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Contribution
101 Hours

Hello everyone,

It's crazy to say that the year is done and I have completed 8 months of my term already. This month has been a bit shorter for the office due to the holidays, but it has still given me a decent workload. Here are some of the highlights for this month:

International Day of a Person with a Disability Awards

It was an honour to accept the award given to us by Quest Support Services on behalf of the Students' Union. It was given to us for our dedication in helping those with disabilities find employment in a fair and equitable environment. The Students' Union prides itself on being able to provide this service to individuals supported by Quest.

Business Liaison Committee

In our first Business Liaison Committee we were able to explore our 3 business ventures: The Zoo, Rockerman's, and Union Eats. We had found that in the case of The Zoo, our expenses had been steadily been reduced, yet our revenues had also decreased. We brainstormed ideas in order to promote the Zoo, as well as make it more appealing for students. We also did a more thorough review of Rockerman's and found ourselves with similar circumstance. We are working to reduce costs on certain items, as well as promotion and signage. Our last venture, Union Eats, has been showing really good progress and I'm happy that we're getting things ready for students.

Senate

This meeting begun with a presentation from the university Chaplain Erin Phillips about the Kerber Friendship Program, a program to help students away from home find connections with families in the City of Lethbridge. Andrew was then given the opportunity to announce the Pass the Hat Fundraiser, in which members are allowed to put cash or cheques in a hat to go towards the Student Food Bank, we were able to raise quite a bit of money from this initiative and planned on doing it in other meetings. After beginning our meeting with remarks, a budget presentation was given on the realities given by the UCP's budget, which was met with a good discussion. Our next business was to appoint four new members to the Senate on three-year terms, congratulations to Judi Dormaar, Eric Foster, Kim Gallucci, and Carey Rowntree for their appointments! Finally, we had the ambitious process of selecting honorary degree recipients. We had to first appoint members of the



Office of the VP Operations & Finance

Senate to be scrutineers for the vote. Afterwards we came around a detailed overview of all of our possible candidates for these degrees. Our vote was concluded and we have four amazing people to honour at our next convocation.

Legislative Review Committee

Our second Legislative Review Committee was set to lay down some more foundation for the project of revising the Operations Manual. I was able to split up sections of the manual so that specific members can take part in the revisions on their own time. There was also some discussion on some specific changes we wanted to see. An example would be a discussion on our per diem policies for members that travel to conferences, we believe it is more beneficial to be matched with the policies of the university, thus giving an increase. There was also a discussion on the possibility of changing the ULSU General Elections to preferential voting, as this is already a change made to our own byelections. I am looking forward to further discussion on improvements we can make and what this committee can achieve.

General Faculties Council

This meeting, similar to Senate, began with Andrew offering a presentation on our Pass the Hat Fundraiser and collecting donations for the Food Bank. It is really interesting to note that GFC is actually in a competition with Senate and the Board to see who can raise the most money. After beginning remarks, we were met with Curriculum Coordination Committee recommendations for changes to many faculties and schools, this included those for undergraduate and graduate programs. We were then able to approve a new Open Access Policy, effective immediately, which is a great success for academia at the University. We were also able to fill a vacancy in the GFC Nominations Committee, congratulations to Lisa Howard for her nomination! As per the PSLA, we needed to make a council for our new School of Liberal Education, thus we finalized the composition of our new School of Liberal Education Council. Finally, as an item for information, Carrie, AVP Finance, was able to give a briefing about the current year budget and how we were able to reduce the budget by the \$3.5 million that we were cut.

Lunch with Student Affairs External Reviewers

We were invited, alongside the Graduate Students' Association by Kathleen Massey, the AVP Students, to take a part in a review of student services on campus. The external reviewers sent to administer this review were the AVP Student Affairs at the University of Victoria and the Registrar at the University of Regina. Much was discussed related to the experiences with student services. In particular, we indicated a need to move services that are offered to a more accessible online version, such as the Registrar's services. There was also a stress on the need to improve academic advising on campus as this is a necessary service. We also discussed the inherent disadvantage to students to find services, such as the case for the Health Centre being located on the 0 floor of the Students' Union Building.



Office of the VP Operations & Finance

One last point that was very much stressed is the wait times for both the Health Centre and Counselling and Career Services. I really hope that this constructive criticism will help Kathleen improve on Student Services on campus.

Board of Governors

Once again Andrew had discussed and collected donations for our pass the hat fundraiser to start off the Open Session. We then were able to pass a new system for the U-Pass of the Graduate Students' Association to work similar to our own, making it more streamlined for both the GSA and the University. Given the reduction of the Campus Alberta Grant that was done in the current fiscal year, it required the Board to approve a revised budget for the current year as well. We were then able to discuss changes to the Signing Authority and Financial Approval Policy, both of which contained mainly language and editorial revisions. A Statement of Free Expression drafted by the Provost meant to be submitted to the Ministry of Advanced Education, was brought forward for final approval for submission. Finally, as an Item for Information we are mandated to review the financial statements of the GSA, which was done.

Executive Transition Discussion

During a full day of work, the Executive Council laid out a detailed plan on how to approach transition for the next Executive. Much of the focus of our conversation was on the whole Executive, as specific portfolios are meant to be done by the executive in question. We were able to create a timeline of duties, create a concept of inviting a student to learn the role for an hour session, called Executive for a Day. There was a plethora of things we had to learn on the go that we are going to prepare to teach our next executive team.



Meetings and Events

International Day of a Person with Disability Awards – December 3
Board of Governors Finance Committee – December 4
Executive Council Meeting – December 4
Business Liaison Committee – December 4
General Assembly Meeting – December 4
Senate Meeting – December 5
Legislative Review Committee – December 9
General Faculties Council – December 9
Conference Call with SMART Technologies – December 11
Lunch with Quest – December 11
Executive Council Meeting – December 11
Meeting with Board Chair – December 12
Lunch with Student Affairs External Reviewers – December 12
Board of Governors – December 12
Executive Transition Discussion – December 13
Office Lunch – December 17

I would once again like to thank the ULSU and student body for giving me such a great opportunity with this position. I would I also like to thank anyone who has taken the time to read this report. Engagement, discussion and rhetoric are important in student politics and I value any opinions that are given to me on the position or the organization. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at su.finance@uleth.ca or (403)329-2292.

Best Regards,

Jordan Miles
Vice-President Operations and Finance