



Office of the Vice President Student Affairs

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October 2020 Report
Contribution Hours: 168.5

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Territorial Acknowledgement

Oki, I acknowledge and honour the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Lethbridge is also part of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III. The Blackfoot name of the University of Lethbridge is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. Thank you for the privilege of working, learning, and living in this place. I am grateful and I am committed to doing my part in responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action in my day-to-day life.

Adapted from: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/indigenous/cultural-protocol> and https://www.uleth.ca/sites/default/files/2019/08/final_territorial_statements_june_2019.pdf

Comments

With the complex projects of Fresh Fest and Clubs Week completed, I have shifted my focus to more strategic work. In other words, I have been asking myself: What is the current state of the VP Student Affairs (VPSA) portfolio and what are areas for improvement? This has resulted in a number of actions that are outlined in this report. The end goal is leaving the ULSU and VPSA position better than I had come into it. I have also been spending time preparing for the remaining commitments of the VPSA cycle, which includes chairing the ULSU Awards Committee, GA Transition Committee, and executing Last Class Bash.

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Clubs

With more time available, I have initiated two longer-term projects both internally and externally. Internally, I have begun documenting systems and processes for everything club related, which includes but is not limited to, the handling of event proposals, room booking, catering, liquor and raffle licenses, club banking, and so on. The deliverables for this project is to have an internal working document that clearly outlines the steps associated with each of these processes, as well as using this information to update the Clubs Handbook with more flowcharts. The goal is to have more transparency to clubs on how these processes work, as well as improve efficiency and consistency by having a document that current and any future staff can access. This work is meant to create sustainable change, and provide a foundation for future VPSAs to continue building off of.

As a complement to this internal work, I have been reaching out externally to multiple Students' Unions to better understand their processes around clubs. This research consists of asking them about their staffing structure, club management software, room booking software, training for clubs, awards for clubs, and so on. The deliverable for this project will be creating a series of recommendations to improve the systems and processes at the ULSU. Some of these recommendations will be realistically implementable within my term, while the rest will be passed onto my successor.

In terms of regular operations, I chaired the second Clubs' Council of the semester and asked for feedback around Clubs Week, clubs training, and club awards. I have been working closely with William, the Clubs and Student Involvement Assistant, to discuss this feedback and take actionable steps. William has also been an integral part of the discussions with these other Students' Unions.

Western Regional Speakers Panel

This is a committee that I currently chair. The membership consists of representatives from 5 different Students' Unions in the Western provinces. This committee was formed to plan the Angela Davis event that happened back in early September, and now we are in the process of planning a second speaker event for mid-January. We have had 2 meetings in the month of October, and will be having more frequent meetings as the event date draws nearer. Keep your eyes out on the ULSU social media for an announcement of the speakers!



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Online Engagement

There have been several different projects within the umbrella of online engagement. Firstly, I have initiated an ad-hoc Online Engagement Committee, which has been planning initiatives for better online engagement in terms of programming and promotion going forward. Outside of this committee, I have been working with RBC on Campus and the Dhillon Business Students' Association to host a two-part branding and marketing event in November. I have been continuing to host my series of TEDxULeth Watch Parties. I passed off responsibility for Halloween programming to Ryan Lindblad, the ULSU VP External. He is way more creative and passionate about Halloween than I am. He worked with a committee to create a horror movie night, a haunted house video showcase, as well as a costume and pumpkin carving contest - props to everyone who was involved!

Looking to the future, I met with the Graduate Students' Association and staff from the Student Affairs office at the university in order to discuss student engagement initiatives for the rest of the school year. I will be meeting with PACT to explore the possibility of implementing a mentorship program between members of the University Senate and students.

Name and Gender Marker Changes

A working group was formed back in August to advocate to Kathleen Massey, Associate Vice President (Students), on a number of ways to improve how the current university administrative system handled names and gender markers. This is still an ongoing process, but I am happy to announce that some changes have been made as a result of this advocacy. This includes the Registrar's Office publishing information about name changes. See the "Name Change" section:

[https://www.uleth.ca/ross/forms#:~:text=Legal%20Name%20Change,Calgary%20Campus%20Office%20\(S6032\)](https://www.uleth.ca/ross/forms#:~:text=Legal%20Name%20Change,Calgary%20Campus%20Office%20(S6032))

Committee Meetings Attended

- Senate- October 2
- General Faculties Council - October 5
- Student Experience Transcript Committee - October 13
- Navitas-related Meetings - October 13, 14 (2 meetings), 28 (2 meetings)
- Arts & Science Council - October 22

These are some of the meetings where I represented the student voice. If you have any questions or want to chat more about this report, please send me an email!

With gratitude,
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