UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY STUDENTS’ UNION
REPORT TO THE
COMMUNITY
2014 - 2015

GRAND OPENING OF THE
Q CENTRE - AUGUST 2014

A quality money project, brought to you by your Students’ Union.
72nd Students' Legislative Council

MISSING FROM THE PHOTO: Abida Khan (Nursing), Rebecca De Koninck (Mechanical Engineering), Kyle McLeod (Social Work), Aida Kassim (VP Academic), Jamie Andrus (VP Student Life), Tetsu Nishino (Anis). Bridge McEwen (Soccer), Taylor Weller (Science), Taylor Wong (Soccer), Brad Muenchrath (Speaker)

BACK ROW (Left to Right):
- Brayden Kooistra (Engineering)
- Keean Bexte (Science)
- George Huang (Law)
- Amy Li (Science)
- Kalista Sherbaniuk (Arts)
- Carsten Krueger (Medicine)
- Stephan Guscott (Kinesiology)
- Tyler Hodgson (Haskayne)
- Kirsty McGowan (Arts)
- Sarah Amiry (Arts)
- Blythe Sola (Veterinary Medicine)
- Taylor Woo (Science)
- Parsa Samavati (Engineering)
- 72nd Students' Legislative Council
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STUDENTS’ UNION GOVERNANCE

The Students’ Union (SU) is governed by the Students’ Legislative Council (SLC). The SLC’s authority comes from the Post-Secondary Learning Act, and authorizes the SLC to make bylaws and policies regarding elections, governance structure, membership fees, and any other matters important to students. The SU represents over 25,000 undergraduates and is governed by elected officials who have successfully run in an annual SU Election. These elected officials sit on the SLC and their primary purpose is to represent students’ interests and concerns.

For 2014-15, the 72nd SLC was elected or acclaimed as follows:

President – Jarett Henry
Vice President Academic – Hana Kadri
Vice President External – Levi Nilson
Vice President Student Life – Jonah Ardiel
Vice President Operations and Finance – Adam Swertz
Faculty Representatives Arts (4) - Sara Amiry, Kirsty McGowan, Lexi Narowski, and Kalista Sherbaniuk
Faculty Representative Medicine – Carsten Krueger
Faculty Representative Science (3) – Keean Bexte, Amy Li, Taylor Woo
Faculty Representatives Schulich School of Engineering (2) – Brayden Kooistra, Parsa Samavati
Faculty Representative Kinesiology – Stephan Guscott
Faculty Representative Veterinary Medicine – Blythe Sola
Faculty Representative Werklund School of Education –Sherin Mohammad
Faculty Representatives Haskayne School of Business (2) – Jasmine Chitroda, Tyler Hodgson
Faculty Representative Law –George Huang

A By-Election was held in the fall semester to fill a vacant position. In October 2014, Rebecca Delaney-McGlinchey was elected as Faculty of Social Work representative. Alicia Lunz was acclaimed to the position of Faculty Representative, Nursing.

THREE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

The SU develops a three-year strategic plan that prioritizes and influences the SU’s allocation of resources. The plan includes a mission statement, vision statement, and guiding principles, and every three years a comprehensive review is conducted of the plan.

A three-year strategic plan for 2013-2016 was developed in February 2013 by the 70th SU executive. The executive team, along with the directors of student services and communications were involved in the review process. They reviewed similar organizations’ mission and vision statements and followed suggested best practices in the creation of the revised mission and vision statements.

ANNUAL STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Each year, the executives develop an Annual Operating Plan which must align with the SU’s three year strategic plan. This plan guides their work for the year. The 72nd executive created their plan for 2014-2015 with the following highlights. Their goals were divided into three key priorities.

One of the key priorities is to Engage with Students, because when the SU listens to undergraduate students, the SU will be able to better understand their needs and provide them with valuable services and representation.
Another key priority is to Strengthen the Organization. The SU’s revenue streams are the foundation upon which their accomplishments and services to students have been built. The SU will continue to generate revenues so that University of Calgary (U of C) students can be proud to be members of one of the strongest student associations in the country.

The last key area of focus is to Prioritize Advocacy. The SU has been a strong advocate for students and is proud of the work that has been done and is currently being done. By improving communication between the student leaders on campus and the general student body, the SU can collaborate with and consult with students to ensure the SU’s work is legitimate, timely, and visible.

**NOTABLE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES**

Each year, there are notable legislative changes. To be accountable to its membership, the SU reports any legislative changes that significantly affect the student experience. The following changes were adopted by the current SLC to improve transparency, accountability, and accessibility in student governance. All SU Policy is available on the SU website, making it transparent and accessible to all members of the university community.

The following changes were adopted by the 72nd Students’ Legislative Council (SLC):

- Created an ad-hoc committee, the Advocacy Issues Task Force, to investigate and develop proposals for advocacy policy
- Approved a Secondary Suites Policy, defining the SU’s position on permitted use of legal secondary suites in Calgary
- Amended the SLC Complaint Procedure to clarify notice to the respondent in a complaint, in accordance with principles of procedural fairness
- Approved the SU’s Market Modifiers Policy, defining how the SU takes positions on proposed tuition increases above the rate of inflation
- Amended the Committee of 10,000 Terms of Reference to clarify its mandate and delegated authority to identify worthy Calgary community charities to receive a donation collected through a student fee
- Created an Elections Policy in accordance with approved Union Bylaw amendments and authority defined under the Post-Secondary Learning Act, defining how students-at-large may participate in Union Elections
- Repealed the CRO Appointment Procedure in accordance with approved Union Bylaw amendments
- Amended the SLC Meeting Procedure to allow for a Deputy Speaker position
- Repealed the SLC Special Motions Funding Procedure to simplify the SU’s funding mechanisms. Initiatives eligible for funding under this procedure are also eligible for funding under the extra-budgetary provisions established in the Union Bylaw

The following Union Bylaw amendments were approved:

- Related to Union Elections, resolved inherent conflicts of interest related to the appointment of the CRO and authority delegated to the CRO and General Manager or designate for the administration of Union Elections
- Related to the SLC Speaker position, resolved inherent conflicts of interest related to the appointment of the Speaker and the Speaker’s accountability as an employee
- Eliminated the Committee on Sustainability Initiatives because the committee’s responsibilities could be fulfilled more effectively through other mechanisms in the SU
- Amended summer quorum for SLC, in compliance with the Interpretations Act
- Related to executive roles and responsibilities, better authority delegated to executives by SLC
- Eliminated Board of Governors Student-at-Large representative remuneration
STUDENTS’ UNION ELECTIONS

Each March, the SU holds a General Election - an opportunity for U of C undergrads to elect those students they wish to represent their interests for the following academic year (May 1 to Apr. 30).

