

ULSU GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

MINUTES

AUGUST 31, 2022 | 6:00 PM MST

MEETING #2 | 2022-2023

IN-PERSON: RM SU 180 – 4401 University Dr W, Lethbridge, AB T1K 3M4

ZOOM: Meeting ID: 891 5306 2780 | Passcode: 068245

VOTING MEMBERS: PRESIDENT - **KAIRVEE BHATT** | VP OPERATIONS & FINANCE - **CORAL SKIBA** | VP STUDENT AFFAIRS - **JUANITA DEVOS** | VP ACADEMIC - **GAGE DESTEUR** | VP EXTERNAL - **SAMANTHA SCOTT** | ARTSCI REP – **ELISHA WONG** | ARTSCI REP – **JESSICA MARTIN** | ARTSCI REP – **JUSTIN MA** | ARTSCI REP – **JONAH PICKLE** | ARTSCI REP – **MICHAELA CRUMP** | ARTSCI REP – **KARO DORO** | FINE ARTS REP – **ALEXANDRA DODD** | HEALTH SCI REP – **ANNIE EBENMELU** | EDUCATION REP – **RACHELE PRESTON** | DHILLON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS REP – **LUCAS CHOI** | DHILLON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS REP – **ROBERTO BELLO** | CALGARY CAMPUS REP – **VACANT** | INDIGENOUS REP – **NATHAN CROW** | INTERNATIONAL REP – **MALEEKA THOMAS** | FIRST-YEAR REP – **VACANT**

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: GENERAL MANAGER - **CHERI POKARNEY** | OPERATIONS COORDINATOR - **TRACY MERRIFIELD** | COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR - **MAX BARTLETT**

(ACTING) CHAIR: KAIRVEE BHATT – su.president@uleth.ca | **SCRIBE:** BECCA PARKKARI - su.execadmin@uleth.ca

ATTENDANCE: Kairvee Bhatt, Coral Skiba, Juanita Devos, Gage Desteur, Samantha Scott, Jonah Pickle, Karo Doro, Alex Dodd, Annie Ebenmelu, Roberto Bello, Nathan Crow

ABSENT: Elisha Wong, Jessica Martin, Justin Ma, Michaela Crump, Rachele Preston, Lucas Choi

GUESTS: Sydney (LPIRG), Emily (SYNBIO)

1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - *Kairvee*

Oki and welcome to the second meeting of the ULSU General Assembly. Our University's Blackfoot name is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. The University is located in traditional Blackfoot Confederacy territory. We honour the Blackfoot people and their traditional ways of knowing in caring for this land, as well as all Indigenous peoples who have helped shape and continue to strengthen our university community.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

2.1 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion [22983] MSC: G. Desteur/S. Scott	Carried
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BIMT the General Assembly approves the agenda of August 31, 2022.

- Additions to the agenda
 - Item for action 9.8 Noon Hour Concert Series
 - Item for action 9.9 November Entertainment

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4. CHAIR REMARKS – Kairvee

- Welcome everyone. Thank you for taking the time to meet with us, your attendance is deeply appreciated.
- We are getting excited for the new year and really looking forward to working with you all as the fall semester quickly approaches.

5. PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

5.1 LPIRG REFERENDUM – Sydney

- The Lethbridge Public Interest Research Group puts on events and does important work to improve quality of life and advocate for student needs.
- Some examples of the work they do includes, food for thought, educating students on their rights, various research projects and providing travel awards to students looking to attend conferences or competitions.
- What is the Referendum process?
 - Referenda can be initiated by a motion approved by the General assembly, or a petition signed by no less than 10% of the active ULSU membership.
 - Any changes to SU fees or levies for any student organization will be subject to the approval of the active membership.
 - A townhall meeting will be held at least 48 hours prior to voting with the purpose of presenting the referendum information to the active members.
 - At least 10% of the official voter list must place a vote.
 - Ratification of the results must occur at the first GA meeting following a referendum.
- Fees would increase by \$5 per student before being tied to the Canadian Price Index. This will allow for LPIRG to continue their work and support students.

5.2 SYN BIO CLUB PROPOSAL – Emily

- iGem is an external organization with which the club is involved
- Typically, the conference takes place in Boston or has been held virtually over the past couple of years. However, this year it will be hosted in Paris, France which requires additional funds for travel and accommodations.
- The project that the club is entering with is related to green-blue algae in Southern Alberta.
 - The team has produced a GMO-free Fage like particle (like a virus) that specifically targets green-blue algae, killing it without disrupting the other water life.

