



COUNCIL REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE STUDENTS' UNION - ULSU.CA

Brittany Allen

VP Academic

August 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.

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

Fresh Fest Committee Meetings (4 meetings, 8 hours): I act as a minute-taker of these meetings. This committee was created to assist with the creation, preparation, and facilitation of Fresh Fest.

Hiring and Onboarding of the ULSU's Academic Support Coordinator: I had the opportunity to interview an amazing group of people who were interested in working with me in handling academic issues and increasing opportunities for students to learn more about academic opportunities, events, and supports at the University. After the interview and review process, Ilham Rawji is the Academic Supports Coordinator for the 2023/24 academic year.

Meetings with General Assembly Members: I had a few meetings with GA members on a variety of different topics (committees, student issues, plans for the year, etc.).

Meeting about Haven App (1 hour): Haven is a safety app that was created and run by Nelson Lee. Over the past few months, the ULSU and him have been having discussions about creating a partnership to improve the safety on campus and the safety that students feel on campus.

CAUS Counterparts (Academics) Meeting (1 hour): The Students' Union that are part of CAUS (Council of Alberta University Students) each have respective delegates for academics who all met up, virtually, to introduce ourselves, talk about our priorities for the year, and academic issues that our students are dealing with.

HR Training Meeting (5 hours): This was Human Resource (HR) training that all the EC did. Note: This is something that all EC do and is meant to help EC become better members of our organization.

Collaboration for Change – Post Secondary Mental Wellness Conference (August 16-17): This was a virtual conference that focused on mental health wellness in the post-secondary institutional space. To read more specifics about the sessions I attended, what I learned, and what I will do moving

forward, please read my conference report under my section of the ULSU's website.

ULSU and Student Support (3 meetings, 3 hours): A few years ago, a referendum was passed that the ULSU will partner with the company Student Support which will provide students with a package to get services to help students go through their time in university. Over the past few months, we have been going through the details of the partnership and marketing to students.

New Student Orientation Presentation Overview (0.5 hours): For NSO, Maleeka and I presented to new students before the first day of school. This overview was hosted by the main organizer of NSO, Natasha Reners, and was done to go over the logistics of the event, who would be presenting, and an introduction to each other.

Executive Council Retreat (August 18-19): This retreat was a time for the members of the EC to work and collaborate with one another on our Executive Action Plan, Annual General Meeting, General Assembly Orientation, Know Your Rights document, and more.

REES Training (1 hour): This is the new reporting system that the U of L Gender- and Sexual-Based Violence Prevention Coordinator Courtney Smith is launching for the Fall 2023 semester for students to report anonymously.

General Assembly Meeting (2 hours):

Possibility Seeds - [Sexual Harassment in Experiential Learning Research-to-Action Project](#) (1 hour): This was a virtual workshop that showcased the linked project, Courage to Act, that is the first of its kind nationally. It is a research-to-project looking into the sexual harassment faced by post-secondary students in experiential learning contexts (practicums, co-ops, internships, etc.).

Culture Week Planning (1 hour): This was a meeting that involved going over the things that members of the Culture Week Planning Committee has done over the past few weeks since we had met.

CAUS Counterparts (August 23-25): The CAUS is a provincial advocacy organization, representing undergraduate students from the U of A, the U of L, MRU, MacEwan, and Athabasca to the public, government, and other post-secondary education stakeholders. Counterparts is a CAUS-hosted conference in order to facilitate-sharing and networking between CAUS members. Each member of CAUS has 2 delegates who attend regular board meetings – however, to ensure that CAUS is engaging with and providing value to all members of the students' union's executive councils, CAUS hosts Counterparts to create this opportunity.

ORS and ULSU Introduction (2 hours): The teams of the ULSU EC team and the ORS team met together to meet each other and we gave a brief presentation on what the ULSU is, each of our jobs and roles, and how we can connect with each other.

StartSmart Steering Committee (1 hour): StartSmart is an initiative that is being chaired by the Department of Student Services as a way to evaluate student readiness for university education and how the U of L can assist with helping student cope with expectations. Through this, the U of L is hoping to increase retention numbers over the next 3 years through doing this survey.

Meeting with Romany Craig (0.5 hours): Romany works within the U of L Library and is assisting with a "Student Success" week that I and Ilham are planning for the first week of October.

CURRENTLY

Projects I'm working on:

#TextbookBroke Campaign: This is a campaign that is run by various Students' Unions around the country to raise awareness for the cost of course materials and how that affects the financial security of post-secondary students. This is a significant additional cost for students that is often an unexpected amount until the first week of classes.

Alongside this, I am running a survey to gather quantifiable data on how this affects students at the U of L. With this data, I will be making a report that I will use to present to various different committees and departments on campus. I also plan to present this to the Minister of Advanced Education, Rajan Sawhney, and other relevant provincial government officials to advocate for more funding towards the creation, development, and upkeep of open educational resources within the province.

I am also working on the creation and facilitation of a Student Success week for U of L students. This week will include workshops for students on various topics, like citations, sourcing, dealing with test anxiety, and more.

I am chairing the ULSU's Mental Health Wellness Committee which will assist with MH Wellness initiatives that the ULSU puts on for the year. The committee will be meeting twice before the annual #MentalHealth Week that the ULSU hosts in the fall (October 16th-20th) to discuss plans for this week.

Things I'm helping other people with:

I helped a lot with Fresh Fest. Consent Awareness Week is happening September 18-22, 2023 so discussions are being made about whether we will hold an event or not.

MOVING FORWARD

Important dates/deadlines

Health and Dental Opt-out Deadline: September 22, 2023
UPass Opt-out Deadline: September 22, 2023

Deadline for the submission of Credit/Non-credit course designation: October 2, 2023

Deadline for the submission of Grade Appeal Forms for the Summer 2023 semester: October 10, 2023