



Andrew Gammack

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November 2019

Contribution Hours: 166.50

**Events, Meetings, and Conferences Attended:**

- *School of Liberal Education Advisory Committee*
- *General Faculties Council*
- *Meeting with Bryan Austin*
- *Mental Health Week Volunteering*
- *CAUS Call*
- *Humans of ULeTh Interview*
- *Legislative Review Committee*
- *ULAA Meeting*
- *Budget Meetings with Students*
- *General Assembly Meeting*
- *Executive Transition Planning*
- *Term Break*
- *Therapy Assistance Online Launch*
- *Budget Impact Plan Meeting*
- *CAUS Counterparts and Advocacy Days*
- *Board of Governors Meeting*
- *Strategic Plan Committee Planning*
- *Meeting with the Chaplain*
- *GA Bonding*
- *CASA Policy and Strategy Conference*
- *Chaplain's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*
- *Introduction to Board Governance*

**Descriptions of Notable Meetings/Events:**

*General Faculties Council*

GFC was quite busy this month, with questions about the budget and consultation around the Freedom of Expression statement taking place. Not a lot of information was available around the specifics of the budget, given how early in the month it was, however; it was reassuring to hear administration address the inevitable burden this budget places on students and how they are looking forward to working with us to implement what they have to with the least damage to students. In other business, I let everyone know about the press release we sent out the prior week around the provincial budget. I got a lot of positive feedback and eagerness to work constructively through these next few months.

### *Meeting with Bryan Austin*

Early on in the month, Cheri, Nicole, and myself met with Bryan Austin from Edward Jones to cover an investment update. Overall, our investments are performing right on target; with a 4.95% annual return in light of our stated goal of 5%.

### *Humans of ULeth Interview*

Richard Lee Thai was kind enough to reach out to most executives to schedule a HOUL interview. Holly Keltke joined my interview as a HOUL executive member. Overall, it was a great meeting. Richard asked many questions around myself and the position, and Holly did a great job supporting the interview. I look forward to the release of the interview. I would like to formally thank both Richard and Holly for their time with this initiative as well as the consideration for my interview.

### *Budget Meeting with Students*

After a press release, a number of students met with Bailey and myself to ask about the effects of the budget, around institutional plans, and how they can help. It was both refreshing and concerning to hear the concerns of students; it is great to see the number of students who want to be engaged but saddening to see how devastating this budget will inevitably be for a lot of students.

### *Executive Transition Planning*

A large focus has been placed this year on transition. As an executive team, we have identified how damaging a lack of adequate transition can have on the year and, by extension, the organization. This meeting was a preliminary one to begin the conversation and set plans. We have set aside a whole day as a team in December to begin a lot of the groundwork around this plan. We wanted to wait until after Counterparts so as to gain more insight and feedback from other schools with more institutionally ingrained transition practices.

### *Term Break*

As per our Bylaws and the practice of old executives, the executive council was out of office for the Term Break with a mandated requirement to respond to emails. It was very refreshing to take some time to step back and relax. Given how busy the first two and a half months of the term have been, this was much needed time to collect ourselves and catch up on some much needed rest and relaxation.

### *Therapy Assistance Online*

I mentioned this a lot over the summer, but on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Therapy Assistance Online officially launched on the Ulethbridge campus. We unfortunately had a change of coordinators from TAO due to a family emergency, so there was a slight delay in the launch of this initiative. Over the next number of months, we will be pursuing a more aggressive marketing campaign. I sincerely hope that students on campus gain value from this service. I am confident

that the ULSU will work constructively with those around campus to make sure this is implemented in the most beneficial way. I would like to give a huge thanks to Jennifer Ellis-Toddington and Mark Slomp of Student Affairs for their eager and consistent consultation over the past few months, as well as Cheri Pokarney and Shelley Tuff for their assistance internally.

#### *CAUS Counterparts and Advocacy Days*

The entire executive team was lucky enough to travel up to Edmonton after the Term break for CAUS Counterparts. As I mentioned in my piece about transition, this was a great opportunity to learn more about other institutions' transitions. Additionally, I learned a lot about strategic planning that I plan on using at the SPC throughout the rest of the year. My full conference and travel report can be found at [https://ulsu.ca/president\\_-andrew-gammack](https://ulsu.ca/president/_-andrew-gammack).

#### *GA Bonding*

It may have taken multiple months, but GA Bonding finally happened! We played a number of board games in the council chambers, ate some food, and then went bowling at Holiday Bowl in Lethbridge. It was my intention to have this earlier in the semester, but unfortunately it got pushed back out of lack of priority on my part. I would like to thank Ryan Munn for his assistance with this, as well as all the General Assembly members who showed up. I look forward to being more constructive with the planning around GA bonding in the Spring semester.

#### *CASA Policy and Strategy Conference*

Close to the end of the month, I travelled to Vancouver for the CASA policy and strategy conference. We discussed a number of items and decided on our priorities which we will be advocating for at Parliament Hill in February. A more detailed report about this conference can be found at [https://ulsu.ca/president\\_-andrew-gammack](https://ulsu.ca/president_-andrew-gammack).

#### *Chaplain's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

I was asked to speak at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the University Chaplain. Despite the tight timeline with this after two back-to-back conferences, I was thankful for the opportunity. Erin Phillips (the Chaplain) has done an incredible amount for students on this campus and I was eager to celebrate this monumental anniversary. A sincere thank you to Erin for all the constructive work she has done for this community. I would also like to thank Student Affairs for asking me to speak. It was an honor to help recognize the Chaplain.

#### *Introduction to Board Governance*

I came across the opportunity for a Board Governance intro session back in October. I signed up as I have enjoyed my time sitting on multiple Boards through this position and wanted to find out more about continuing this. Additionally, I wanted to learn more about how to assist the Board as a member. I believe this session achieved all of this, while allowing me to better represent the interests of the students through my membership. Specifically, this session helped

me immensely with the Strategic Planning Committee and general transition points. Thanks to Volunteer Lethbridge for hosting such a great event.

*Final Thoughts*

This month marked the first month in the second half of my term. September was busy, October was busy, and November was no exception to this pattern. Because of this, I found myself pretty exhausted throughout the month. The term break was a nice opportunity to catch up on rest, but I found myself really tired after the back to back conferences at the end of the month. I look forward to December being a calmer month, with the only planned travel for myself being going home for the Holidays. Despite my exhaustion, I am also looking forward to what the next two and a half weeks have to offer. I am planning on pushing for donations to the Campus Food Bank alongside the Nourish program at all three governing bodies. Food insecurity on campus is a problem, and I look forward to doing my part to address this issue in December. I will update how this goes in my December report.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding my report or anything else. I can be reached through email at [su.president@uleth.ca](mailto:su.president@uleth.ca) or by phone at (403) 329 2221.

Kind regards,

Andrew Gammack  
President