The executive team, made up of the president and four vice presidents, are full time salaried positions. The number of elected faculty representatives is based on enrolment in the various faculties. Students are elected for a one-year term. SLC meets weekly to address new issues and represent undergraduate students. The election also includes races for one Board of Governors representative and two representatives for the Senate.

At 25.4 per cent, student voter turnout in the annual General Election is very high compared to other universities across the country.

In the March 2015 General Election, the SU added a faculty representative position for the Cumming School of Medicine, resulting in two representatives for that faculty for the coming year. So, for 2015-16, the SLC will be made up of 24 members. Nineteen of these members are Faculty Representatives, elected by students of their specific faculty. Five members are executives, elected by all undergrad students (students-at-large). There were 46 candidates in the March 2015 election. Eight positions were acclaimed and one position remained vacant.

During the General Election, students also have an opportunity to vote on referendum questions. No referendum questions were part of the election in March 2015.

Each May, the SU hosts Colour Night - a formal event where newly elected officials are sworn into office. On Friday, May 1, 2015 the 73rd SLC took their official oath of office and were excited to continue the work of their predecessors as they started planning for the 2015 fall semester.

FEES AND FINANCES

All undergraduate students at the U of C are members of the SU, and are levied a membership fee to assist with the organization’s annual operating and capital costs. As a non-profit organization, the SU returns all of its proceeds to students in the form of free or subsidized programs, services, and/or events.

The SU General Fee in 2014-2015 for full time students was $32.50 per fall and winter terms and $14.50 per spring and summer terms with part-time students paying lower fees. U of C students have not had an increase in SU fees since 1995. In fact, the SU actually decreased the fee by $.50 per full-time student per semester in February 2005.

The SU General Fee comprises 8.4 per cent of the organization’s total operating revenues with the bulk of revenues coming from its various campus businesses. The SU’s Students’ Union fees are among the lowest student association student fees in the country.

The following is a fee breakdown for fall/winter sessions (fees assessed in spring/summer, or for medicine, off-campus and co-op students are slightly lower):
The SU provides a Health and Dental Plan which provides students with a comprehensive set of health insurance benefits, supplementary to any provincial health care plan. Students may opt out of the fee with proof of other coverage. Students can pay an optional Student Peer Assistance Bursary Fee which creates bursaries for students in proven financial need.

Based on previous student referendums, the SU continues to collect and disburse fees to campus organizations. All current fees were first introduced through a referendum, and voted on by the undergraduate student body.

Full-time undergraduate students (except medicine and co-op/intern) pay $55.50 per semester in SU fees and ancillary levies.

NUTV, The Gauntlet, Student Legal Assistance, and CJSW are required to submit annual reports showing how they manage their funds.

The SU also collects a Library Assistance Fee to fund an endowment for the annual purchase of student learning materials. Elected members of the SU sit on these committees/boards to provide input.

The SU administers a fee on behalf of the Refugee Student Program. Students also contribute a small fee to both the Committee of 10,000 as well as SU Volunteer Services which helps subsidize volunteer operations such as the SU Campus Food Bank.

The U-Pass program is administered by the university through an agreement with Calgary Transit and provides full-time undergraduate and graduate students with a special transit pass that entitles them to full access to available transit services for the academic year. The U-Pass fee is not an SU fee, but is often mistaken for one. Students voted to continue the compulsory U-Pass program in a 2004 referendum. More information on the U-Pass is available at www.ucalgary.ca/unicard/upass

Each fall, the SU’s audited financial statements are approved by SLC for the previous fiscal year. During the 2014-15 year, SLC approved the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2014. Here is a summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>12,401,654.18</th>
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<tr>
<td>Operating</td>
<td>4,577,096.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student fees and levies</td>
<td>2,095,976.74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>114,086.98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>19,217,234.06</strong></td>
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<th>EXPENDITURES</th>
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<td>Cost of providing services</td>
<td>5,056,000.65</td>
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<td>Salaries</td>
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<td>Operating</td>
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<td>Amortization</td>
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<td>Building operation</td>
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<td>Interest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations from restricted funds</td>
<td>304,370.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td><strong>18,123,578.97</strong></td>
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Here is an Operational and Financial Overview for the year ending June 30, 2014:

Of the approximately $4.5 million received from student fees, the SU retains approximately $1.5 million to support SU administered programs and services. The approximately $3.0 million balance of fees is either held in reserve for specific programs (e.g., the Refugee Student Program, the Committee of 10,000, etc.) or is held in reserve and administered by the Students’ Union for the Student Health and Dental Plan.

The SU generates revenue from the businesses run in MacHall. The majority of the SU’s total operating revenue is produced from these operations and through leasing to third parties.
The above chart exhibits the primary sources of SU revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. Note the chart is a generalized snapshot of the revenue, but complete details can be found in the audited financial statements available on the SU website.

Sometimes there are expenditures that are outside of the SU’s annual budget, and the SU Bylaw outlines an approval process for those expenses.

Amounts between $0 and $5,000 require approval of the General Manager, with full and timely reporting made to the Operations and Finance Committee; amounts between $5,001 and $15,000 require the joint approval of the General Manager and the Operations and Finance Committee, with full and timely reporting made to the SLC; and amounts over $15,000 require the joint recommendation of the General Manager and the Operations and Finance Committee, with SLC approval as outlined in Section 122(d)(vi) of the Union Bylaw.

