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January 2020

Contribution Hours: 205.5

Events, Meetings, and Conferences Attended:

- *New Student Orientation*
- *Budget Consultation with Upper Administration*
- *ULSU Strategic Planning Committee*
- *CAUS Teleconference*
- *Student Fee Review Committee (2)*
- *Transition Planning*
- *Executive for a Day*
- *Strategic Plan*
- *TedXUleth Meeting*
- *Communications and Marketing Coordinator Search*
- *Executive Accountability Survey*
- *Advocacy Advisory Committee*
- *General Assembly Meeting*
- *TedXUleth Zoo Viewing Party*
- *CAUS Direction Development (Jan. 27 – 28)*

Descriptions of Notable Meetings/Events:

New Student Orientation

The month began for me with the delivering of a speech to the incoming students for Spring 2020. The crown was pretty small, however; it was great to see the number of students there participating and looking forward to becoming a key part of the campus community. I was honored to speak alongside Lauren Zink of the GSA and Mark Slomp, Executive Director of Student Services. A big thank you to Asheley Cowie and all of Enrollment Services for putting on such a useful and well-ran event.

Budget Consultation with Upper Admin

During the first week back, the executives all sat down with Nancy Walker, Andy Hakin, and Mike Mahon to cover the early stages of developing the 2020/21 budget. Given the uncertainty of the government at this stage, it was tough to quantify much of what was discussed. Our discussion centered heavily on areas we believe should not be touched if/when cuts must be made. We identified multiple areas, with a heavy emphasis on mental health support for students as well as Indigenous student supports. We were also asked to identify any areas within the campus community we believe could be ran more efficiently/used to generate revenue to supplement any potential cuts. Overall, it was a good experience that hopefully sets the direction

for further consultation and development. Thank you to upper administration for taking the time to meet with us.

Student Fee Review Committee

Twice this month we met with multiple people from financial services to discuss proposed changes to student fees for the 2020/21 academic year. We discussed every fee one by one to best get an understanding for its necessity and provided necessary consultation on the fees we believe could be better implemented or eliminated altogether. Following this committee: Jordan Miles, Lauren Zink, and myself will still have an opportunity for input into these fees at our February Board meeting.

Transition Planning

It's that time of year! Following our discussion meeting in December, all executives have begun developing the necessary materials to implement a more robust and comprehensive transition. While there is still much work to do, this month I spent my time developing part of the President transition manual as well as a presentation on proper Board Governance for all executives. If you are interested in running for any position (GA or EC) please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Strategic Plan

Following our Strategic Planning Committee, this month I have spent an incredible amount of time developing the actual Strategic Plan (2020 – 2025). This has constituted quite a bit of work: formatting, the executive summary, writing of our core values, explanation of the purpose of our plan, and the flushing out of our agreed upon strategic priorities. While this has demanded much of my time as of late, it is work that I am happy to do as I truly believe the effective use of this document will better off the ULSU as an organization for years to come. If you have any input for this document or would like to see the progress made, please feel free to contact me anytime. Otherwise, the (hopefully) approved document will be made public by May 2020.

Communications and Marketing Coordinator Search

Back in December, we unfortunately had to let go of our Communications Coordinator as we planned to grow the position into multiple areas in which the previous employee would have had to develop heavily. It was a very amicable separation, with us treating the employee with the upmost respect and consideration. This has however, left quite a gap with regards to our activities specifically in the month of January. The job posting for this position officially closed on January 17th. Since then, Cheri, Jordan, and myself have been spending countless hours combing through the candidates to find the best match. We will continue interviews into February; the month where we will hopefully find the perfect match for the position.

Executive Accountability Survey Feedback

Mid-way through the month, I sat down with Amy Lambert to go over the feedback collected by the executive accountability committee. It is difficult to adequately communicate just how valuable this feedback was. With regards to both our conduct as a team as well as my

role as the President specifically, there was a lot of great areas identified for growth. I thoroughly look forward to working towards these priorities with the time remaining in my term.

General Assembly Meeting

Closer to the end of the month, we had our first official GA meeting of 2020! It was a pretty regular meeting with a number of items receiving valuable feedback and discussion. Issues were outlined with regards to the approval process of the LCB budget and a lot of ideas were raised with how to better mitigate these issues moving forward. We also discussed the merits of a new Smart Board; the proposal did not end up passing in the end, however; a lot of counter proposals were raised by council in which key features are maintained at a lower price point. I struck up an ad-hoc committee to handle the brainstorming of GA bonding activities we could pursue in this semester. I am looking forward to getting together and laying the groundwork for a truly beneficial GA bonding session. We also had an exclusive presentation on the My Experience Transcript (formally the Student Experience Transcript) which covered the implementation into the General Assembly. Overall, this month's meeting was a bit more casual, but still had a lot of relevant and beneficial discussion. Thank you to the GA members, presenters, and guests for attending and contributing.

TedXUleth Zoo Viewing Party

On Saturday January 25th, the University of Lethbridge held the first ever TedX event! It was great to see so many campus communities come together to put on what was a fantastic event. The ULSU, in partnership with the GSA and Advancement, hosted a viewing party for this unique event. We were able to give out door prizes and encourage community members to attend the event. Attendance was pretty good, with around 10-15 people consistently being there. Given that this was a day-long event, there were a number of people who showed up and left as they saw fit. Overall, it was a great event and I cannot wait to work closely with the campus community to put on other great events in the future.

CAUS Direction Development (Jan. 27 – 28)

On the final week of January, Bailey and I travelled up to Calgary to attend a CAUS conference. The purpose of this event was to focus on setting priorities given the frequent and drastic changes announced by the government in recent months. Additionally, we worked on the strategic plan for CAUS, a document which has been outdated for quite some time. For more information about this event as well as an in-depth day-by-day breakdown please see my travel report here: <https://ulsu.ca/president--andrew-gammack>.

Final Thoughts

The holiday break provided a much-needed resting period for us all here at the ULSU. With that being said, it was great to get back to work in the new year and find a routine which works for us all. I would estimate that about 70% of my time at work this month was split between developing the strategic plan, working on developing transition materials, and combing through applications for the Communications and Marketing Coordinator. I am quite happy with the progress made in all three of these areas. They do represent some of the largest areas for my consideration moving into the final term of my presidency.

Seeing posters for student elections is quite a feeling as well. I am looking forward to the excitement of election season and finding out who we will be working with throughout March and April to ensure an effective transition into the roles. With that being said, it is mixed with a slight feeling of sadness. This has been quite the year and despite several periods filled with anxiety, stress, and worry-filled anticipation, this is a position I am quite thankful for and will not soon forget.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding my report.

Kind regards,

Andrew Gammack
President