

February 17th 2022
Verbal Report to the Board of Governors
Mark Serebryansky and Holly Kletke

Thank you Mr. Chair, members of the board, and of course, all guests, but especially our fellow students today, we thank you for your time and presence.

In recent weeks, the figure of 600 days has been on the forefront of everyone's minds, but we would like to introduce a new figure to the record. One thousand and twenty four. 1024 days is equivalent to 2 years, 9 months, and 17 days. It was 1024 days ago that the current provincial government took office.

As of today, students have endured 1024 days of cuts to our institution's operating grant, rising tuition, and the overall devaluation of the student experience. Today also marks one full week of disruptive job action. Many assured us this would be an "an absolutely minimal disruption", and yet the clock continues to tick with no clear end in sight. So we ask, why do the costs of learning and furthermore the impacts of disruption always fall on our shoulders? Aren't students paying more than their fair share to learn? And instead of being in the classroom, the students are here to sit in on this meeting to demonstrate that we're not interested in acquiescing to costs increases while the quality of the student experience continues to fall.

That is why, today we have just one message for the parties: get back to the table, agree on a fair deal, so that we, the students, can get back to class.

Only then, after students are back to class, can we finally get back to work on resisting the government that continues to divide and underfund our institution. The ULSU is ready, when this matter is resolved, to refocus on advocating to our biggest adversary, the government, together, and protect this bastion of education that we all share and cherish.

The 182 students who registered to be here today are a testament to the passion and urgency with which we make these calls. The 182 students who registered to be here today are a testament to the struggles that we've endured. And today, 182 students are here to demonstrate that they're not interested in paying this much in tuition to sit idly. Although students might be a silent third party in negotiations, and even in this very room, we hope their presence does not go unnoticed, today or on any day.

We've all endured 1,024 days of challenges, what are we all going to do to ensure that the next 1,024 days are better for students?