Here are the Extra-Budgetary Expenditures approved by the 72nd Operations and Finance Committee for 2014-15: Bus to transport students to Edmonton to protest the cost of education and box lunches for the participants $2,238.25, Refugee Student Program student rent $475.00, Get Out the Vote campaign $9,336.00, Den renovation (recommended to SLC) $483,901.00. TOTAL $495,950.25.
MacEwan Student Centre (MSC or MacHall) serves a campus population of approximately 40,000 people and welcomes more than 100,000 visitors a week during the busy fall and winter semesters. As building manager, the Students’ Union (SU) strives to provide a clean, safe, and welcoming building environment, provides food court and common space cleaning services, and administers the recycling programs for MacHall and other areas of campus.

The building serves as the centre of the legislative, executive, and administrative arms of the SU, provides space for a range of programs and services for students and staff at the University of Calgary (U of C), provides facilities for student clubs, societies, and activities, accommodates social, recreational, and cultural activities, and symbolizes the non-academic aspects of the university experience.

The SU uses its space in MacHall to provide low-cost, high-value retail businesses for students such as Stör, the Den, and Bound and Copied. As well, the SU uses its space to provide services to meet the needs of students such as the SU Campus Food Bank, the Info Centre/Lost & Found, and the Q Centre. The SU also provides space for students and student organizations in the east and west club spaces, council chambers, That Empty Space, and the South Courtyard Stage. Thousands of student events are held in the MacEwan Conference & Event Centre annually. Finally, the SU uses some of its space in MacHall to generate revenue to fund student programs and services.

Revenue is generated through leases with food and retail vendors, and through the MacEwan Conference & Event Centre - when the space is not being used for student events. To administer programs, services, and businesses, office space is provided for the SU, SU Volunteer Services, and the MacEwan Conference & Event Centre. All profits from businesses are re-invested back into the Students’ Union to allow them to continue providing great student programs, services, events, and advocacy.

MacHall is home to the SU. As a student-led and staff-run organization supported by student volunteers, the SU has a diverse organizational structure to manage the scope of its businesses, services, programs, and events.

Under the overall direction of the student executive team, a professional team of 51 full-time salaried employees, 199 part-time hourly employees, and 368 volunteers (who contributed 12,626 hours in the past year) deliver a wide range of services to the organization and undergraduate students. Student employment opportunities are offered through the Den & Black Lounge, the MacEwan Conference & Events Centre, the Stör, and Bound and Copied. Plus, the SU offers 25 student leadership employment opportunities every year such as: program and event coordinators, research assistants, and volunteer program coordinator positions.

**BUSINESSES AND SERVICES**

In MacHall, the SU hosts retail services, food court tenants, and university services.

As building manager of the student centre, the SU has facilitated a number of tenant agreements to support the undergraduate student lifestyle. The SU has agreements with 17 food court tenants and nine retail/service businesses including health, dental, pharmacy, and optometry tenants. There are also 17 bank machines.

The SU operates Stör – a convenience store with student-friendly pricing. Stör works to maximize its partnerships for great deals for students by offering specials, free product for club events, and running promotions that have valuable giveaways for students. Stör carries healthy and fresh alternatives (including sandwiches and salads made fresh every day at the Den). They carry gluten-friendly and peanut-free ice creams, not to mention a great selection of yogurts, granola bars, and sweet treats to get students through the day. Stör offers a 10 per cent discount to students who are active members of SU Clubs.

Bound and Copied is the SU’s used book store and copy centre. They provide low-cost copying, printing, and binding services, large format colour printing for banners and posters, used books, and a book sale consignment service. Students can consign their old text books, taking the stress and hassle out of selling them, and generate a fair price. Bound and Copied also operates the campus-wide locker rental program, making it convenient for students to rent lockers any time throughout the year. In keeping with the SU’s sustainability goals Bound and Copied uses all of its paper twice.

The SU operates the Den and Black Lounge, regular hot spots for students with two floors of food, beverages, dancing, indoor dining, an outdoor patio, and a private event area in the Red Room. The Den focuses on offering great food and beverages at student-friendly prices in a relaxed, comfortable and safe atmosphere for patrons. The new chef has introduced new menus items to cater to the changing student market. The Den has been a student tradition for more than 45 years, and Thursden
continues to be “the” social activity on campus for students on Thursday nights throughout the fall and winter semesters.

The student-owned and professionally managed MacEwan Conference & Event Centre (MCEC) features 20,000 square feet of dedicated function and event space, including an 8,775 square foot hall and a 6,000 square foot ballroom with nine additional function rooms and breakout spaces, most with natural lighting. The centre also features an additional 20,000 square feet of open concept spaces. As well, MCEC also rents table space in MacHall to provide non-profit organizations, student clubs, university organizations, and external vendors access to the student market.

The events hosted by MCEC benefit students, the university, and the local business community by generating hundreds of annual room nights for local hotels. Each year, MCEC also employs more than 120 students in their catering kitchen and banquet facilities. These positions offer competitive wages and are geared specifically for students who need to work flexible hours and on campus. While often viewed as simply a business, MCEC is pivotal to the SU’s mandate of improving the quality of student life on campus through the provision of easily accessible resources, space for student organizations to use for their events, and opportunities to help students succeed in all their initiatives.

MCEC plays host to a multitude of different types of events including large conferences, tradeshows, meetings, holiday parties, weddings, television productions, and concerts. However, only 20 per cent of all event bookings generate revenue. Recognizing that not all events that benefit students are student-initiated, MCEC offers free space and significant discounts to university student services, the Dinos, and the tri-media group for their events. Almost 20 per cent of all bookings are made by the university departments. As well, through their partnership program, the SU provides function space at no charge to university units – a value of approximately $80,000 last year.

The primary purpose of all event and conference space in MacHall (including the entirety of the conference centre, That Empty Space, the hall and ballroom, and the north and south courtyards) is to serve as space for student activities. For example, all clubs are entitled to two free room bookings per week in the conference centre. MCEC also offers free equipment and event support (in the form of event planners and operational staff) and catering at cost for more than 1,500 student events each year. In fact, the majority of all event bookings are made by clubs (one third) and other SU events (one quarter). That’s thousands of hours of free space to accommodate student club events and meetings each year.

The SU-operated MacEwan Hall is one of Alberta’s biggest and best concert venues, having hosted hundreds of chart-topping artists from all corners of the entertainment world and attracting both on and off campus clients. Also known as just “Mac Hall,” the venue offers an exciting line-up of great artists throughout the year. With room for 1,800, complemented by the MacEwan Ballroom with a capacity of 1,000, SU venues provide an affordable concert experience.

