



## Jonathan Diaz

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## September 2020 Report

Contribution Hours: 170

- Arts & Science Council (Absent)
- Calgary Pride Online Workshop: LGBTQ+ 101
- CASA Member Relations Committee
- Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee
- Executive Council (4 Meetings)
- Fresh Fest: GooseChase
- GA Member Initiative Meetings
- General Faculties Council (Absent)
- General Faculties Council Executive (Absent)
- New Student Orientation Welcome
- Senate Executive
- September GA Meeting
- ULSU On Air Recording
- Misc. Meetings and Responsibilities

### **Descriptions of Notable Meetings:**

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

#### *Calgary Pride Online Workshop: LGBTQ+ 101 Workshop*

Richard Lee-Thai, VP Student Affairs, organized for Calgary Pride (specifically the Calgary Queer Arts Society) to give one of their workshops to the ULSU staff and General Assembly members. We covered the language developed and used by the community surrounding identity and self-expression, expanded on the context of the historical LGBTQ rights movement, and explored some of the many ways to engage in effective ally-ship, both in a personal and professional context. It was great to see the staff members and GA members so engaged and eager to learn. This workshop, as well as several events, are hosted regularly - more information can be found [here](#).

*CASA: Member Relations Committee*

In last month's report, I mentioned that I was doing an Instagram takeover for CASA (@casaacae) as part of being on the MRC. I am not greatest when it comes to social media, but I think it went well! We also had a meeting this month to discuss possible initiatives, especially regarding engaging and creating community in an organization that is spread across the entire nation. In particular, we discussed a video series introducing the various student associations that make up CASA.

*Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC)*

This was the first ESAC meeting that I have sat on this year (the first meeting to take place since May of 2019, in fact). A large part of the discussion that took place revolved around the survey that was put out by the committee earlier this year during the summer. We went over some of the highlights of the survey results and discussed how to analyze and organize the data for a report to the President. There was also a discussion regarding the fact that there is a gap between what steps have been taken to improve sustainability at the University, and what the general community actually knows about. I look forward to further meetings with this community.

*Fresh Fest Committee & GooseChase*

It's strange to think that Fresh Fest has already come and gone! As I've stated in previous reports, I am quite proud of this year's committee and the slate of events that they have put together. Shayla, a student on the committee, and I were in charge of moderating the GooseChase game that ran during the week. It was fun to take a look at the various submissions that participants created, from thoughtful answers to some of the deeper questions, to videos and pictures of funny scenarios. Thank you to the committee for putting on a great show, to our partners in the university and wider community, and to all who participated!

*General Assembly Member Initiative Meetings*

Over the last month, several of the other executives and I have met with various General Assembly members to discuss and develop projects for them to pursue over the course of the next few months. Madi Ing, an Arts and Science Representative, is currently working on a Local Business Passport with Ethan Pullan, VP Operations and Finance, to help introduce new students to the communities and landmarks that exist in Lethbridge outside of the university. Selena Boutilier, another Arts and Science Representative, is currently developing an initiative to advocate for increased accessibility at the university. Of course, these are just the meetings that I



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personally was in attendance for. All of our GA members have done some great work thus far representing the undergraduate students of the university.

### *New Student Orientation Welcome*

I was invited to speak at the virtual New Student Orientation at the beginning of the month to about 200 or so students. Though obviously current circumstances are what they are, I urged our incoming students to keep an open mind to new opportunities that may come their way. It's a little daunting to think back on my own New Student Orientation and how many things have happened or changed in the interim, but I wouldn't have it any other way.

### *Senate Executive*

The last Senate Executive meeting was near the beginning of May, just after I took office as ULSU President, so it was nice to see everyone again and give an in-depth update of what the ULSU has been up to in the months since then. A Senate Evaluation survey goes out to all of the members of Senate each year, and we discussed the results of last year's survey. Some concerns of disconnect, especially over Zoom, were raised, and the decision was confirmed to have short break-out rooms during the next Senate meeting.

### *September General Assembly Meeting*

We had the first General Assembly meeting for the Fall semester. Though we had some GA meetings over the summer, this one felt as though it was the first "real" meeting. We approved some purchases for the use of clubs and the ULSU staff, and also approved Kappa Beta Gamma to opt-out of the centralized banking that all of the undergraduate clubs use. In addition, we ratified the chair for the General Assembly, and conducted the By-Election for the First-Year Representative, the only vacant position. Congratulations to Elisha Wong, I look forward to working with her in the months to come.

### *ULSU: On Air Recording*

A new initiative headed by Holly Kletke, ULSU: On Air is a podcast hosted by her, featuring GA members and other members of the university community. I had the pleasure of being on the first episode with Richard Lee-Thai and Liam Connel, VP Student Affairs and VP Academic, respectively. This episode revolved around our own first year experiences, and our advice to the new students coming to the university. It was a great deal of fun to do, and I look forward to possibly being on more episodes in the future.



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### **Comments:**

September, as it usually does, has flown by. Classes have begun anew, and we are all trying to find our footing as midterms already approach. It is incredibly exciting to see the clubs and the members of the General Assembly become more active, and I know that great things are just around the corner.

The ULSU has adjusted well to the pressures brought on by COVID-19, and with the recent news that next semester will also be primarily online, I have confidence that with more experience under our belt, we can take on any challenges and opportunities that come our way.

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](mailto:su.president@uleth.ca).

Warm Regards, and stay safe,

Jonathan Diaz