



Office of the ULSU

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November 2020 Report

Contribution Hours: 161

- Arts & Science Council (Absent)
- Board of Governors Retreat
- CASA Advocacy Meetings
- CAUS Counterparts
- CAUS Advocacy Meetings
- Executive Council (3 Meetings)
- General Assembly Meeting
- General Faculties Council (Absent)
- Legislative Review Committee
- Pathways Task Force w/ GSA & ULFA
- Senate Executive
- Strategic Planning Committee (2 Meetings)
- Student Fee Review Committee (2 Meetings)
- Task Force 7 – Space Booking
- VP Advancement Search Committee
- Misc. Meetings and Responsibilities

Descriptions of Notable Meetings:

Note: the meetings designated as "Absent" were due to scheduled classes occurring at the same time.

Board of Governors Retreat

This online retreat lasted throughout the day and served as a great place for me to get to know my fellow board members more and to have fulsome discussions with them on a variety of topics. *Demetrios Nicolaidis, the Minister of Advanced Education, called in a spoke about the review of the Alberta post-secondary system, [Alberta 2030: Building Skills for Jobs](#), and a presentation on NAVITAS was given. Unfortunately I was not there for a part of the discussions revolving around the Transformational Taskforces due to a prior obligation.*



CASA Advocacy Meetings

The month of November was CASA's Advocacy Month (as compared to a single week, which is the usual) where delegates from student associations across Canada will be meeting with MPs to discuss the asks that CASA has created as an organization. Our asks were as follows: Expanding Access to Trade Re-skilling, Reducing Barriers to Post-Secondary Education for Indigenous People, Funding Student Scholarship Programs, Making it Easier for International Students to Gain Skills in Canada, and Positioning Students with Dependent Children for Success. Thank you to MP Chen, MP Beech, MP Bratina, and MP Garrison for meeting with our delegates, and thank you to my fellow CASA delegates for being such great advocates for Canadian post-secondary students!

CAUS Counterparts

This online conference spanned several days, involving all of the executive teams from the member institutions of CAUS (in other news, we welcome the Athabasca University Students' Union (AUSU) to CAUS!). A handful of past SU/SA executives returned to give some great presentations, and the CAUS board (which consists of the Presidents and VP Externals from each institution) had several meetings to plan campaigns and to plan for the future of CAUS as a whole.

CAUS Advocacy Meetings

I was also in several advocacy meetings for CAUS during CAUS Counterparts. Our provincially-focused asks were as follows: Funding Institutions and Supporting Affordability, Recession Response, Supporting Healthy and Safe Campuses, and Institutional Autonomy and Student Experience. Thank to MLA Eggen, the staff for MLA Panda, MLA Nally, and MLA Shepherd, as well as all of my fellow CAUS delegates who were in those meetings with me.

Legislative Review Committee (LRC)

The LRC is an internal committee to the ULSU, chaired by Ethan Pullan, the VP Operations and Finance. The mandate of this committee is to go through the SU's Operations Manual and make any changes it sees fit. With the first handful of meetings we've had so far there has been great discussion revolving some of the possible changes that we would like to make.



November General Assembly Meeting

At this meeting we held the byelection for the vacant DSB representative, and a big welcome to Keifer Jennings to the team! Ethan, our VP Operations and Finance, and I also gave a brief presentation on the topic of NAVITAS and some of the Pathway's findings so far.

Pathways Taskforce with GSA and ULFA

The GSA and ULSU have joined the ULFA's (University of Lethbridge Faculty Association) Pathway Taskforce to conduct research and share information regarding the University's proposed partnership with NAVITAS. Currently a lot of research and articles are being shared amongst the group, and responses have begun to be coordinated across campus. There are still many concerns held by this group, and I hope that they will be taken into consideration as the University explores this partnership.

Strategic Planning Committee (SPC)

As an Arts and Science Representative last year, I sat on this committee. There had been ULSU Strategic Plans in the past, but they had fallen into disuse and therefore, last year a new strategic plan for 2020-2025 was created. The mandate of the SPC now until 2025 is to review the strategic plan each year and benchmark how we as an organization is doing with the outlined strategic priorities. We had several initial meetings where there was some great discussion about some small changes we would like to make.

Student Fee Review Committee

Each year, it is part of the ULSU's responsibilities to delegate several members to sit on this committee, to review several changes in the fees charged to students. One MNIF was voted on by the ULSU representatives.



THE UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE
STUDENTS' UNION

Office of the ULSU

Comments:

I seem to make similar comments in each of these monthly reports, but I'm surprised to find the end of the Fall semester already upon us. From discussions with my predecessors and counterparts at the other student unions/associations, November is always one of the toughest months to get through, and I see why that is the case. Advocacy meetings were a part of my responsibilities that I felt some trepidation going into, though I found my footing after a meeting or two, and I think the advocacy meetings that I was a part of were all very productive.

By the time I am writing this, the winter break has been extended by a few days, which, from the perspective of an undergraduate student, I wholeheartedly welcome. I wish you all luck on your upcoming papers and exams, and I do hope that our students take the time afterwards to relax and reset as they return next semester.

If you do have any comments or questions on anything contained within this report, please feel free to contact me at su.president@uleth.ca.

Warm regards, and stay safe,

Jonathan Diaz