The SU’s facilities department is committed to the health and safety of students and campus community members within MacHall. The SU operates a building maintenance department and cleaning services in MacHall for the benefit of all users of the student centre, as well as managing and funding the operation of the MacHall loading dock for all MacHall tenants.

The facilities team provides immediate response to building issues with a focus on damage mitigation, facilitating a quick return to service by coordinating actions required for cleanup and repair. They also have implemented a preventive maintenance program for the entire food court tenant exhaust system, grease traps, and sanitary lines.

The SU ensures the safety of all occupants with daily inspections and repairs of MacHall. To help run the building for the benefit of all campus stakeholders, the SU has established policies, procedures, and guidelines. These guidelines include:

- space booking procedures for all public events in the common space and SU space
- an acceptable display procedure for advertising and signage; removing all unauthorized postings to keep the area tidy and orderly
- preventing unauthorized solicitation
- ensuring visual continuity of the food court through enforcement of kiosk design standards
- managing agreements with third parties (Tri-media, Safewalk, Student Legal Assistance, etc.)
- championing environmental sustainability guidelines
- procedures for partnerships between the SU and third parties
- governance of student clubs
**IMPROVEMENTS/INVESTMENTS**

The SU also manages space redevelopment projects for tenants, the SU itself, and various university departments as requested. The SU’s VP Operations and Finance, along with the Operations and Finance Committee, ensures that any renovations meet the needs of students. Improvements the SU made in 2014-2015 included:

- The new gender inclusive washroom located at the east end of the main floor of MacHall, across from the Q Centre
- A new Information Centre/Lost & Found
- New food court tables outside Starbucks
- The first floor washrooms located outside of the Den were renovated and have hands-free access with automated fixtures for water conservation
- The SU’s Q Centre relocated and expanded to a more prominent location. The larger space allows the Q Centre to hold more of its programming in their own space. It also includes a kitchen area to accommodate the SU Campus Food Bank’s Breakfast Program. The Lawrence Hong Peer Support Pod was established in memory of Lawrence, a founding volunteer who passed away tragically in April 2014

**SUSTAINABILITY**

The SU is a campus leader in promoting awareness and actions on sustainability. In addition, the SU continues to allocate funding to sustainability initiatives on campus. Sustainability initiatives include:

- Campus recycling program
- Campus composting
- Styrofoam-free food court
- Compostable cutlery
- Fair Trade Campus
- MacEwan Student Centre Waste Audit
- The Stör composting
- Bound and Copied Cloth Bag Program
- SU grants for sustainability initiatives on campus
- Green Lite Festival (NUTV)
- Compost Educator Program
- Residence Move-Out program
- Office motion sensor light switches
• Use of “green” cleaning products
• Used deep fryer oil is reused by Alberta Processing and is used for cattle feed
• Metal and drywall from construction projects is now sorted by University of Calgary’s Resource Management Partner, leading to a higher level of waste diversion
• The Loop – digital messaging/electronic bulletin board network to replace paper posters
• Proper disposal of mercury filled light bulbs

In partnership with the Developmental Disabilities Resources Centre of Calgary (DDRC) and Vecova, the SU manages the campus-wide container recycling program. The SU employs capable workers with special needs to collect the recyclable containers for the entire campus. As part of the SU’s campus-wide beverage container recycling program, the SU employs six part-time special needs staff to collect the containers. They are paid from the proceeds and supervised by a case worker from the DDRC. Beverage containers are picked up weekly by Vecova.

The SU is a proud leader in campus sustainability while reducing the amount of waste the campus community produces. Working closely with the U of C’s Facilities Management and Development Department and the Office of Sustainability, the SU has championed the composting program within MacHall, thanks to the effective composting infrastructure created by the U of C.

By spearheading the successful implementation of compostable clamshell containers and cutlery, visitors to MacHall are able to compost almost everything - except their beverage containers - from their meals: food, napkins, meal containers, and cutlery. A better understanding of the system not only benefits users, but the campus as a whole in their collective efforts to reduce waste.

The SU is committed to doing their part by ensuring that the campus community has a choice to purchase Fair Trade chocolate, coffee, and tea in businesses operated by the SU. In Stör, Fair Trade chocolate is one of the snack options. Both the Den and the MacEwan Conference & Event Centre promote the option of Fair Trade coffee and tea.

STUDENTS’ UNION’S MANAGEMENT OF THE STUDENT CENTRE

The SU is the building manager for MacEwan Hall and MacEwan Student Centre (collectively MacHall) under the terms of their License of Occupation, Operating and Management Agreement (LOOMA) with the U of C Board of Governors.

The last five year term of the current operating agreement, first executed in 1999, ends in December of 2014. The agreement also provides for five, one year automatic renewals which would extend the current agreement until December of 2019. These lengthy timelines allow the SU to negotiate in good faith until a new agreement with the Board of Governors is finalized.

LOOMA NEGOTIATION

The pending expiry of the SU’s management agreement prompted the renegotiation. In the process of negotiating the Licence of Occupation, Operation, and Management Agreement (LOOMA), the SU is reasserting their original co-ownership status in the student centre.

The SU paid 55 per cent of the original construction costs of the building, was promised this co-ownership percentage, and has managed the majority of the building for more than four decades.

The SU is entrusted with the responsibility to be stewards of well over $20 million in investments that students have made over the past 61 years. This is a complicated negotiation that gets to the heart of what value undergraduate students’ investments contribute to their campus.

The university’s current administration has refused to acknowledge students’ ownership and attempted to treat the SU as a tenant in MacHall. In September 2014, administration informed the SU that the current management agreement would terminate on Dec. 9, 2015.