- Financial context: The budget for student conference and grants currently sits at \$27,000. If approved in full this, it would leave \$15,000 for other grant applications.
- Historic context: Generally, the General Assembly is in favour as this is an international conference where a well reputed team will represent the University. Typically, this budget line is not utilized by many students and clubs. We generally approve \$6,000 for this club to attend the iGem jamboree.

6. REPORTS

6.1 VP OPERATIONS & FINANCE – Coral

- Professional development training with the executive council and staff to prepare for the year. Setting boundaries and learning how to work together. Completed training through Activate HR.
- Been working on GA orientation with Gage and Becca.
- Been working on Zoo renovations. Still ongoing but things have started coming together.
- RBC construction has started in Galileo's.
- Fresh Fest has been busy. It will be starting September 6th.
- Attended the Student Leader Orientation and CAUS Counterparts conferences.
- Attended a Meliorist board meeting. Was approved as the ULSU representative for the board.
- Attended Board orientation. We were asked what student issues would be most relevant this year. Would like to organize feedback from the student body.
- Working with Shelley and Kairvee on the Health and Dental plan.
- Have had a few breakfast meetings with the President's Executive.
- Getting to know various members of the campus community.
- Learning about QIP and institutional budget from Nancy Walker.
- Went to the Calgary Campus.
- Working on a feedback system for students to communicate more openly with the ULSU.
- Working on editing the grant submission form

6.2 VP STUDENT AFFAIRS – Juanita

- Monthly council reports are posted on the ULSU website. Please make sure to read the reports available to keep up on activities.
- Attended the COCA conference in June.
 - Made great contacts and came away with great ideas for events. The report for that conference is also on the website.

- Iniskim welcome day for the first day of Fresh Fest. There will be a large group of individuals participating in the event.
- Club week is coming up. Previously clubs who had not yet been ratified could not participate. That is not the case this year. We will provide space and opportunity to the clubs interested in tabling despite their ratification status.
- Have been working on making connections with various people and groups across campus.
- Working with CKXU to host a radio show – the ULSU Community. The goal is to connect with students and increase engagement with the ULSU. I would like GA involvement to host the shows as well.
- Looking at partnerships with counterpart institutions for various activities.
- Looking to do workshops for students. Mainly focusing on the club sector.
 - Would like to book mental health first aid and other development opportunities for students.
- You can reach me via email and slack or come by the office anytime.

6.3 VP ACADEMIC – *Gage*

- Working on the Network of student supports with folks from the office of Student Affairs. The goal is for centralization of student supports.
- Having discussions concerning university internationalization strategies with the university and ulsu to increase international registration
 - Visited Simon Fraser University while at the SUDS conference to further discuss what partnering with Navitas would look like.
- Working on reviewing the campus sexual violence policy.
- Working on organizing the academic speaker series
- In discussions with GA members to create a plan that will be a roadmap for all academic advocacy.
- Begun having student meetings relating to academic concerns.
- Attended the academic timetables committee meeting.
- Attended the COCA conference with Juanita.
- Attended the Students Union Development Summit in Vancouver
- Working on securing mental health first aid for staff and council members and working with the Centre for Suicide Prevention to promote suicide prevention on campus
- Attended New Student Orientation Training
- Went to the Calgary Campus to meet with the staff and engage with students.

6.4 VP EXTERNAL – *Samantha*

- Had the opportunity to travel for conferences and meetings, including

- CASA Foundations in Ottawa
 - National advocacy body introductory conference
- CASA Policy & Strategy in Calgary
 - Determining strategy for the academic term as a national advocacy body.
- Stampede in Calgary
 - Had the chance to converse with 40 sitting MLA's
- SUDS in Vancouver
 - Development conference for Students' Union's.
- Met with the student leaders from Simon Fraser University to talk about internationalization strategies and find out more about their partnership with Navitas.
- Have been having follow up meetings with the various contacts I have made at these conferences.
- Went to the Calgary campus to meet the staff and find out how to support the students there. I will be the point of contact for all things to do with the Calgary campus.
- My duties for CAUS have been busy. The ULSU hosted the counterparts conference in Lethbridge, and I took on most of the planning and preparation for the event. We had the opportunity to chat with the Minister of Advanced Education, Demetrios Nicolaides.
- Attended a Youth Advisory Council meeting. YAC is the municipal advocacy group to which we belong.
- Attended a meeting of the Calgary Student Associations. This is a municipal board of Calgary students advocating to the city. We recently secured a seat on this council to ensure we are able to represent the UofL students attending school in Calgary.
- Had a couple of media interviews. One to do with the re-allocation of grants for low-income students and the other about mental health concerns and supports for post-secondary students.
- Attended the professional development session with staff and ec.
- Completed media training through CAUS.

