



Office of the VP Operations & Finance

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Contribution
170.5 Hours

Hello everyone,

This month has definitively left the Students' Union with a challenge. The release of the provincial budget at the end of October has left the office with a workload persisting through this month and beyond. Given that, here are some of the highlights for this month:

Senate

After the Chancellor's and President's Remarks, as well as reports to Senate, we were tasked to vote on a few items. First were new appointments to Senate, as there are currently 7 vacancies. We then voted on an amalgamation of the Senate Engagement and Outreach committees. There were then some Senate bylaws that were needed to be revised. Lastly, we had Senate Moments and a call for Convocation volunteers.

General Faculties Council

In this meeting we gave nominations for the GFC Executive Committee, congratulations to Tracy Oosterbroek, Michael Stingl, Richelle Marynowski, and Brendan Cummins on their nominations! We were then able to take nominations for the AVP Research and Dean of Graduate Studies Search Committee and the Naming Advisory Committee, congratulations to Majid Mohajerani and Leanne Elias. We then voted on revisions of the Human Research Ethics Policy, the Animal Ethics Policy and the Centres & Institutes Policy. Finally, we reviewed reports from Standing Committees, the Human Subjects Research Committee, Animal Welfare Committee and Executive Committee.

New Board Member Orientation

This Orientation was for all new members of the Board of Governors of the University, which includes myself and Andrew. We had breakfast with the Board Chair Kurt Schlachter, Mike Mahon and the Vice-Presidents. We were able to learn quite a lot about their portfolios and what a day in their shoes looks like. After eating, we were given an overview of the creation of the university, relevant legislation and the governance of the university. We were then given a thorough understanding of our roles and responsibilities as members of the board. Finally, we had discussed current board issues at the table.



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Arts and Science Council

In this meeting we did not meet quorum so we were not actually able to vote on any motions. We were able to review a graduate writing course being offered in the Spring Semester as well as an update for the School of Liberal Education. We reviewed a change to the grading of thesis courses as well, as faculty members no longer need to submit an X or P grade for graduate students.

Meliorist AGM

This annual meeting was brought with a lot of important business for the Meliorist. We had an election for an Editor-In-Chief, congratulations to Monica Lockett! We then took elections for members of the Board, the GSA VP Student Life and the ULSU VP Operations & Finance sit are automatically appointed, but we were able to elect 2 students-at-large as well. Lastly, we were able to make some changes the bylaws in order to improve the organization.

Meeting with Andy Hakin and Tim

This meeting was called as part of a series of focus groups for upper administration of the university, more specifically the office of the Provost & VP Academic. The Government of Alberta has requested that all post-secondary institutions adopt the Chicago Principles, or some form of it. Thus, Andy and Tim asked for our opinion on the statement of free expression to be passed through the Board later in the month. It was very useful in determining how it affects us, our building and our student groups.

Board of Governors Meeting

In our Open Session, we had voted on a name change for the Department of Geography, it is now named the Department of Geography and Environment. We then made the final vote on revisions on the Centres & Institutes Policy, Integrity in Research Policy, and Investment Management Policy.

Something else to note, after learning that the ULSU had lost its position on the Budget Advisory Committee for the University, as well as learning that in the past the VP Operations and Finance was inserted onto the Board of Governors for their financial knowledge, I had set up a meeting with the chair of the Board of Governors Finance Committee, Harvey Labuhn. I am happy to say that this meeting was very productive and I have been appointed to the committee for the duration of my term.

Campus Safety Meeting

This meeting is normally attended by Tracy, Cheri and Ryan, but I was asked to attend in order to discuss an initiative I had. I discussed with them the possibility of sleeping pods in the SUB and any safety issues that would come from it. There was much constructive discussion and it's obvious much more planning must be done.



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Clubs Council Meeting

This meeting I was asked to attend to assist clubs in their applications for a Club Grant or Start-Up Grant. I was finding the clubs were giving insufficient proof of an active BMO account, so I gave them guidance on how to do so and answered any questions they might have had.



Meetings and Events

Executive Council Meeting – October 1
Senate Meeting – October 4
General Faculties Council – October 7
New Board Member Orientation – October 9
Executive Council Meeting – October 9
Arts and Science Council – October 9
Meliorist Annual General Meeting – October 9
Food Bank Discussion with Andrew and Lauren Zink – October 10
Meeting with Andy Hakin and Tim – October 11
Board of Governors Meeting – October 17
General Assembly Meeting – October 17
Let There Be Light Night – October 18
Fall Convocation – October 19
Strategic Planning Committee – October 21
Campus Safety Monthly Meeting – October 22
Executive Council Meeting – October 23
Clubs Council Meeting – October 24
Executive Council Meeting – October 30
Strategic Planning Committee – October 30

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