The 72nd SU executive continued the MacHall negotiations started under the previous SU executive. Prior to the end of their term, the outgoing SU executive and university administration were not able to reach an agreement on a Letter of Intent to guide the rest of these negotiations. To preserve the organization’s legal rights, in April 2015 the 72nd SU executive directed their legal counsel to file a statement of claim with the court. However, this statement was not served and thus the legal action was not formally initiated, as the 73rd SU executive was optimistic that the university and the SU could reach an understanding on this contentious matter and eventually sign a detailed, legally binding agreement.
THE STUDENTS’ UNION ENGAGES STUDENTS

EVENTS
The Students’ Union (SU) believes that the student experience involves more than just the classroom. The SU is dedicated to providing a wide range of health and lifestyle programs, events, resource centers, volunteer opportunities, information services, awards, facilities, products, and support to organizations like SU Clubs to ensure that all the resources and choices are in place to create an excellent student experience.

Orientation Week is held the first week of September for first year students. The SU hosts popular booths at the resource fair featuring volunteer opportunities, part-time job openings, and information on other valuable SU programs and services. As well, the executives host orientation sessions where first year students learn about how their SU supports them. The executives star in a video production highlighting key SU programs and services, and welcomes students to campus. The week ended with the SU hosting the Funzone at the Kickoff Tailgate Party prior to the Dinos game.

During Orientation Week the SU interacted with more than 1,500 students at “Meet Your SU” sessions. 350 students attended the Movie Night on the SU and 65 attended the Q Centre Open House. 634 students participated in the Kick-Off Tailgate Funzone. Over the week, the SU gave away 2,250 SU-branded sunglasses and 2,250 notebooks - which were given out this year instead of day planners as in past years.

The SU’s annual Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS) is the only event on campus that provides an opportunity for students from all faculties to showcase their research findings. The centerpiece of URS is a research poster competition held in MacEwan Hall. Students selected to present their projects during the event are eligible to receive several awards. More than 200 members of the campus community took time to visit the 9th annual symposium which featured 99 students sharing their research through poster presentations on Nov. 27, 2014. The symposium provided a great networking venue for student researchers and a chance to meet a number of professional researchers.

The SU hosts the annual Deans’ Dinner to facilitate informal interaction between SU elected officials, deans, senior administration. The Deans’ Dinner held on Oct. 8, 2014 was attended by deans from six faculties and seven members of senior administration. The event provided an opportunity for student elected officials, deans, and senior administration to interact in a less formal environment and set a positive tone for the year ahead.
Each Monday in That Empty Space, the SU hosts free Cinemania events attracting students to watch popular movies from theaters before they are released to DVD. This year, 617 students attended the movies.

Free yoga lessons led by professional instructors (a.k.a. Yoga in the Space) are offered over the lunch hour on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday each week of the academic year to increase the physical well-being of students. This is one of the SU’s most popular weekly events, with the room routinely filled to capacity. Total attendance this year was 3,323 people.

As key member of the campus community the SU partners with university organizations, faculties, and departments to support events and activities that benefit undergraduate students. Depending on the event, the SU provides financial support, event coordination and logistics, and/or promotion to students. Examples of partnered events include:

- Orientation Week
- Kickoff Tailgate Party
- Frostbite
- Faith and Spirituality Centre’s Awards Gala and Dinner
- Harvest Festival
- U of C Open House
- Hunger Week and The Hamper Project
- Sex Week- Sex and Gender Awareness Week
- Dino Pride campaigns
- ucalgarycares: Costa Rica
- Mental Health Awareness Week
- It Gets Better Campaign and Coming Out Monologues
- Arts Faculty Gala
- Kines Games
- Women’s Leadership Conference and WRC Awards
- #ucalgarygettested (mass STI testing event)
- National Sweater Day
- BSD Day of Service
- Trick or Eat
- Last Lecture
- U of C Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI)

Each year new events are created – often based on the passions and interests of the elected students. Examples of two new events this year are the Open Mic and Meet Your Monkey.

Meet Your Monkey, an event held in partnership between the SU and the SU Wellness Centre was the first student-led conference on mental health at the University of Calgary. 100 students attended the event held on Oct. 17-18, 2014.

Stress Less Week provides students with fun and stress-relieving activities in MacHall at the end of the fall semester. Activities offered Dec. 1-5, 2014, included destruction therapy (using kinetic sand and bubble wrap), pet therapy, a Qigong meditation class, yoga, art therapy, and a stress-free carnival including photos with Santa Claus and cotton candy.

The SU also distributes de-stress packages to students studying around campus during both the fall and winter semester exam period. De-stress packages included healthy snacks, candy treats, ear plugs, an SU slinky, and a wellness resource pamphlet to aid students who may be experiencing increased stress.

Pet Therapy (a.k.a. Puppy Rooms) is a popular stress-relieving event and is offered throughout the semester. The Pet Access League Society (PALS) continues to be a great partner in this initiative. In total, 1,145 students attended the eight Pet Therapy sessions held in That Empty Space this year.
THE STUDENTS’ UNION ENGAGES STUDENTS

Held every January, Frostbite is the U of C’s official winter games. Throughout the week, teams compete in a series of outdoor and indoor challenges campus-wide to earn points. This event fosters school spirit and connects students with other members of the campus community. This year, Frostbite had 17 teams with a total of 170 students participating in events between Jan. 19 – 23. The team who earned the most points won the coveted Frostbite Cup and a winter ski vacation for the team.

The annual Calgary Leaders’ Dinner provides the opportunity for student leaders to meet with elected leaders in the Calgary community over dinner to discuss current issues and gain insight from their experience in leadership and government. The dinner encourages informal discussion between students and Calgary’s political leaders. At the event held this year on Jan. 22, 2015 Mayor Nenshi gave a well-received keynote speech and spoke about how the City of Calgary and students work together on issues including secondary suites.

The biggest celebration of the year – Bermuda Shorts Day or BSD – is held on the last day of classes in April. Thousands of students come to the concert and beer gardens to hear some great music, dance, and celebrate the last day of the winter semester with friends. The “Be a Smart Drinker” (BSD) campaign parallels the event and is designed to remind students to drink responsibly and plan their day with designated drivers, Calgary Transit, or cabs. Strong partnerships with the Calgary Police Service, Emergency Medical Services, and a large contingent of SU security personnel ensure a safe environment for everyone.

An alternate, alcohol-free event is offered for students to celebrate the last day of classes and still feel the school spirit that BSD generates. BSD Day of Service connects students with the greater Calgary community through volunteer work. This program brings together U of C students with community organizations to achieve the common goal of collaboration and community engagement.