6.5 PRESIDENT – *Kairvee*

- Would like to echo a lot of what has been said. A large part of my role is supporting the other executive members, so I have been working on a lot of the same things. It has been a steep learning curve and a very busy summer. Some senses of the role can be very ceremonial which has given great perspective on what it means to be a student at the UofL.
- Working on getting the pharmacy started up on campus.

- Will be the CAUS primary delegate for this year due to the fact that Sam is the chair.
- Will be releasing a first 100 days in office report to update the campus community on what has been achieved by the ULSU in the first 100 days.
- Was elected as treasurer for CASA. Attended a board orientation. Reviewed the organizations banking. Passed the action plan at the most recent plenary.
- Recognize the weight of the work we do in our organization and looking at potential partnerships within the community to bolster our efforts.

6.6 ART AND SCIENCE REP – *Elisha, Jessica, Justin, Jonah, Michaela, or Karo*

- Nothing to report.

6.7 FINE ARTS REP – *Alexandra*

- Gearing up for the year, very excited.
- Focusing on bringing Fine Arts students out of the basement. Attempting to plan an event at festival square for FA students. Would like some support from fellow GA members. Please message me.
- Would like to put on a showcase night for Fine Arts student talent.
 - It would open to a more general audience dependant on interest.
 - Have spoken to some students and have gotten interest.
 - Been in contact with festival square. They are interested in the event and the space and equipment would be free to use.
 - Looking at September 23rd or 24th but could push it to October depending on how busy it is.

6.8 HEALTH SCIENCE REP – *Annie*

- Attended New Student Orientation training.
- Participated in Ahead of the Heard.
- Had meetings with Maleeka about events and ideas for international students.
- Met with the interim dean of Health Science to discuss some of my ideas and initiatives and he was able to give me ideas and feedback.
 - We discussed the academic advisor and the need for a second position. It is unfortunately not possible with the current budget, but we are looking at ways to support her role and ensure students get the support they need in a timely manner.
- Will be setting a monthly recurring meeting with the Dean to ensure open communication.

- Met with the former Vice President of the Nursing Students' Association and learnt more about the association and what they may need in terms of support from the SU.
- Became certified for Mental Health First Aid.

6.9 EDUCATION REP – *Rachele*

Absent

6.10 DHILLON SCHOOL OF BUSINESS REP – *Roberto*

- Have been keeping in contact with the executive council and Lucas to stay up to date and begin planning for initiatives
- Working on improving communications to Dhillon School of Business students
- Would like to join Coral's work on automated forms for grant applications.

6.11 CALGARY CAMPUS REP – *Vacant*

Vacant position

6.12 INDIGENOUS REP – *Nathan*

- It has been a busy summer for me. I will be reaching out to various members of the SU and university to start up my initiatives soon.
- Will be available as of Tuesday September 6th and am really looking forward to this year.

6.13 INTERNATIONAL REP – *Maleeka*

- It has been a very busy summer.
- Met with Gage, and Martha Mathurin-Moe respectively to discuss EDIA on campus.
- Met with a few first-year international students who are having some issues with navigating the systems and services on campus and in Lethbridge.
- Will be hosting an international student panel during New Student Orientation at 3 pm.
- Have been in discussions with the international centre.
- Planning to meet with RBC to host financial sessions for international students.
- Met with Tracy about hosting a townhall for international students.
- Met with Annie to discuss potential initiatives and events specific to international students.
- Met with gage to discuss a how to learn and study workshop.
- Working on the Fresh Fest committee. Let me know if you are able to volunteer during any of the Fresh Fest events.

- C. Pokarney: This is a time we really need support from GA in the way of volunteering. Please be on the lookout for an email from me about opportunities to support the initiatives and earn hours.
- G. Desteur: Maleeka will be heading up the EDIA committee for the ULSU.
- K. Doro: Great work this summer, I appreciated the email sent to clubs about volunteering. Great to see the club involvement.

