



Office of the Vice President Student Affairs

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

February 2021 Report
Contribution Hours: 153.75

- Territorial Acknowledgement
- Comments
- Clubs
- Programming
- Committee Work
- 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

As the year is quickly drawing to an end, I have been working to proactively plan for the Fall 2021 semester and ensure that the next VP Student Affairs can make informed decisions even though there will continue to be massive uncertainties. My work this month has mainly consisted of advancing my current projects in relation to clubs, programming, and internal committees, with a strong emphasis on institutional continuity. I have been focused on refining or establishing new internal processes aimed at improving the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Students' Union. This will allow for future student representatives to do better work rather than wasting time, energy, and resources. There are still many significant issues to address, but this is meant to be a sustainable and iterative process for future student representatives to continue building upon.

SUI80G - 4401 UNIVERSITY DRIVE LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA TIK 3M4	www.ulsu.ca	PHONE: (403) 329-2221 FAX: (403) 329-2224 su.studentaffairs@uleth.ca
--	--	--



Office of the Vice President Student Affairs

Clubs

During the February Clubs' Council meeting, I gathered feedback on how the Spring 2021 Clubs Week went along with gathering input on what clubs would value in terms of in-person experiences for Fall 2021. Based on the response, it was clear that clubs highly valued returning to in-person activities on campus. Despite lots of effort from clubs to adapt and run online events, it is not the same type of connection that would be generated by having regular activities on campus. As such, I have put forward several recommendations to the Fall 2021 Teaching and Learning Committee to encourage a greater return to in-person activities while being responsive to health and safety needs. I will be working to create guidelines for clubs, such as which activities can and cannot be allowed, the cleaning procedures that must be in place, and other precautions that need to be in place in order for the Students' Union and the University to sanction the event. Similar guidelines will be developed in relation to Fall Clubs Week, such as exploring scenarios where Clubs Week can happen by splitting the tabling between multiple on-campus locations (e.g. the UHall Atrium, Science Commons Atrium, Students' Union Ballrooms, Markin Hall Atrium, etc.).

Over the past few months, I have been compiling various functional changes to Students' Union legislation so it can better support clubs and streamline processes. This includes allowing graduate students to run for club executive positions, adjusting Clubs' Council so it is primarily an information-sharing and consultative body, requiring Greek Life Organizations to attend Clubs' Council, and implementing a requirement for club executives to complete an online clubs training in order to ratify. None of these changes come into effect yet, but I have brought them forward to the Legislative Review Committee, and all the suggested amendments will be reviewed and officially voted on by the General Assembly in March and April.

Programming

I am happy to have continuing collaborations with the University of Lethbridge Art Gallery and RBC on Campus, who both hosted programming this month. The Art Gallery put on their monthly trivia night on the theme of Netflix. RBC on Campus hosted 2 financial literacy workshops in early February focused on Credit and Debt Management, as well as Budgeting. There will be another financial literacy session and trivia night in March - keep your eyes out on our social media!

I have been working with William Baliko, the Clubs & Student Involvement Assistant, to expand the SU Discord server (<https://discord.gg/NqTMuMD>). This month featured a movie night where we watched *Soul*, as well as hosting various study sessions and Maker's Nights on the Discord server. We are looking to continue building the Discord server as an engagement hub that can continue for future years.

SU180G - 4401 UNIVERSITY DRIVE
LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA
TIK 3M4

www.ulsu.ca

PHONE: (403) 329-2221

FAX: (403) 329-2224

su.studentaffairs@uleth.ca



Office of the Vice President Student Affairs

Lastly, I have made substantial progress in planning for Last Class Bash (LCB). The anticipated format for this event will be a dance party on Zoom on Tuesday, April 13. It will feature various musicians and DJs, along with prize giveaways. I am collaborating with [Living Room Concerts](#), who has hosted several events with this same type of format. You can expect to hear various musicians and DJs from across North America and Europe. Please stay tuned to the SU social media for further announcements and details as we celebrate the end of this wild academic year.

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 meetings for the GA Transition Committee and ULSU Awards Committee. For the GA Transition Committee, I have been working very closely with Susan Curtis, the SU's Executive Assistant, in order to finalize a Transition Manual as well as create an updated template for monthly reports from GA members. Moreover, a Transition and Job Shadow Checklist has been developed so that all the outgoing GA members have a systematic way to pass on information to their successors. Lastly, I have been organizing all the logistics for the Transition Weekend in late April, which will include presentations from external organizations, university stakeholders, and current SU members in order to prepare the newly elected council for their positions. For the ULSU Awards Committee, the nomination form was released this month and the committee will select the award recipients by mid-March. An online Awards Ceremony will be hosted in April and I have been working to make it as engaging of an experience as possible.

In terms of external committees, the Fall 2021 Teaching and Learning Committee has continued to meet. This university committee is examining all the details of Fall 2021 and will be compiling a series of recommendations to present to the President's Executive. Several working groups have developed recommendations in relation to study spaces, the Library, graduate students, experiential learning, student supports, community building, and teaching and learning standards. The work continues to be extremely complex as the university plans for a larger return to in-person activities and services, while using evidence-based information from public health officials to guide their plans. As the co-chair for the Student Wellness, Support, and Community Building Working Group, I have emphasized the importance for access to activities outside of class. I am a strong believer of having a holistic student experience, which includes academics, but also being involved with student organizations, attending events, making friends, and all the other casual interactions that enrich the university experience. The work of the Fall 2021 Teaching and Learning Committee will continue into the summer, as it transitions to focusing more on implementation.

SU180G - 4401 UNIVERSITY DRIVE
LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA
TIK 3M4

www.ulsu.ca

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



Office of the Vice President Student Affairs

Committee Meetings Attended

- Fall 2021 Teaching and Learning Committee - February 1, 16 and 24
- General Faculties Council - February 1
- Arts & Science Council - February 4
- Senate - February 5
- Preventing Sexual Violence Action Committee - February 11
- Student Wellness, Support, and Community Building Working Group - February 11
- CKXU 88.3 Board of Directors - February 18
- Campus Collective Centre - February 26

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