This year, the SU celebrated the 54th annual Bermuda Shorts Day on Apr. 15 in lot 32. The SU distributed 8,374 wristbands to students in advance of the event. 7,752 students attended the concert and beer gardens, which also included food trucks. Additionally, the SU and the university partnered to give away 6,000 bottles of free water to students attending the event.

STUDENTS’ UNION CLUBS

The SU provides the space and infrastructure for students to get involved in clubs, student societies, and various student-led activities on campus. SU Sanctioned Clubs provide undergraduate students at the University of Calgary the opportunity to engage with their community, their school, and each other. Personal, social, and cultural development results from increased student engagement and involvement in these autonomous organizations that the SU supports through funding, services, and creative educational initiatives. With clubs for students involved in athletics, music, theatre, social issues, volunteering, religion, cultural issues, politics, academics, and more, there’s quite literally something for everyone.

In 2014/15 there were nearly 300 active clubs recognized and supported by the SU. Student clubs represent a significant network, reporting over 25,000 members. This represents over 16,000 individual students, despite nearly 80 per cent of clubs having fewer than 100 members.

The SU administers club funding requests, approves club events, books meeting rooms, processes new clubs sanctioning requests, administers waivers for events, manages ClubHub software, processes annual reports, and collects data.

The SU continues to improve communications with clubs through the use of ClubHub, the online portal management platform (powered by OrgSync) used by SU Clubs and the Coordinator of Student Organizations. This software has aided
THE STUDENTS’ UNION ENGAGES STUDENTS

Clubs by the numbers

in sustainably by streamlining and centralizing club operations and administration. Its use has increased administrative oversight, provided better access to funding and services for club executives, and improved resource management. Over 87 per cent of clubs indicate that using ClubHub has been a benefit to their organization.

By providing club special event funding and improving access to and awareness of services, the SU ensures both the continued success of one of the most valuable services for students and the growth of student engagement on campus.

In addition to SU events, SU Clubs organized and executed over 3,200 (reported) events in the past year, a 38 per cent increase in (reported) events from 2013/14.

SLC voted on Jun. 23, 2015 to allocate an additional $10,000 to special event funding for SU Sanctioned Clubs’ events and initiatives for the following year. Since 2010 the number of clubs on campus has grown by 65 per cent, from approximately 200 to 330 clubs. In 2014-15, the SU was only able to fund $18,000 of the $77,000 in total requested funding by student clubs in the fall and winter semesters. For those events funded, the SU has only been able to fund an average 40 per cent of requested funds. This funding impacts both the quality and quantity of student-run events and engagement initiatives at the University of Calgary.

Clubs Week and Clubs Showcase are held in the third week of both September and January and thousands of students receive information on how they can meet people with similar interests, gain volunteer and leadership experience, and to become more engaged with the campus community. 214 clubs participated in Clubs Week from Sept. 15-19. In the fall of 2014, the SU also launched a new Clubs Matchmaker quiz through the SU website to help match students with clubs according to their interests. 147 clubs participated in the SU’s winter Clubs Showcase on Jan. 13-15, 2015.

During the Clubs Awards Banquet, held each April, the SU recognizes collective excellence in team leadership, service, sustainable practices, advocacy, and innovation. The $250 awards in various categories encourage the improvement of the quality of student life on campus. This year marked the 5th Annual Club Awards Banquet, where more than 175 students attended to receive awards and support their fellow club members. The SU and contributing campus sponsors recognized club achievements in 13 categories, also awarding 14 honorable mentions. The SU received a of total 238 Club Award nomination forms totaling over 600 individual nominations, compared to just 266 nominations received last year. This increase in nominations demonstrates increased engagement among students involved in SU Sanctioned Clubs.

Also presented at the Club Awards Banquet, the Eric Lahoda Memorial SU Scholarship (valued at $1,000 each) recognizes 10 outstanding club members annually for their contributions to student life on campus and excellence in club leadership. This year, the SU received 72 Eric Lahoda Scholarship applications, compared to 45 applications received in the previous year. This increase in applications also demonstrates increased engagement among students involved in SU Sanctioned Clubs. This scholarship is made possible by an SU Quality Money grant.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

So that students don’t need to carry around their books, laptops, gym clothes, and everything else they need during the day at the U of C, the SU offers an affordable, campus-wide locker program to all current undergraduate students. The SU rents out lockers on a first-come, first-served basis and oversees the repairs, maintenance, and semi-annual cleaning of the lockers. It is administered through the SU’s used bookstore, Bound and Copied, and approximately 6,000 lockers are available throughout campus.

The SU Tutor Registry is an online, searchable database of qualified undergraduate students and alumni offering tutoring services in a variety of subject areas. Launched in January of 2012, the registry now has almost 70 individuals registered as active tutors, all who have obtained an A- or higher in the courses they tutor and an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.
Safe and affordable housing is a concern for many undergraduate students, so the SU provides a database of off-campus housing vacancies for students near the university. In the fall of 2014, the SU partnered with Places4Students Inc. to provide a large real-time database of off-campus housing vacancies. This service includes new features including Google-mapping and quick search capabilities. Over the fall term, there were between 45 and 55 listings at most times for the University of Calgary area.

In March 1986, the students at the University of Calgary voted to establish a student levy to sponsor a refugee student to come to the University of Calgary and pursue their education in an environment free of violence or fear. As a result, U of C students and faculty also have a unique opportunity to learn first-hand about refugee and development issues. In partnership with the university, the SU is able to support two students each year. Working with the World University Service of Canada (“WUSC”) and administered by the Refugee Student Board (RSB), the fund has sponsored 27 students to date. The program provides a total of $53,000 of funding per student through four years of academic study. The Refugee Student Program also receives some generous in-kind funding (tuition, residence, meal cards, etc.) from the U of C to help subsidize the cost of sponsoring first and second-year students. Students come from refugee camps in Ethiopia, Sudan, Liberia, Rwanda, Kenya, and Malawi. This year, the Refugee Student Program selected Jeremiah Niyonzima from Malawi and Peter Aguer from Kenya to come to the University of Calgary to study in the Faculty of Nursing and the Faculty of Science, respectively.

