



Jonathan Diaz

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December 2020 Report

Contribution Hours: 103

- *Advocacy Advisory Committee*
- *Board of Governors*
- *Course: Understanding and Responding to Sexual Violence: Level One*
- *December General Assembly Meeting*
- *Executive Council (3 Meetings)*
- *General Faculties Council*
- *Indigenous Relations Committee*
- *Legislative Review Committee*
- *NAVITAS Interview*
- *Pass the Hat*
- *Senate*
- *Team Bonding*
- *ULSU Awards Committee*
- *Misc. Meetings and Responsibilities*

Descriptions of Notable Meetings:

Note: the meetings designated as "Absent" were due to scheduled classes occurring at the same time.

Advocacy Advisory Committee

This committee, chaired by Ryan Lindblad, VP External, largely focuses on creating an advocacy campaign on campus. Our meetings have largely revolved around what the campaign will focus on. The issue of the ULSU's own missteps, mistakes, and accountability (and lack thereof) was also discussed, with plans set to further develop in 2021.

Board of Governors

At this month's BoG meeting, we had a great presentation from Mary Ingram, Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts, and Pablo Elizo Gomes, a recipient of the 2020-2021 Inaugural Abbondanza Entrance Award. The history behind this award was interesting to learn, and is an excellent example of the interconnectivity between disciplines here at the UofL. In the Open



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Agenda we approved the proposed fees and rates for 2021-2022 and heard reports from the Chair, the President, and the Vice-Presidents.

Course: Understanding and Responding to Sexual Violence: Level One

I am excited to see this course become available to all students, staff, and faculty. This 45-minute-long Moodle course was developed by Courtney Smith, the University's Sexual Violence Prevention Educator. This has been in the works for over the past few months and it is one step towards building a culture of consent in our university community. You can take the course here: <https://moodle.uleth.ca/202003/course/view.php?id=2064>

December General Assembly Meeting

At this month's meeting we ratified the results of the last month's byelection – welcome to the team Keifer! We also approved money for replacements in Rockerman's and for tickets for GA members to a Gender-Based Analysis+ Conference. This conference provides a wide breadth of training around equity, diversity, and inclusion, and the usage of GBA+ as a methodology in organizations, and I look forward to participating in January.

General Faculties Committee

Though other items were on the agenda for this meeting, in this report I will focus on one aspect in particular. Prior to the meeting on December 14, a letter was circulated seeking support for a GFC agenda item for discussion on the Transformational Task Forces, ultimately signed by a majority of the faculty and student representatives on GFC as well as almost 100 other faculty members and student representatives. In brief, these 21 Transformational Task Forces pertain to a wide range of university functions, and are designed to assess the function to determine if there are operational efficiencies that can be implemented to reduce costs. As the conversation unfolded, a majority of GFC members present were not satisfied with the content and scope of the information provided about the Task Forces and the Independent Consulting Committee (ICC) which will review the reports from the Task Forces. As such, a special meeting of GFC will be called by the GFC Executive in January to be dedicated entirely to an analysis of the Task Forces and the accompanying ICC.

All GFC meetings are open to non-members, unless otherwise stated, so if you wish to listen in on the meeting you are welcome to contact Jodie Gallais (jodie.gallais@uleth.ca) for the meeting invitation.



Pass the Hat

Traditionally, the ULSU runs an initiative called Pass the Hat with General Faculties Council, Senate, and Board of Governors to raise money for the ULSU Food Bank. Last year the initiative raised a total of \$3557.25, and with the pandemic affecting all aspects of student affordability, food insecurity a piece of such, the generosity from these groups was appreciated now more than ever. At the time of writing, I do not have the results of this year's fundraising push, but I will report that in my January report.

NAVITAS Interview

Ethan Pullan (VP Operations and Finance) and I were interviewed by the Meliorist regarding the potential partnership between the University and NAVITAS. The interview also involved our colleagues from the GSA and ULFA and can be found [here](#).

Team Bonding – Secret Santa

For as long as I have been on the General Assembly (3 years by this point) it has been a tradition to do a Secret Santa exchange. Though we could not meet and exchange gifts in person, for obvious reasons, Haley Gray, our Health Sciences Representative, organized a way for people to secretly share their wish lists and to ship their presents to their designated person. It was great to join everyone on a call over the break in order to catch up and open gifts!



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Comments:

It has certainly been an interesting Fall semester, to put it incredibly lightly. Though there have been many surprises, often in the form of challenges rather than opportunities, I am incredibly proud of the determination and perseverance of my fellow executives, the general assembly, and our staff members.

I'm writing this report in the new year of 2021. Though we all wish that the terrible nature of 2020 left with the passing of the new year, that is simply not going to be the case. Many structural and institutional issues that allowed these problems to occur or become worse still persist, and we still have a lot of work ahead of us. However, with that being said, 2021 presents an opportunity to reflect upon the last 12 months, and to prepare for whatever may come next.

If you do have any comments or questions on anything contained within this report, please feel free to contact me at su.president@uleth.ca.

Warm regards, and stay safe,

Jonathan Diaz