6.14 FIRST YEAR REP - *Vacant*
Vacant position

7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7.1 GA ORIENTATION - *Gage*

- Planning to host an orientation session followed by a social in the Zoo on September 15th.
- It will be in person. We can set up a hybrid option if necessary. We can also record it if that is agreeable with everyone. It will be in SA 8002 and attendance is highly encouraged.

8. ITEMS FOR ACTION: CLUBS, GROUPS, AND INDIVIDUALS

8.1 SYN BIO CLUB QIP PROPOSAL – *Juanita*

[QIP Proposal](#)

[QIP Grant Application](#)

[Proposed Budget](#)

Motion [22985] MSC: R. Bello/M. Thomas	Failed
BIMT the General Assembly approve the maximum expenditure of \$12,000.00 for the Synthetic Biology club to attend the iGEM Jamboree. Monies to come from the Quality Initiatives Program.	
Motion [22986] MSC: S. Scott/G. Desteur	Carried
BIMT the General Assembly amend motion 22985 to read “BIMT the General Assembly approve the maximum expenditure of \$8,000 for the Synthetic Biology club to attend the iGEM Jamboree. Monies to come from the Quality Initiatives Program, travel and conference budget line.”	
Motion [22987] MSC: S. Scott/G. Desteur	Carried

BIMT the General Assembly approve the maximum expenditure of \$8,000.00 for the Synthetic Biology club to attend the iGEM Jamboree. Monies to come from the Quality Initiatives Program, travel and conference budget line.

Abstention: K. Doro

Opposed: R. Bello

- K. Doro will be abstaining from this vote as a member of the Synthetic Biology club.
- Historically the ULSU provides \$6,000 in funds for this club to attend the conference. There is concern with setting a precedent for approving this much funding for one club. Would like to see the funds allocated more diversely.
- The club has requested funding from other sources as well.
- QIP funds are no longer “use or lose.” The SU came to an agreement with the University to carry over unused funds. While our funds in this line are high this year due to the inability for travel during covid, in a normal year we would have \$11,000.
- Because of the budget surplus and the fact that the conference will be international the council would be in favour of approving more than the typical \$6,000.
- S. Scott brings forward a motion to amend motion 22985 to allocate \$8,000 total to the Synthetic Biology club.

9. ITEMS FOR ACTION: ULSU BUSINESS

9.1 ZOO COMPUTER REPLACEMENTS

[Zoo Computer Invoice](#)

Motion [22988] MSC: R. Bello/ M. Thomas

Carried

BIMT the General Assembly approve the maximum expenditure of \$2,745.75 to replace the two computers in the Zoo. Monies to come from the Capital Replacement Fund.

- The computers in the Zoo office that our pub and kitchen manager’s use for various tasks require replacement.

9.2 EA LAPTOP REPLACEMENT

[EA Laptop Proposal](#)

Motion [22989] MSC: M. Thomas/N. Crow

Carried

BIMT the General Assembly approve the maximum expenditure of \$1,627.29 to replace the Executive Administrator's laptop. Monies to come from the Capital Replacement Fund.

- Becca requires a user-friendly laptop with lots of storage in order to take minutes, work from home, and to use during travel with the executive team.

9.3 CASA POLICY & STRATEGY CONFERENCE – *Samantha*

[CASA PoliStrat Proposal](#)

Motion [22990] MSC: M. Thomas/J. Devos

Carried

BIMT the General Assembly approve the maximum expenditure of \$3,158.79 to attend the annual CASA policy and strategy conference. Monies to come from Travel and Conferences.

- This was a 5-day conference that Kairvee, Sam and Becca attended in Calgary.
- At the conference the delegates from each school connected and we were able to pass our organizational action plan for the year.
- It was important to make sure the ULSU perspective was shared in this conference to ensure the U of L is represented during federal advocacy.
 - CASA is the only organization that advocates at the national level for university students. There are asks for the Quebec Students' Union and Graduate students who are members of the organization as well.
 - For organizations like the ULSU who are so dependent on and affected by provincial and federal legislature these organizations and conferences are very important to ensure we are on the same page with other Student Unions' and can negotiate and advocate as a group to the government.

9.4 FRESH FEST BUDGET - *Juanita*

[Fresh Fest 2022 Budget](#)

Motion [22991] MSC: M. Thomas/R. Bello

Carried

BIMT the General Assembly approve the maximum expenditure of \$190,266.00 for the Fresh Fest 2022 events. Monies to come from the Quality Initiatives Program: Special Events.