The SU offers an Online Exam Bank to help students anticipate the types of questions and requested information that will appear on exams. Students can purchase digital copies of previously administered midterm and final exams. With over 11,000 pages of exams available, it’s a great resource to test knowledge and see how prepared students are for their actual exams.

That Study Space is created each fall and winter semesters by opening That Empty Space as a quiet study area during final exams. Open from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on nine weekdays in December and seven weekdays in April, it’s a quiet place where students can come to get ready for exams.

The SU provides undergraduate students who do not have alternate supplementary health and dental care plans with access to a comprehensive set of health insurance benefits, vision care coverage, as well as dental coverage offered through a specific network of dental clinics located throughout Calgary. Fees for the Health and Dental Plan have not been raised by the SU since 1992.

Since its inception in 1993, Students' Union Volunteer Services (SUVS) has provided volunteer opportunities and social services to students and other members of the campus community. Not only does SUVS operate as a volunteer centre, connecting students with volunteer prospects both on and off campus, it runs ten of its own volunteer programs. This past year, the SUVS programs were supported by 369 volunteers and 12 part-time student coordinators. A total of 12,626 hours were worked by 369 volunteers.

The SU Campus Food Bank provides emergency seven-day food hampers to current students, staff members and alumni who have graduated less than two years ago. This academic year, the SU Campus Food Bank continued to see an increase in the number of hampers distributed, and adults and children fed.

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<tr>
<td>Number of Hampers</td>
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<td>271</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Adults Fed</td>
<td>336</td>
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<td>145</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Fed</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>534</td>
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SU Volunteers perform client intakes, pack food hampers, and assist with general food bank operations. They also help run the Holiday Food Drive event. 22 SUVS volunteers worked 913 hours to support this program.

To address food security on campus, SUVS and the SU Campus Food Bank host a free breakfast program for students twice a week. Launched in November 2013, the SU provides free breakfast to undergraduate and graduate students. During this program’s second year, it more than tripled its attendance from the previous year, averaging 92 participants per morning. Between November 2014 and April 2015, the SU fed 3,863 students. In March alone, the Breakfast Program provided 1,003 students with meals. Nine volunteers with SUVS worked 250 hours to support this program which is hosted in the Q Centre on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
The Holiday Hamper was introduced in November 2012 as an additional holiday-themed hamper to provide U of C students with a full turkey dinner during the holiday season. This year the SU Campus Food Bank provided 27 families with holiday hampers, containing a variety of holiday-themed food.

The Good Food Box program provides the campus community with greater access to affordable, nutritious, and sustainable fresh fruits and vegetables. The SU Campus Food Bank is an official depot for the Good Food Box program which is run through the Community Kitchen Program of Calgary. The program purchases produce directly from local farmers and wholesalers. This year there were a total of 58 orders placed for an average of nine boxes per month.

Every year, the Volunteer Tax Program provides free tax return completion to current undergraduate and graduate students, staff, and faculty who meet the eligibility requirements. In 2015, the Volunteer Tax Clinic was open between February 27 and April 13, and was run by 124 volunteers who were trained by the two coordinators and a former volunteer. Together, they completed 923 returns, exceeding the 900 returns completed last year. Volunteers worked 3,935 hours – the most of any volunteers and hours of any SU Volunteer Services program.

The SU Information Centre/Campus Lost & Found is operated year-round by student coordinators and volunteers to provide accurate and timely information to the campus community and visitors to MacHall. It is also the central lost and found depot for the entire campus. Open on weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the fall and winter semesters, the Information Centre/Lost & Found provides visitors with directions, and information about campus resources and events. It also stores lost items, returning them to their owners. Between September 2014 and May 2015, the coordinators and 39 volunteers answered 10,847 questions, and worked 1,680 hours to support this service. Approximately 30 per cent of the 2,560 lost items they received were claimed.

Over the summer, with support from Quality Money, the SU renovated the Information Centre/Lost & Found. The new centre has a compact and contemporary design that is physically more accessible, secure, and inviting. Additionally, technological enhancements ensure that visitors have after-hours access to basic wayfinding and event information.

The Q Centre nurtures diversity on campus by providing a safe space, peer support, and various other resources for members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and allied (LGBTQA) communities. They also work to promote awareness and acceptance of different sexual identities through educational programs, such as Out and About with Q. In 2014, the SU’s Q Centre relocated and expanded to a more prominent location. 46 volunteers provide peer counseling and assist with educational events and general Q Centre operations, working 1,685 hours.

Students for Literacy is a program that pairs undergraduate volunteer tutors with learners who are learning English as a Second Language (ESL) or have developmental disabilities (DD). The program operates three branches: 1) 1:1 tutoring for ESL learners, 2) 1:1 tutoring for DD learners, and 3) a weekly drop-in ESL Station. The volunteers gain valuable teaching experience while offering the gift of literacy to members of the campus community and broader Calgary community. In 2014-15, 25 learners were assisted. Volunteers also help out with a book sale each year to raise funds for promoting literacy on and off campus. This year, $550 was raised from the sale of books donated by members of the campus community, and those funds were used to purchase an iPad to be used at the ESL Station next year. In addition to the program coordinators, 20 SFL clients and volunteers attended Learner/Tutor, an event which gave everyone involved in the program an opportunity to socialize, enjoy a dinner, and win draw prizes. Each week, three or four volunteers operated the ESL Station. Between five and 11 learners came to the ESL Station for help. This program has 25 volunteers who worked 1,062 hours this year.

The Administrative Volunteer Program (AVP) gives students the opportunity to gain professional administrative experience by coordinating the SUVS front desk. Through their work, the AVP volunteers gain practical, on-the-job training in a variety of areas - ranging from file management to event planning. In return, they provide a high quality of customer service to those who visit the office. The AVP volunteers also connect visitors with meaningful volunteer opportunities. This past year, 25 AVP volunteers worked 879 hours. The AVP volunteers also helped to organize the Volunteer Appreciation Party, and attracted donations from 25 local businesses to provide prizes for volunteers.
The Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program links undergraduate students to non-profit organizations in Calgary. During the spring reading break, the students volunteer for a variety of organizations that serve the community. Although the program only takes place over three days, the ASB volunteers complete enough service hours to qualify for the co-curricular record. This past year, the 16 ASB volunteers contributed 334 hours to non-profits based in the city.

