegates respectively on the federal advocacy student-led organization CASA. For this onboarding meeting, I was able to attend and learn the basics about what CASA does and how they function as an advocacy body to the federal government as well as learn about what benefits being a part of CASA presents for the Uleth student body.

Arts & Science Council Meeting

This meeting was to discuss the necessary changes if any to the faculty of Arts and Science needed to be made as well as the approval of the degrees and student awards for convocation. I was in attendance alongside the ULSU VP-Academic, Brittany Allen, and a few of our Arts & Science reps.

Food Security Meeting

Combatting food security on our campus is a big priority to the ULSU as well as our newly installed Chancellor Terry Whitehead. Thus, we had a meeting to discuss plans and steps moving forward to ensure sustainable measures are put in place to combat this issue that many Uleth students face.

Ahead of the Herd Planning

Welcoming incoming students is always on the ULSU radar so that we can ensure that they know the services that we provide and how we are here to advocate and serve students. As such I alongside the Executive Council met with Natasha Toney for an overview of our specific task on the day of the event as well as additional plans for panel sessions and address from me to incoming students.

General Assembly Meeting

This was the first General Assembly meeting. This meeting is consisting of all the ULSU academic and non-academic representatives. We were able to install, Royal Adkin as the 57th



Office of the **PRESIDENT**

Chair for the ULSU council. In addition, we made changes to the name of the Vice President of Students Affairs position name to Vice President Student Life. As well as made budget approvals.

ULSU Strategic Planning

In this meeting the Executive team and I were able to narrow down the pressing issues that students are faced with and to what level of government we should approach with what ask depending on the specific issue/concern.

Convocation Committee Meeting

This meeting was to ensure the final approval of the order of conferral as well as make any adjustments to make convocation a smooth process.

Council of Alberta University Student (CAUS) Changeover/onboarding

CAUS is the provincial advocacy body that the ULSU is a part of. Alongside the VP-External Rachele Preston and I were able to attend the conference as a part of our duty as primary and secondary delegates. We learned about CAUS and the advocacy service that they provide for the 114,000 Albertan Student it represents. Additionally, we were able to meet with our respective counterparts from other universities in Alberta. (Full report will be below)

Canadian Alliance of Student Association (CASA) Foundations

Vice President External, Rachele Preston, and President Maleeka Thomas as part of their duties as ULSU representatives were able to attend the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) foundation week conference. This conference lasted 5 days (May 13th-19th 2023) in Ottawa, Ontario. This conference was held to allow for the transition of new delegates and determine advocacy priorities as well as learn about the respective committees that we are able to sit on and in what capacity we can participate and effectively advocate on behalf of the University of Lethbridge undergraduate students.

Curriculum Coordination Committee Review Student Meeting



Office of the **PRESIDENT**

This was held to hear the student's perspectives on the proposed documents for the academic schedule and curriculum for the upcoming school year. I along with Brittany Allen (VP-A) were able to ask question and suggest potential solutions that would work to benefit students in the foreseeable future, as well as to suggest potentially keeping reading week because of its benefits for student's mental health.

Senate Executive Committee Meeting

On May 17th I attended the Senate Executive Meeting, in this meeting, the food sovereignty working group was formed and we discussed recommendations as to how to move forward with solving food insecurity on our campus.

Board of Governance Prep

The ULSU's VP Operations and Finance Rikin Patel and I had discussions with the Board Chair Dean Gallimore as to how to prepare ourself for our first Board of Governors Meeting.

HR meeting

A responsibility that the President shares with the VP Operations and Finance and the General Manager, is overseeing the Human resources of the ULSU. This meeting was held to get an overview of the sensitive issues we have to deal with and ultimately come up with solutions to rectify these issues.

Meeting with Iikaiskini Team

In continuing our commitment to supporting the Indigenous students as apart of our community, I made it a responsibility to meet with the Iikaiskini team to discuss how best the ULSU can contribute to upcoming events and important days such as Indigenous Peoples' Day and more.

Staff Meeting

This is a regular standard staff meeting to check in on what the ULSU home office team has been up to and how we are working to effectively serve students and how we are ensuring that the students have the necessary access to the services we offer.



Partner Service Manager, City of Lethbridge Meeting

Securing work-integrated learning opportunities for students within the city of Lethbridge was the topic of discussion in this meeting. We meet with Perry Stein who is charged with ensuring WIL is at the forefront but also that students have safe and secure opportunities for work in Lethbridge.

Equity Diversity Inclusion Project Meeting

I met with a team of staff and faculty members committed to ensuring diversity and inclusive spaces for everyone part of the Uleth community as well as the EDI team and the Vice Provost Equity Diversity and Inclusion, Martha Mathurin to discuss the plans to around making EDI more of a practice, creating a more inclusive community.

City of Lethbridge and ULSU council meeting

The ULSU council had the opportunity to meet with the city councilors of Lethbridge and discussed the priorities of students at the university and how best they are able to support with ensuring affordable and accessible housing for students as well as student access to affordable mental health resources. In addition, we discussed the issues that are currently facing students. We hope to keep these meetings a common occurrence to ensure we come to solutions that will effectively serve students.

General Assembly (May 29th)

This was the second General Assembly meeting of the year. In this meeting we had our by-elections where we elected five reps to positions that were vacant, we also discuss the for the record event for CKXU and approve QIP funding for that event. As well as discuss Q-space levy referendum and the foodbank referendum. (For more information you can check out the ULSU minutes on the ulsu.ca website)

Board of Governance



Office of the **PRESIDENT**

As a part of my duty as President, I along with the VP Operations and Finance sit on the Board of Governors committee as a student rep in accordance with the PSLA. We had both open and closed sessions on May 30th.

Pride Month Planning

The ULSU executive team met with the Q-space team and discuss moving forward with plans for June pride month.

CAUS Board Meeting

As delegates of CAUS myself along with Rachele Preston the VP-External sits on the Board of CAUS and we had our second board meeting where we discuss plans for how we will meet to ensure our advocacy efforts are in accordance with the issues students in Alberta face.

New Student Jane's Walk Meeting

I met with Perry Stein and his team as well as with a representative from LPRIG to talk about how we can engage students in city activities in the first week and bridge the gap between students, community members, and business owners in the downtown area.

Activities

- EC bonding
- Elections watch party

Projects in Progress

- Executive Action Plan for the 57th Council
- One-on-ones with ULSU members
- First-week plans



Office of the **PRESIDENT**

Challenges encountered

One challenge I encountered this month is getting used to the role as well as learning a lot about budgeting.

Goals for Next Month

- **Meet with all GA members to hear their goals and initiative and provide assistance as well as build positive team relationships.**
- **Resource book**
- **Continue to fulfill my duties as President**

This Month's Wins

- **Elected to the CASA Board of Directors**
- **Met with Councilors**
- **Form Strategic Plans**

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to reach out. I am available via email, phone call, or in-person/virtual meeting.

su.president@uleth.ca / (403) 329-2221

Kind Regards,

Maleeka Thomas



Office of the **PRESIDENT**
