



## Office of the Vice President Student Affairs

---

Richard Lee-Thai  
VP Student Affairs  
su.studentaffairs@uleth.ca

December 2020 Report  
Contribution Hours: 125.5

- Territorial Acknowledgement
- Comments
- Clubs
- Programming
- 2SLGBTQ+ Resources Webpage
- General Assembly
- Committee Work
- General Faculties Council
- Committee Meetings

### **Territorial Acknowledgement**

Oki, I acknowledge and honour the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Lethbridge is also part of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III. The Blackfoot name of the University of Lethbridge is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. Thank you for the privilege of working, learning, and living in this place. I am grateful and I am committed to doing my part in responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action in my day-to-day life.

Adapted from the [University of Calgary](#) and the [University of Lethbridge](#).

### **Comments**

December is a shorter month and my work has focused on tying up loose ends from the Fall semester and preparing for Clubs Week, programming, transitioning, and other committee work for the Spring semester. Nominations for the annual Students' Union elections will open in early February, so if anyone is interested in the VP SA position, please contact me and I'd be more than happy to discuss this role in more detail!

SU180G - 4401 UNIVERSITY DRIVE LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA TIK 3M4	<a href="http://www.ulsu.ca">www.ulsu.ca</a>	PHONE: (403) 329-2221 FAX: (403) 329-2224 <a href="mailto:su.studentaffairs@uleth.ca">su.studentaffairs@uleth.ca</a>
--	--	--



## Office of the Vice President Student Affairs

---

### **Clubs**

Clubs Week will be happening virtually from Monday, January 11 to Friday, January 22. Keep an eye out for your student emails and the SU social media for more details on how to get involved!

Continuing my work from November, I have been examining structural ways to improve the systems and processes surrounding clubs. At the December Clubs' Council meeting, I continued presenting Bylaws & Policies that pertain to Clubs' Council and in particular about changes to club probation, the allowance of graduate student club executives, the assignment of club rooms being determined by the VP Student Affairs instead, and completing an mandatory online club training as part of the ratification process. The majority of club executives present were in favour of these changes, so I will go forward with presenting them to the Legislative Review Committee, which suggests changes to the SU Bylaws & Policies on an annual basis and become effective for the next academic year.

Additionally, I met with staff from the Career Bridge, which is the University's Centre for Work-Integrated Learning and Career Development. This hub includes Co-op, Applied Studies, Career Services and an Experiential Transcript Advisor. In particular, I provided input with regards to their strategic plan and how clubs can be involved. Opportunities were identified for clubs, especially those associated with a professional path or a program, such as the Pre-Med Club, Nursing Students' Association, Education Undergraduate Society, Agricultural Students' Society, etc. There are many employers who are looking to hire students from these programs, so I am working with Career Bridge to connect relevant clubs and employers together, such as through their Virtual Job Fair on February 10 (more info here: <https://www.uleth.ca/career-bridge/career-services/career-fair>).

### **Programming**

I am excited to announce "Finding Identity: An LGBTQ2S+ Conversation on Intersectionality, Mental Health, and Allyship" an event that will bring together 3 speakers for a moderated panel discussion. Happening on Thursday, January 28 at 6 PM, this is the product of a few months of work between the University of Lethbridge Students' Union in partnership with 5 other SU's in the Western provinces. Featuring Ben O'Keefe (Social Change Strategist, Body Discrimination Activist), Jack Saddleback (Two Spirit, Diversity & Mental Health Advocate), and Tiq Milan (Intersectional Leader, Transgender Rights & Racial Justice), keep an eye out on the ULSU social media for full details on how to participate in the event, including the chance to be in a Meet & Greet and win a \$500 giveaway!

SU180G - 4401 UNIVERSITY DRIVE  
LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA  
TIK 3M4

[www.ulsu.ca](http://www.ulsu.ca)

PHONE: (403) 329-2221  
FAX: (403) 329-2224  
[su.studentaffairs@uleth.ca](mailto:su.studentaffairs@uleth.ca)



## Office of the Vice President Student Affairs

---

Other online programming includes a continuing partnership with RBC on Campus, which will be presenting two financial literacy workshops for students in early February. Additionally, there will be monthly trivia nights with the Art Gallery next semester. Check out the official ULSU Discord server for other opportunities to connect with students and participate in some programming: <https://discord.gg/NqTMuMD>.

