

Maleeka Thomas

President

403-329-2221

su.president@uleth.ca

Report: October 2023

Message from the President

Hello Pronghorns!

It is October! Mid-term season is upon us. Please ensure that you are taking care of yourself while you're working hard to pass your classes Here is a link for counselling service if you are feeling overwhelmed. <https://www.ulethbridge.ca/counselling>

I am so happy to report what the October days were looking like for me and the rest of the ULSU.

Meetings, Events, and Tasks Breakdown

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

- Calgary Campus Initiative Meeting
- GFC Meeting
- ULSU x ULFA
- Board of Governors meeting
- CAUS Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility meeting
- Land Use By-law conference
- Advisory Council & Career Development
- ULSU and scholarship & Finance meeting
- EDI Student Survey
- Curriculum Coordinating committee
- Convocation
- President Installation & Dinner
- General Assembly & CASA Campus Visit
- Minister of Advanced Education Meeting with ULSU
- Food for Thought
- Climate Adaption Strategy and Action plan workshop
- Student Fee Review meeting
- GFC Executive

Calgary Campus Initiative Meeting

I met with the Calgary Campus team to discuss ways in which the ULSU team can be a support to the students on that campus.

GFC Meeting

In GFC meetings we have the opportunity to discuss and vote on academic and operational changes to the university.

PS: 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.

ULSU x ULFA

I had the opportunity to meet with the University of Lethbridge Faculty Association to discuss their priorities and see ways in which our advocacy can align.

Board of Governors Meeting

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.

CAUS Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility meeting

This initial meeting was held to create the Terms of Reference for CAUS's IDEA committee.

Land Use By-law conference

As student accessible and affordable housing is one of the ULSU advocacy priorities for the 23/24 academic year, Myself and VP-External Rachele Preston attended the City of Lethbridge's Land use by-law renewal conference to bring the student lens and perspective.

Advisory Council & Career Development Meeting

In this meeting we discussed matter relating to Work Integrated Learning and much more.

ULSU and scholarship & Finance meeting

Myself and Rikin Patel the ULSU VP Operations & Finance chatted with the scholarship and finance team for the university to discuss how we can work together to mitigate the issue of delay provincial students loans.

EDI Student Survey

The EDI student survey committee met for the last time before the survey is sent out to finalize the and approve the survey.

Curriculum Coordination Committee

This meeting is held to discuss and approve recommended changes to 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.

Convocation

Convocation marks a time of celebration for our university community as we get to watch or partake in the proceedings of the graduation ceremony. Graduates crossed the stage and in my role as president, I had the honor of shaking hands of those undergraduate students represented under the ULSU.

President Installation & Dinner

This event is held to formally install the New President for the University. I was able to attend and give greetings to Dr. Digvar Jayas on behalf of the student body.

General Assembly Meeting & CASA Visit

Our Bimonthly meeting occurred as normal with a Presentation from the Chair of the Canadian Alliance of Student Association (CASA). Meeting minutes can be found at ulsu.ca

Minister of Advanced Education Meeting with ULSU

The ULSU had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Advance Ed (Minister Rajan Sawhney) to discuss issues facing our students as well as discuss our ask to ensure we are able to combat the issues we are seeing. The topic of discussion are:

- Food & Housing Security
- Student Financial Aid & Work Opportunities
- Mental health and Student Well-being & Cultural competency

Food for thought committee meeting

In this meeting we were able to discuss food security initiatives for the future.

Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan workshop

This workshop was held by the City of Lethbridge as a collaborative space to discuss and come up with effective strategies that is geared towards address the impacts of climate change.

Student Fee review committee

The student fee committee is a committee consisting of Graduate and undergraduate students as well as the Vice President Finance and Admin. In this meeting we assess the proposed student fee changes and made recommendations for potential adjustment to the ensure fairness and alignment with students educational needs and pursuits.

GFC Executive Meeting

We discuss the upcoming agenda items set for the October GFC.

Other Activities

- One-on-Ones with ULSU council and staff
- CAUS Board
- CASA Board
- Let there be light night
- DSB Perry Family Scholarship Dinner

Projects in Progress

- Working on a Food Kiosk to combat food security
- Campaign for food insecurity and food bank referendum
- Housing Survey to ensure the necessary data is collected to present to the provincial and federal government
- Indigenizing ULSU policies
- As Director of EDI working on developing an EDI Strategic Plan
- Student Financial aid & affordability conversations
- International Student Housing Cap response documentation to present to Federal government
- Student discount to aid in affordability crisis.
- Work Integrated Learning opportunities

Challenges encountered

One challenge I encountered this month is trying to find solutions for those students affected by the delayed Student provincial loans

Goals for Next Month

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

This Month's Wins

- o **Successful meeting with the Minister of Advance Ed on the UofL campus**

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maleeka Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Maleeka Thomas