



Office of the VP Operations & Finance

Royal Adkin
VP Operations & Finance
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June 2017

Contribution
242 Hours

Hello everyone,

The month of June was an exceptionally busy month for the ULSU. In addition to our regular operations, the students' union staff and executives have been working exceptionally hard to prepare for the upcoming 2017/2018 academic school year.

As I continued to settle in my role as VP Operations and Finance throughout June, I've explored the intricacies of the post-secondary sector so I can make informed decisions that will enhance the experience of undergraduate students. In order to do this, I've worked very hard this month to increase my understanding in politics, post-secondary governance, long-term financial planning, and staffing procedures and policies.

In the fall of 2015, I took an awesome not-for profit management class with Mary Runte. In the first class of the semester, we learned the differences between private-sector enterprise and public-sector enterprise. Mary explained that not-for profit organizations provide services that aren't covered by profit centric businesses or government subsidized programs.

However, the Post-Secondary sector is extremely unique and doesn't neatly fit into any of these single categories. A very basic overview of University Governance reveals that universities receive government subsidization (through direct operating grants), private funding (such as the tuition that we pay for the cost of education), and engage in revenue generating activities to offset additional costs that arise from year to year (these include various services around campus like food providers, external bookings, investments, etc).

Succeeding in the extremely competitive Post-Secondary sector in Alberta requires a deep holistic understanding of many fields of knowledge; politics, business, academia, and much more. **I believe that it is my obligation as a student representative to develop an expert opinion on these matters so that I can best represent students.**

Zoo Liaison Committee

We held our second Zoo Liaison Committee Meeting on June 29th in the Council Chambers. Zoo Liaison Committee is extremely important to enable effective communication between the Executive Council, the Zoo, and the ULSU office staff. We covered a range of topics such as: anticipated increase to the minimum wage policy in Octoner, upgrading the Zoo Mural, implementing a liquor tracking system before September, and event planning and marketing for the upcoming year.



7 Cups

7 Cups continues to be a project that requires a significant amount of planning in order to be successful. In my experience, the largest obstacle that prevents students from adopting new things is the presence of perceived barriers. I believe that 7 Cups of Tea requires simplicity in access and registration. I'm currently working with Susan, Riley, and Shelley in the office to make sure that the foundation of 7 Cups is strong before we start recruiting Listeners and users.

Mental Health Summit and Announcement

I've attached an additional report this month that highlighted the implications of the Mental Health Funding announcement on June 20th. The TLDR version is that the Government will be providing Mental Health funding to all 26 Post-secondary institutions in Alberta; \$8.9 million for the 2016/2017 academic school year with an anticipated \$25.8 million for the 3 years afterwards. This is a victory for students across the province.

Upgrades to the Students Union Building

I've been exploring ideas to enhance the student services that are provided within the Students' Union Building. Many of these ideas are still a work in progress but I will highlight accomplishments as they emerge.

Board of Governors Retreat: June 14th-16th

The Board of Governors Retreat was an incredible experience. To sit at the same table of so many accomplished business professionals and provide the student perspective on University matters is an honour. We travelled to Waterton, to the same location where the Universities first leaders determined that they wanted to see a University begin. The University of Lethbridge has changed a lot in 50 years but it's inspiring to know that our institutions current leaders still carry the same zeal and passion as our founders.

Pride Parade 2017

Attending the Pride Parade for a second year was a ton of fun. The biggest change that I noticed this year is that we collaborated with a lot of members of the Pride Centre, and we walked together from City Hall to Galt Gardens with a unified purpose.

A giant thank you to Hailey for setting this up!



Office of the VP Operations & Finance

Meetings

Chancellors Dinner	June 1, 2017
Clarifying the TOR for ULSU Foodbank	June 6, 2017
1st Monday Back Meeting	June 8, 2017
Event Planning Meeting	June 8, 2017
Conference Call with 7 Cups	June 13, 2017
Conference Call with CIBC Wood Gundy: Investments	June 14, 2017
Board of Governors Retreat	June 14-16, 2017
Wellness Summit: Healthy Campus Alberta	June 20, 2017
Senate Recognition Dinner	June 23, 2017
Executive Council	June 23, 2017
Fire Extinguisher Training	June 27, 2017
Marketing Meeting for ULSU Health and Dental	June 28, 2017
Bookstore Meeting	June 28, 2017
Zoo Liaison Committee Meeting #2	June 29, 2017
Meeting with Minister Shannon Phillips	June 30, 2017

Thank you for taking time to read my report! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me @ su.finance@uleth.ca or you can reach me on my office phone @ (403)329-2292. Thank you very much.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Royal Adkin', written in a cursive style.

Royal Adkin
Vice-President Operations and Finance