### **2SLGBTQ+ Resources Webpage**

I am excited to announce the creation of a 2SLGBTQ+ Resources page on the University of Lethbridge website. This was a result of sustained advocacy from myself and a small working group of students identifying the need for better administrative processes and support for queer students. It is still a living document, but the current version includes information about services, procedures for updating one's name, relevant policies, research, educational resources, and much more. A special thank you to Kathleen Massey, the Associate Vice-President (Students) for hearing our concerns and being a pivotal person for organizing the resources for this page: <https://www.ulethbridge.ca/lgbtq>

### **General Assembly**

During this month's General Assembly (GA) meeting, I presented a motion to send GA student representatives to the GBA+ (Gender-based Analysis+) Analysis Conference being held on January 12-13, 2021. As defined by the Canadian government, GBA+ is "an analytical process used to assess how diverse groups of women, men, and gender diverse people may experience policies, programs and initiatives." In essence, the conference provides a wide breadth of training around equity, diversity, and inclusion, and the usage of GBA+ as a methodology in organizations. I will be working with the participants from our SU to translate the knowledge from this conference and how it can apply to the SU. More information here: <https://canadianequality.ca/training/gba-conference/>

### **Committee Work**

For clarity, committee work can be divided into internal committees (i.e. within the SU) and external committees (outside of the SU). For internal committees, I chaired the first meetings of the GA Transition Committee and ULSU Awards Committee. Similar to my approach with clubs, I have been examining structural ways to improve how these internal committees run and how they can be adapted to an online format. More specifically, it is a focus on building more institutional continuity, especially when it comes to how GA members are prepared for their roles from year-to-year. The better that the transition process can be, the better that GA members will be able to serve students as elected representatives.

SUI80G - 4401 UNIVERSITY DRIVE LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA TIK 3M4	<a href="http://www.ulsu.ca">www.ulsu.ca</a>	PHONE: (403) 329-2221 FAX: (403) 329-2224 <a href="mailto:su.studentaffairs@uleth.ca">su.studentaffairs@uleth.ca</a>
--	--	--



## Office of the Vice President Student Affairs

---

In terms of external committees, I am a member of the Fall 2021 Task Force. This university task force is examining all the details of Fall 2021 and will be compiling a series of recommendations to the university. Broken down into smaller working groups, I will be co-chairing the Wellness/Connection working group with Mark Slomp (Executive Director, Student Services). We will be examining and also compiling a report of recommendations as it relates to student wellness and connection, which includes access to in-person SU clubs and activities, and the range of student service departments.

### **General Faculties Council**

General Faculties Council (GFC) is a governance body that is responsible for the academic affairs of the University. A number of student representatives sit on GFC, alongside university administration, and faculty members. Prior to the GFC 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. See this publicly available document for more details:

[https://www.uleth.ca/sites/default/files/2020/11/transformational\\_restructuring\\_task\\_forces\\_gfc\\_response\\_nov\\_23-20\\_final.pdf](https://www.uleth.ca/sites/default/files/2020/11/transformational_restructuring_task_forces_gfc_response_nov_23-20_final.pdf).

That request outlined three specific asks of President Mike Mahon and VP Academic Erasmus Okine:

1. to provide a summary of the process of staffing the Task Forces and, specifically, a justification for why open nominations were not sought;
2. to outline the governance model for each of these Task Forces and the consultative process integral to each;
3. an explanation of how the Task Forces align with the core principles of the University and its collegial governance model.

As that 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. In the interest of being able to effectively represent students at GFC, please feel free to contact any of the SU Executives with thoughts, feedback or

SUI80G - 4401 UNIVERSITY DRIVE LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA TIK 3M4	<a href="http://www.ulsu.ca">www.ulsu.ca</a>	PHONE: (403) 329-2221 FAX: (403) 329-2224 <a href="mailto:su.studentaffairs@uleth.ca">su.studentaffairs@uleth.ca</a>
--	--	--



## *Office of the Vice President Student Affairs*

---

questions related to these issues. The special GFC meeting is scheduled to be held January 25th from 3-5pm. 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.

### **Committee Meetings Attended**

- Senate - December 4
- Student Experience Transcript Steering Committee - December 8
- General Faculties Council - December 14
- Fall 2021 Task Force - December 15

These are some of the meetings where I represented the student voice, but does not capture the full detail of the work that I do. If you have any questions or want to chat more about this report, please send me an email!

With gratitude,  
Richard Lee-Thai