



Office of the ULSU

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October 2020 Report

Contribution Hours: 181

- Arts & Science Council (Absent)
- Board of Governors
- CASA Advocacy Training
- Executive Council (5 Meetings)
- General Assembly Meeting
- General Faculties Council (Absent)
- Iikaiskini Gathering Place Gift Announcement
- Pathways Task Force w/ GSA & ULFA
- Senate
- Task Force 7 – Space Booking
- Team Bonding
- 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

In the open agenda of this month's meeting, the 2019-2020 Progress and Achievement Report, Survey Policy, and Establishment of Student Fees Policy were approved. More information about the open/closed agendas, as well as upcoming Board meeting dates, can be found [here](#). In the coming weeks there will be a BoG retreat where we will be able to discuss various topics (AB2030, Navitas, etc.) outside of a meeting format.

CASA Advocacy Training

The month of November is CASA's Advocacy Month (as compared to the usual week) where delegates from student associations across Canada will be meeting with MPs to discuss the asks that CASA has created as an organization. (At the point of writing this, it is already



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November and meetings have already started, so check out #StudentsOnTheDigitalHill for more information!)

October General Assembly Meeting

Always lovely to see everyone's faces in one place (even if it is on a screen)! This month we ratified Elisha, our new First Year Representation, and struck several of the ULSU's internal committees. There is now a vacant position on the General Assembly for one of the Dhillon School of Business Representatives, so if you or someone you know is interested, more details can be found on the ULSU website (ulsu.ca) or our social media accounts.

likaiskini Gathering Place Gift Announcement

Toni Pashe, the ULSU Indigenous Representative, and I were invited to this gift announcement at the beginning of the month. Thanks to contributions from the ICIP and TD Bank Financial Group, the likaiskini Gathering Place will be moved from the Paterson Center to a central place in University Hall. Though this move presents the opportunity to be more accessible to students on campus, it also presents the loss of some benefits the current location possesses. Several General Assembly members and I are looking into what options might exist for the gathering place in the future regarding this.

Senate

I, as well as several ULSU members, serve on the University of Lethbridge Senate. For this first meeting of the senate in the fall, we had a presentation focusing on updates regarding COVID-19 on campus. Several breakout rooms were held, and I do think this was a very welcome addition to the proceedings, as it allowed people from all different fields to connect and discuss with one another. I was glad to see that a large portion of the Senate was very interested in connecting with our students in different forms. I understand that Richard Lee-Thai, VP Student Affairs, has made some strides in forming these connections between the Senate and the general student body.

Pathways Taskforce with GSA and ULFA

It has recently come into light that the University is considering a possible partnership with NAVITAS, an international private company focused on providing pathway programs. The GSA and ULSU have joined the ULFA's (University of Lethbridge Faculty Association) Pathway Taskforce to conduct research into this potential partnership and the partnerships this company has formed with post-secondary institutions around the world. This group also held a town hall for the members of all three associations in order to present some of our findings and concerns.



Task Force 7 – Space Booking

I hold a spot on this task force, which is tasked with looking into the methods of space booking conducted around campus. The mandate given to this group is to create a “one-stop-shop” for all those who wish to book spaces on campus. Though I wish for the ULSU to retain its independence in booking the spaces in the Students’ Union Building, I agree that it can be highly confusing for those booking spaces, since different rooms require you to contact different offices or different people.

Team Bonding

It’s unfortunate that we have not been able to interact as a general assembly in-person much, but those are just the times we are currently living through. We had originally planned to go to the corn maze just outside of Lethbridge, but the sudden snow meant we quickly had to change those plans to hanging out in the Zoo. No matter what, it was great to get to know everyone a bit more beyond our work-related Zoom meetings.

VP Advancement Search Committee

Due to COVID-19 and other circumstances, this committee’s work was put on hold during the summer. This month, however, the committee was called back to work, and we underwent some implicit bias training and review of the job postings for this position. In the coming weeks and months I expect a lot of my time will be dedicated to reviewing the applications and conducting interviews for the applicants for the future member of President’s Executive.



Comments:

I feel as though I thought I got an understanding of what my remaining months in this position would look like during September, but it seems as though October taught me even more. There were many surprises this month, but I'm happy to see the team adjust to all of them with grace and efficiency.

Though I think I might have found my groove when it comes to balancing my academic, work, and personal life, I'm sure that November and the other months will have brand-new challenges (as well as opportunities) for us to tackle. For all those who come after me in this position, as well as every student and student leader, make sure to find some time for yourself. Find something that's 100% not work/school-related to focus on in the downtime, and just remember to take a breather sometimes.

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