

**Maleeka Thomas**

Report: September 2024

President

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**Message from the President**

Hello Horns,

Welcome or welcome back to the University of Lethbridge! We hope you've had an amazing summer filled with adventure and relaxation. Whether you're embarking on your first semester, half way through your degree or wrapping up your final set of classes, we're thrilled to see you back on campus this year.

I am happy to be bringing forth this report for the month of September and tell more about what I have been up to as your president as well as what's ongoing and upcoming.

**Meetings, Events, and Tasks Breakdown**

During the month of September, I had the privilege of attending many meetings and events listed I have listed the noteworthy ones below:

- First Year Move-In
- Strategic Planning Committee
- General Faculty Council Meeting
- Canadian Alliance of Students Association (CASA) Board
- Arts & Science Faculty team meeting and Council Meeting
- General Assembly Meeting (AGM)
- ULSU Strategic Planning
- Convocation Committee Meeting
- Council of Alberta University Student (CAUS) Board
- Canadian Alliance of Student Association (CASA) E-plenary
- Meeting with Advance Education team



- Senate Meeting
- New Students Orientation
- Welcome Week
- Fresh Fest
- ULSU Executive Breakfast
- Strategic Planning committee meeting
- ULAA General Council

### **First Year Move- In**

Team ULSU was able to help first years who were moving into residents. We had the chance to connect with the new students as well as inform them about what they have access to here at the UofL as they make Lethbridge their home for the next few years.

### **New Students Orientation (Lethbridge & Calgary Campus)**

The Executive Council and GA members had the opportunity to welcome new students to our campus community by partaking in the Welcome address from the President, campus tours, student panel and for the very first time we had a session geared towards educating new students about the ULSU services and a breakdown of what we do, this was hosted VP Academic, Annie Ebenmelu, Yash Dixit, Emi Mundell and President, Maleeka Thomas.

### **Welcome Week Events**

- **Student Service Carnival**  
Students were able to visit all the student support services, clubs and levy groups that are here on campus and learn more about how they can gain access to the service offered to students.
- **Iniskim Welcome**  
We had our annual Iniskim welcome in collaboration with Iikaisskini, students and community members. Protocols were followed and Elder Francis FirstCharger provided blessings as we head into the new school year. We also had performances from Indigenous Dancers, Singers and drummers.
- **Plant pot painting**  
This event was to ensure that students had a space to get creative and take home some free plants to make their new home beautiful with plants. This event was also hosted to provide students a space to relax and take a breather from the bustle of the first week.



- **Water mania and Slip and slide**

We host our second annual water mania and had the opportunity to have fun with students as well as community members.

- **Free BBQ**

With food insecurity being one of our biggest issues this year, the ULSU hosted a free BBQ event and was able to provide over 250 students with free BBQ lunch.

### **Fresh Fest**

The ULSU was able to host our largest Fresh Fest Outdoor Festival yet, where we had over 2100 students, volunteers and community members in attendance.

### **Welcome Back BBQ**

The ULSU worked with the External Relations team at the Welcome back BBQ. We had booths and were able to provide students with goodie bags as well as free gift cards to the bookstore and the ZOO.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The ULSU hosted our first ever AGM. We had students and campus community members involved as we discussed plans for the upcoming months. In this meeting we also held our first year By-elections

### **GFC Orientation/ Meeting**

During GFC we had the chance to discuss changes in the academic calendar, as well as we heard about the ULBC South Campus initiative development. If you have any questions on this please don't hesitate to send me an email

PS: All GFC meetings are open to non-voting members unless otherwise stated. So, if you wish to attend a meeting you are welcome to contact [governance@uleth.ca](mailto:governance@uleth.ca) to attend as a guest.

### **Arts & Science Council**

We had a meet and greet with the Arts and Science reps, the Dean and Associate Dean for the faculty of Arts & Science and we discussed plans and initiatives that can engage the entire faculty as well as pertinent issues such as courses offered by the faculty. In the council meeting the committee discussed the necessary changes if any to the Faculty of Arts and Science needed to be made as well as the update and changes to the different departments in the Faculty of Arts & Science.

### **ULSU Strategic Planning Committee**

The ULSU Strategic Planning Committee met and discussed the critical phase of collecting student feedback as part of its strategic planning process. This phase aims to gather insights and



opinions from the student body to ensure their needs and concerns are effectively addressed. Various methods, including surveys and focus groups, will be utilized to encourage broad participation. The committee emphasized the importance of transparency and communication throughout this process. Ultimately, the feedback will help shape a strategic plan that aligns with the goals and aspirations of all students at the University of Lethbridge.

### **Meeting with Advance Education team**

Myself and Lulya met with the Advance Education team to discuss Mandatory Non-Instructional fee structure and process of consultation as well as the issue of student financial aid delays.

### **CAUS Board**

This CAUS Board meeting we discussed our advocacy efforts moving forward keeping students front of mind. We discussed coming up with an Open letter that calls for action from the Provincial government regarding Alberta Student Financial Aid delays. The letter can be found on our website and/or social media.

### **ULSU Exec Breakfast**

We met with the University Administration to discuss students' needs and the ULSU Advocacy priorities as well as seeing where we can align our efforts to provide more for students.

### **University Strategic Planning**

The University is in an ongoing phase of the strategic planning process, and we met to discuss the process for the first draft roll out and consultation for that . Students are a guiding light for our institution, and our experiences, aspirations and needs should be at the forefront of our strategic plan. We are not just recipients of education; we are active contributors to our university community. Our perspectives and collective vision should shape the activities we undertake in the future to build a university experience that is academically enriching, supportive, inclusive and aligned with the needs of the diverse student body.

### **ULAA General Council**

During this University of Lethbridge Alumni Association meeting we discuss committee members role and responsibilities, introduced new alumna to the committee, plans for future events and subcommittee staffing

### **CASA E-plenary**

I was able to meet and discuss as well as approve new policies for CASA, those policies were worked on by CASA's Federal Policy committee and the Director of Policy. The policies then

went through a process of approval through a GBA analysis review. Additionally we approved CASA Financial Statements for the year

### **Other Activities**

- One-on-Ones with ULSU council and staff
- U-Pass advocacy

### **Projects in Progress**

- Working on a Food Kiosk to combat food security
- Housing Survey to ensure the necessary data is collected to present to the provincial and federal government
- Student Financial aid & affordability conversations as we experience the crisis of loans being delayed

### **Challenges encountered**

One challenge I encountered this month is managing my time well with all the activities going on for back to school.

### **Goals for Next Month**

- **Continue to connect with all GA members to hear their goals and initiative and provide assistance as well as build positive team relationships.**
- **Continue to fulfill my duties as President This Month's Wins**
- **Get phase 1 completed for the Strategic Plan**

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to reach out. I am available via email, phone call, or in-person/virtual meeting.

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Kind Regards,



Maleeka Thomas