- The budget spreadsheet was presented to council.
 - We are not projecting a loss.
 - The potential concern lies with meeting our sponsorship target.
- The budget presented has been compared against the past 15 years of fresh fest budgets for accuracy.

- Karo: The proposal is super succinct. Students will be excited for these events.
- Kairvee: The line-up has recently gone up on social media
 - Virginia to Vegas, Delaney Jane, Preston Pablo, Lilyisthatyou

9.5 CONNECTIONS CAFÉ – *Juanita & Gage*

Motion [22992] MSC: J. Pickle/N. Crow

Carried

BIMT the General Assembly approve the maximum expenditure of \$9,717.00 for the connection café events during the academic year. Monies to come from Council Events.

- We are working on an event to connect directly with our constituents and find out what problems they are facing. We want to create connection amongst the students, with the ULSU and with the university.
- Spaces and dates have been booked.
- There is a ULSU rug, couches, an ottoman and some side tables. There is also more space to add more seating if it is popular. The furniture will be stored when it is not in use.
- We will have refreshments and swag at the events as well.
- This is also a great opportunity for GA members to connect with students and hear their concerns.

9.6 LPIRG REFERENDUM – *Cheri*

[LPIRG Referendum](#)

Motion [22993] MSC: C. Skiba/J. Devos

Carried

BIMT the General Assembly approve the proposed referendum to increase the Lethbridge Public Interest Research Group levy fee then tie it to the Consumer Price Index.

Abstention: S. Scott, K. Doro

- K. Doro and S. Scott will be abstaining from this vote as they are LPIRG Board members.
- The council has decided that they would like further clarification of fee increases in the verbiage of the referendum. This motion will be approved in spirit with the condition that updates to language will be made.
- They have not had a raise in their levy, and it is required to accommodate student needs and requests for the work they do.
- A. Dodd: I am against raising the levy because it is an additional cost for students that might not access these services during their time at university. Students are already facing financial challenges.

- C. Pokarney: Students can opt out of this levy fee if they would like to.
- G. Desteur: I am in favour of the levy increase however, similarly to Alex; I would like to recognize how this adversely affects students.
- S. Scott: LPIRG works on fun projects and puts on great events. They provide students the opportunity to get involved in the campus community and social justice issues in the wider community.
- K. Doro: The majority of LPIRG funds go towards undergraduate students.
 - Food boxes
 - Grants for students starting projects
 - As students we understand the issue of raising prices, but it is to fund students to pursue their passions and make campus a better place.

9.7 EA CREDIT CARD – Cheri

Motion [22994] MSC: R. Bello/C. Skiba

Carried

BIMT the GA approve a credit card for the position of Executive Administrator with a limit of \$8,000.

- To use for booking travel and conferences and to support the Executives and allow for their credit limit to be free for their initiatives.
- K. Doro: This makes sense, and I am in favour.
- C. Pokarney: Anyone with a credit card has to submit receipts to our accountant to be reconciled. Proper governance practices will be ensured.

9.8 FREE NOON HOUR CONCERT SERIES - Juanita

- Would like to have a monthly event in collaboration with CKXU where we host pop-up concerts around campus throughout the year.
 - We will be piloting this during Fresh Fest.
- This is to provide opportunity for students to experience and engage with local Lethbridge culture.
 - Help students feel less isolated in the community of Lethbridge and make connections that include the part of their community that is beyond the confines of the campus.
- Free to students but it will have start-up, tech support, and artist costs for the ULSU and CKXU will contribute equipment.
- Start-up costs \$680 for signage
- Performer costs between \$100-\$200 for each concert.
- Should this be on the first Friday of the month or every Friday?
 - 7 performances \$1400 artist cost
 - 26 performances \$5200 artist cost

- Budget: Dependant on monthly or weekly
 - \$2630 or \$7680
- There is no longer quorum at this meeting. This item will be sent out via email ballot for discussion and action.

9.9 NOVEMBER ENTERTAINMENT – Juanita

- There is no longer quorum at this meeting. This item will be sent out via email ballot for discussion and action.

10. IN-CAMERA

No in-camera business at this time.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

- Kairvee: Residence move-in will be this weekend. If anyone has time to volunteer to help first year students move-in, please let me know.

12. NEXT MEETING

To be determined at a later time.

13. ADJOURNMENT

13.1 ADJOURNMENT

Motion [22995] MSC: K. Doro/C. Skiba

Carried

BIMT the General Assembly adjourns the meeting of August 31, 2022.