



# COUNCIL REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE STUDENTS' UNION - ULSU.CA

Brittany Allen

VP Academic

July 2023

160 Hours

## LOOKING BACK

### Meetings & activities attended, people I've spoken with:

Note: The following meetings are listed by the occurrence date, not by importance. If you have any questions about anything laid out in the report, please feel free to contact me at [su.academic@uleth.ca](mailto:su.academic@uleth.ca).

Meeting with QPay: QPay is a company that Yewoe (VP Student Life) and I met while we were at the COCA Student Life Summit in June. We and Rikin (VP Operations and Finance) met with them to discuss their platform and program, how it can be helpful to UofL students, and why the ULSU should partner with them. Be aware that this was an introductory meeting for the ULSU executive team with QPay and no partnership has been decided. (2 hours)

Walk with UofL President Digvir Jayas: Congratulations to the new UofL's President Dr. Jayas as he has now official been in his role for one month. This was a publicized walk for all members of the UofL community to attend and meeting Dr. Jayas with refreshments at the end. (2 hours)

One-on-one with Maleeka Thomas (ULSU President): This meeting was a check-in meeting to go over the first few months within our roles, the ULSU, and how we can assist eachother in our roles. (1 hour)

Academic Schedule Discussion Meeting with Natasha Buis-Deering and Kendra Fuglerud in the SEARS office: This meeting is meant to go over potential changes to the academic schedule and how it could impact students. (2 hours)

Meeting with Liv Marken (member of the USURJ team at the UofS): This meeting was about the background set-up for an undergraduate research journal that I am working on at the UofL. (1 hour)

Meeting with Maya Ichikawa: This meeting was with Yewoe Sackey-Forson, Maya, and I about collaborate on a paint night for NSO week. (30 min)

NAVITAS Meeting with Michelle Helstein and other ULSU members: NAVITAS is a company that the UofL is collaborating with that will focus on international recruitment and is set up to be a "University 101" program for them. As this is done through a secondary company and the students that attend are not actually UofL students, the ULSU is concerned about their student advocacy. (2.5 hours)

Fresh Fest Meetings (4 meetings throughout July): I act as a minute-taker of these meetings. (8.5 hours).

NSO Meeting with Natasha Toney and Taylor Dunning-Horvath: This is to discuss how the ULSU would like to participate in the UofL's NSO and us telling them about our plans for Frosh Week. (1 hour)

New Program Review Committee (NPRC): This committee is meant to verify that any new programs that are being proposed at the UofL are follow correct procedures and that it fulfills governmental standards. This is a new committee that has began and this was the first meeting of the committee. It approved the B.Ed Early Years Proposal from the Faculty of Education. (4 hours)

Meeting with Rumi Graham: Rumi is the copyright library at the UofL's Library. We had a great conversation about copyright and how it affects students and how it relates to intellectual property. She also introduced me to the Zero Textbook Cost initiative. (2 hours)

OER virtual meeting with Alberta student leaders: This was a meeting about open educational resources and how we can advocate for them. This is a continuing committee made for student leaders all across Alberta post-secondary institutions. (2 hours)

Possibility Seeds meeting about Sexual and Gender-based Violence on Post-Secondary Campuses: Possibility Seeds is a consultancy business about social change in regards to gender justice, equity, and inclusion. This meeting was about their "Courage to Act" project which is a national initiative to address and prevent gender-based violence at Canadian post-secondary institutions. (2 hours)

Meeting with Crystal Snyder (Manager of the Spectrum journal at the UofA): This meeting was similar to the meeting I had with Liv Marken. It had to do with starting an undergraduate research journal and the steps that should be taken to do that. She provided lots of valuable resources that can be used to do this as well. (2 hours)

COCA Roundtable: This roundtable's topic was about events, marketing, and clubs. It involved many student leaders around Canada engaging in these topics that they can use and bring back to their respective students' union/association. (1 hour)

Classroom/Campus Safety Meeting: In the aftermath of the violence events that took place at UWaterloo, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences held a meeting with Campus Safety about the services that are currently available on campus and suggestions for what needs to be done still. This is a very important conversation and if you have anything that you feel needs to be added, please contact me or anyone in the ULSU. (2 hours)

Executive Council Meetings (4 in July): If you are interested in hearing about what was discussed in these meeting, I can supply you with meeting minutes from any. (8 hours)

Various meetings with students: Due to confidentiality, I will not be providing details about these meetings. (3 hours)

**Challenges I've encountered:**

As many of the projects and ideas that I have involve students, I am currently in the process of starting and creating the foundation for these projects as I wait for the beginning of semester for students to be on campus. This isn't really a challenge, but is more to illustrate a waiting game that I am currently in.

**How my work has impacted students in my constituency**

Along with my regular duties within my role as VP Academic, most of what I can campaigning for has to do with open education and open educational resources. These involve low- to no-cost textbooks and other course materials that are as, if not more, high-quality to regular publishing textbooks. Many people on campus are interested in OE and OERs and implementing them around the UofL. Textbooks and other course materials are often the biggest out-of-pocket expensive that univeristy students need to pay.

In addition to this, my work as VP Academic involves expanding research opportunities for undergraduate students. I am working to get an undergraduate research journal running on campus so that students can get experience with submitting to a journal, getting feedback, making alterations, and publishing. As many students that participate in research get practical experience but may not get experience with the academic journal side of research.

**CURRENTLY**

**Goals I'm pursuing:**

I am currently working on introducing the Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) iniativitive to stakeholders on campus to make them more aware of their autonomy when it comes to assigning course materials for their courses. I am currently gathering resources like posters and pamphets that we can distribute across campus that students, academic staff, professors, and administration can learn more about it. I am also planning on making presentations about this topic for committees on campus throughout the fall semester.

**Projects I'm working on:**

To go along with my plans for ZTC, I will be conducting a #TextbookBroke campaign that will occur the first few weeks of the fall semester. Students will also be able to fill out a survey about their opinions and thoughts about course material costs and how it affects their finacial stability.

**Things I'm helping other people with:**

Fresh Fest Week is coming up so I will be volunteering to assist with that. Move-in day will also be happening the weekend beforehand that I will be helping out with.

**MOVING FORWARD**

**Important dates/deadlines**

Aug 9 - Last day for application for Withdrawal with Cause for the Summer Term - full term.  
Aug 28 - Last day for application for Withdrawal with Cause for Summer Session III.