



Office of the **VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL**

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General Faculties Council (GFC)
CASA National Partners Meeting
CTV Interview on Tuition
Advocacy Advisory Committee
CASA FPC and CASA A30 policies
CAUS Teleconference
CAUS Executive Director Hiring Committee
Minister Phillips at the University of Lethbridge
Legislative Review Meeting
February General Assembly Meeting
Federal Budget

General Faculties Council (GFC)

I attended GFC on Monday, February 5th. During this meeting, there was some concerns raised by faculty over the centralization of course scheduling. As being the most senior representative from the SU in the meeting, I spoke in favour of our Registrar's and our Student Affairs' Office commitment to this, as it will benefit students.

CASA National Partners Meeting

As the Vice-Chair, and currently the main representative of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), I called on behalf of CAUS to a national partners meeting hosted by CASA to discuss joint projects, and a number of issues facing students, including voluntary student unionism. It was a very productive meeting

CTV Interview on Tuition

Myself and our International Student Rep. Darren, did an interview with CTV on the Tuition Freeze and Unregulated International Student Tuition. The interview can be found here.
<https://calgary.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1323001>



Office of the **VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL**

Advocacy Advisory Committee

I chaired the second advocacy advisory committee meeting of the year. During this meeting, I updated the committee on the work of CAUS and CASA. We also passed two policies that were approved at the February General Assembly Meeting.

CASA FPC and CASA A30 policies

I have been working throughout the year with my counterpart from the University of Prince Edward Island Students' Union on rewriting CASA's A30 policies on parental & spousal contributions to the CSLP. Essentially, we want CASA to advocate for the removal of these contributions. The policies we have re-written passed Federal Policy Committee and will go to the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

CAUS Teleconference

I called into our February Teleconference for CAUS to discuss the policy, announcements, and what the next month would look like with elections, and with myself running the organization for February and March.

CAUS Executive Director Hiring Committee

I was in Edmonton, Alberta during reading week conducting interviews for the Executive Director of CAUS. Due to the confidential nature of the process, that is all I can say.

Minister Phillips at the University of Lethbridge

On Monday February 26th, Lethbridge West MLA and Minister of Environment and Parks, the Honourable Shannon Phillips, was on campus talking with students. I was able to bring the ULSU Vice-President External Candidate with me to discuss student issues with the Minister. It was a very good meeting.

Legislative Review Committee Meeting

I attended the first LRC meeting.

February General Assembly Meeting

I attended the February GA Meeting.



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Federal Budget

Here are a number of CASA wins from the 2018 Federal Budget: From CASA Budget Briefer.

Granting Councils:

Overview Budget 2018 proposes a large increase in spending for fundamental research through the granting councils. The Government proposes to invest \$925 million over 5 years, starting in 2018-19, the largest funding increase for fundamental research through the granting councils in Canada's history.

Breakdown of funding

- \$354.7 million over 5 years (\$90.1 million per year) for the Natural Sciences and Engineering Council (NSERC);
- \$354.7 million over 5 years (\$90.1 million per year) for the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR);
- \$215.5 million over 5 years (\$54.8 million per year) to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

Additionally, the Government proposes to spend \$275 million over 5 years (\$65 million per year) in the creation of a new tri-council fund that would support research that is international, interdisciplinary, fast-breaking, and higher-risk. These two new investments will increase the granting councils' budgets for fundamental research by over 25% when they reach their peak in three years' time. The funding will also support about 21,000 researchers, including 3,500 early career researchers, 8,000 undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students, 1,300 postdoctoral students, and 2,000 research assistants and technicians.

Canada Summer Jobs

Starting in Budget 2016, the federal government supported an additional 35,000 summer jobs under the Youth Employment Strategy's Canada Summer Jobs program. The government has committed to provide an additional \$448.5 million over 5 years, starting in 2018-19, to the Youth Employment Strategy. This extends the commitment made in Budget 2017 by an additional three years. This funding will work to double of the number of job placements provided through the Canada Summer Jobs program. The Youth Employment Strategy will also be modernized in the coming years, relying on the recommendations outlined in the Expert Panel on Youth Employment's report.



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Improving Support for Sexual Assault Crisis Centres on Campuses

Budget 2018 highlights the need for federal leadership on addressing sexual violence, creating safe campuses, and removing the stigma from reporting or seeking support following sexual violence. The government allocates up to \$5.5 million over 5 years, starting in 2018-19, to Status of Women Canada to work with stakeholders, including provinces and territories, towards developing a harmonized national framework to ensure consistent, comprehensive, and sustainable approaches in addressing gender-based violence at post-secondary institutions across the country. Starting in 2019, for those universities and college campuses that are not implementing best practices addressing sexual assaults on campus, the Government of Canada will consider withdrawing federal funding

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