



Office of the **PRESIDENT**

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Contribution Hours:
136.5

*-CAUS Counterpart
Conference, Fall Advocacy
Days & 30th Anniversary
-Student Poverty Study
-Fall Reading Break
-CASA Advocacy Week*

CAUS Counterpart Conference, Fall Advocacy Days & 30th Anniversary

From November 5th-7th, our Executive team travelled to Edmonton to take part on our trimesterly CAUS Counterpart Conference. This conference is an opportunity for our team to check in with other Student Union Executives from across Alberta and discuss issues that affect us as separate organizations. During this time, the CAUS delegates (Presidents and VP Externals) also engaged in advocacy efforts at the Legislature. We were very pleased to be able to hold caucus meetings with all four sitting parties and discuss issues facing students in Alberta. Much of our conversations entered around topics such as the tuition review, proposed improvements to Alberta's student financial aid program, mental health funding, etc.

One last exciting element to the trip was the opportunity to celebrate 30 years of effective advocacy with CAUS. On the evening of the 6th, we held a reception at the University of Alberta and were slighted to have honourable speakers such as Marlin Schmidt; Minister of Advanced Education, Don Iveson; Mayor of Edmonton, and Naheed Nenshi; Mayor of Calgary. Both Iveson and Nenshi had been highly involved with CAUS during their time in post-secondary and spoke fondly of their time with the organization. We were also lucky to have several past delegates attend the reception, providing for excellent networking opportunities for the ULSU.

Student Poverty Study

The most powerful moment of the month for me was absolutely a presentation we attended from the University Chaplain's Office regarding their study on student poverty in the City of Lethbridge. While the full study has not yet been released, many members of the campus community were invited to engage in feedback and consultation surrounding the findings and presentation of the study.

Office of the **PRESIDENT**

I was most taken aback by the hard statistics reflected in the study. While we as student advocates are no strangers to the financial struggles of post-secondary students, it was immensely powerful to see those ideas reflected in hard data before me, especially since they were targeted specifically to students here at the U of L.

We eagerly await the release of the study and I have recommended that this presentation be made to the Board of Governors, as I think it is incredibly eye-opening as to the realities that many of our students face on a day-to-day basis.

Fall Reading Break

This year saw the U of L's second instalment of the newly implemented Fall Reading Break. We will once again be working with the Registrar's office to collect student feedback on the breaks and monitor these trends over time in order to improve the experience as much as possible.

CASA Advocacy Week

VP External, Conner Peta, and I travelled to Ottawa this month to participate in CASA's capstone event, Advocacy Week. While I will provide a separate conference report for this trip, I will note that it was incredibly successful, seeing over 150 meetings between students and politicians in under a week on Parliament Hill. We are looking forward to seeing if some of our "asks" will come to fruition in the coming months!

Committees/Meetings, etc., attended in November:

ULSU Executive Council - November 1st, 9th, 24th
7 Cups of Tea Logistical Meeting - November 1st
Consult with Registrar's Office re: English for Academic Purposes Program - November
2nd
GFC Convocation Committee - November 2nd
Board of Governor's Closed Meeting - November 2nd
GFC Executive Special Meeting - November 2nd
Meeting with Lethbridge Transit re: UPass - November 2nd
General Faculties Council - November 6th
Arts & Science Faculty Council - November 9th
Meeting with Student Affairs Department - November 10th
UPass Planning Meeting - November 10th, 21st, 24th
CASA Advocacy Week Prep. Webinar - November 15th
Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee - November 20th, 23rd



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Office of the **PRESIDENT**

Senate Executive - November 21st
ULSU General Assembly Meeting - November 23rd
Student Fee Review Consultations - November 24th, 28th

Thank you, and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding this report.

Sincerely,

Hailey Babb
President