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Contribution
124 Hours

Hello everyone,

This month was nice to see with a Term Break involved, but it definitely did not falter on giving a heavy workload before and after said break. Here are some of the highlights for this month:

General Faculties Council

Our February GFC Agenda was actually fairly short in comparison to others. Our meeting started off with a President's Report with a very extensive Budget Update. The President indicated many avenues that have given him information on how the budget will relate to the University of Lethbridge. He indicated the governments plan to reduce the Campus Alberta Grant in total by five percent, but that it will be done differentially. It is still not yet clear how much the cut will be to our university. He also indicated that starting next year there will be outcomes-based funding models and that a certain amount of the grant will be at-risk if these outcomes are not met with institutions. This has definitely left the University of Lethbridge with a great challenge and there was extensive discussion after the update regarding our future. The only other important piece to this meeting was the appointment of a new member to the GFC Academic Quality Assurance Committee, congratulations to Aaron Taylor on his nomination!

Arts and Science Council

Our first Arts and Science Council meeting of the new year was begun with an extensive presentation by Courtney Smith on how the faculty can respond to instances of Sexual Violence and the many resources that the University and the City of Lethbridge offers. After this, Interim Dean Matthew Letts gave a very extensive report of the many happenings in the faculty and the university over the last while. Some of this also included the future budget planning of the university. After this, a discussion period was done with Dr. Letts and it lasted long enough that our meeting had directly ended after said discussion.

Senate Meeting

This Senate meeting had begun with a presentation by Jackson Leween 2bears, a member of the Fine Arts Faculty. The presentation was mainly about the development of amazing art pieces related to Indigenous groups of Canada. It was a very engaging



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experience and I am interested in finding out more. After this, Mike once again gave a Budget Update just like in GFC, which was met with much discussion. Charlie then gave a short presentation on the result of the Senate Award and which students at the university had received financial support from this award. Lastly, Charlie then sent a call out to the Senate to search for new members as there are some vacancies for senator positions.

Campus Space Advisory Committee

In our meeting Kathleen Massey had gone over some revisions to the Space Management and Allocation Policy, as well as the new Space Request Form used if departments are looking to use unused space on campus. We were then able to review uses of empty spaces in the CCBN now that most of the building has been vacated due to the opening of the new Science Commons. The committee was also made aware of the new Parents Rooms in the SUB and the Science Commons, as well as the Campus Masterplan which is on the Campus Planning website. There was also a lengthy discussion on the vision for University Hall as large parts of both Level 7 and 8 are now vacated. Ideas discussed were an Indigenous Students' Success cohort, a move of Accommodated Learning, and rebalance for Humanities and Social Sciences.

Board of Governors

During our Open Session, we review 2 very relevant documents. The first is the Students' Union financial statements. After Andrew and I made some of our own commentary, the Board gave useful feedback and had good things to say about how we're managing our own finances. We also had a review of fees for the 2020-21 academic year, it is unfortunate to say, but the University has pursued a tuition increase at the maximum possible levels, a 7% increase. Although Andrew and I did vote against this increase, the tuition increase did indeed pass. There were also changes in the Student Services Fee and new fees such as a fee to rent the regalia. Our feedback at Student Fee Review Committee resulted in a reduction in certain fees, but our role is limited in stopping fees with the amendment of the PSLA to remove veto power of Students' Associations.

Smart Board Replacement

After the initial feedback towards replacing the Smart Board in the Council Chambers, I had decided the best method forward was to pursue a television. But the idea of collaboration indicated something was needed to still write on. At our General Assembly meeting, I had asked for feedback on including a whiteboard in my proposal for a TV. The General Assembly did in fact like that idea, but pushed to have a mobile one we can move around so that we don't lose much of the wall space in the chambers. I am happy to pursue this avenue for our next General Assembly meeting.



Meetings and Events

General Faculties Council – February 3
Executive Council Meeting – February 5
Board of Governors Finance Committee – February 5
Arts and Science Council – February 6
Senate Meeting – February 6
Strategic Planning Committee – February 11
Campus Space Advisory Committee - 12
Executive Council Meeting – February 12
ULSU Awards Committee – February 12
General Assembly Meeting – February 12
Interview for Management Students – February 13
Board of Governors Meeting – February 13
Term Break – Not in Office – February 15 - 23
GA Townhalls – February 25
International Dinner – February 25
Executive Townhalls – February 26
Executive Council Meeting – February 26
Executive Council Meeting Follow Up – February 27
Executive Debate – February 27
Emergency Grant Meeting – February 28

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