Every year, SUVS partners with the University of Calgary’s Centre for Community Engaged Learning to make one of two ucalgycare spring term programs possible. This year, 12 students travelled to Costa Rica and worked a total of 768 hours. Staying with host families, the volunteers worked for two weeks on Chira Island, a small community with a growing environmental ethic. They participated in various workshops with local cooperatives and worked with a primary school on a community-led project. At the school, the volunteers worked with community members to take down an old fence and began to build a new one with a cement base and metal poles. The fence will help keep the students safe from animals that travel past the school. The volunteers experienced international volunteerism and tourism in a way that left a positive impact on the local community.

Dr. Seuss in the Park runs every Saturday from the end of June until the end of August in Riley Park. The program coordinators and a handful of volunteers attend each event where they read and make crafts with children who visit the park. The goal of the program is to promote early childhood literacy by providing children with enjoyable and meaningful activities. To encourage families to return each Saturday, “passports” were provided to children and celebrated a different country each week. The children who received the most stamps on their passports were eligible for a draw prize. Over 10 weeks, 12 volunteers contributed 265 hours, reading to 256 children throughout the summer. Volunteers also participated in the Sun & Salsa Festival on Jul. 20. Several volunteers read to children and their families, and assisted with arts and crafts.

Into The Streets (ITS) provides students with volunteer opportunities throughout the city. Students learn about social issues, interacting with diverse groups, and making a positive difference in the community. Focused on service learning, the program provides students with the opportunity to get involved with social justice and cultural initiatives beyond the campus. A total of 42 group volunteer events were held at 22 organizations between Sept. 2014 and Apr. 2015. The program diversified, adding eight new organizations, including the Alberta Children’s Hospital Foundation and Coming Out Monologues. In order to successfully complete the program, the volunteers must attend at least six volunteer events, and this year ITS had an 88 per cent completion rate - the third highest completion rate in the program’s history. This past year, 40 volunteers worked 882 hours.

The SU, along with both the U of C and the Graduate Students’ Association, jointly fund the operation of the Student Ombuds Office. In 2014/15 the SU provided over $35,000 in financial support to help fund the Ombudsperson to provide guidance and advice to students facing academic or non-academic misconduct proceedings. The Ombudsperson also makes recommendations, where appropriate, for changes in university policies and procedures.

The SU is a major sponsor of Safewalk, a service run by Campus Security with student volunteers available around the clock to walk people safely to their destination anywhere on campus. The SU provides $12,000 in annual funding to Safewalk to help maintain this free service for students and the campus community.
THE STUDENTS’ UNION PROVIDES FUNDING AND AWARDS

With the understanding that many students face unique financial challenges while attending school, the Students’ Union (SU) offers a number of financial supports and monetary award programs designed to assist students to take full advantage of academic and personal development opportunities despite personal financial challenges. As well, the SU invests in bright ideas through its Quality Money program.

ACADEMIC FUNDING

Every year the SU supports U of C students through student awards. Last year student donations through the peer bursary levy led to over $1 million in bursaries distributed to deserving students. The SU provides several awards to outstanding students who excel in a variety of areas.

- Eric Lahoda Memorial SU Clubs Scholarship – ten annual $1,000 awards individual excellence in club leadership
- EMBA Bursary – one annual $10,000 award funded by the SU’s MacEwan Conference & Event Centre through the EMBA program

There are also awards that are administered on behalf of the SU by the university’s Student Awards and Financial Aid office:

- Gordon C. Swann Bursary – one annual $500 award
- Students’ Union Women in the 90’s Bursary – one annual $500 award
- Ian McKinnon Bursary – one annual $500 award
- Andrew Kirkor Memorial Bursary – one annual $1,500 award
- W.A. Cochrane Bursary – one annual $500 award
- A.W.R. Carrothers Scholarship – one annual $500 award
- Ray Alward Memorial Bursary – one annual $500 award
- Giah Eisenstein Memorial Bursary – one annual $600 award
- Dr. Peter Craigie Undergraduate Memorial Award – two annual $1,600 awards

- 54th Students’ Union Legislative Council Student Assistance Bursary – five annual $1,200 awards
- Student Peer Assistance Undergraduate Bursary – annual award, variable number and monetary amounts
- Dr. Peggy Patterson Bursary – two annual $3,000 awards
- W.F.M. Stewart Bursary – one annual $500 award
- Students’ Union Campus Involvement Awards – seven annual $1,000 awards

The Student Hardship Assistance Fund (SHAF) was created to assist students who demonstrate financial need. It is a fund of last resort which provides short term financial help due to unexpected and emergent circumstances encountered by the applicant. Its purpose is to help the applicant to remain enrolled at the University of Calgary. The SU, as part of the annual budget process, sets aside $10,000 each year to be used for the fund. Assistance provided by the SHAF does not exceed $1,000 per applicant unless the Operations and Finance Committee unanimously approve additional funds, up to a maximum of $2,000 per applicant. In 2014-15, six students were helped.

SUPERwork (Students’ Union Program for Education Related Work) provides a $1,000 wage subsidy award to undergraduate U of C students earning less than a competitive wage (i.e. less than $12.50/hour) at a summer employment position related to their degree program. This year, the SU received a record number of applications. The SUPERwork program is a Quality Money initiative that was originally a three-year program, however this year the Quality Money Committee extended the program for another three years.

The SU provides travel and conference funding for full and part-time undergraduate students wishing to attend a conference or competition related to their area of study or professional development. The 2014-2015 program provided $51,741 in grants to enable 267 students to attend conferences and competitions, nationally and internationally.

The SU administers the Teaching Excellence Awards (TEA), which recognizes teachers and teaching assistants who make significant contributions in assisting undergraduate students to reach their potential. TEA is one of the only campus-wide recognition program for instructors who make a lasting impact on students. Most importantly, students determine the
nominees and winners. On Apr. 22, 2015 the SU honoured 34 faculty members and instructors for their commitment to student success at its annual Teaching Excellence Awards ceremony. Award recipients receive an Apple Award and a framed certificate. In addition, the SU made a $5,000 donation in recognition of the winners to the university’s Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning. The full list of award winners is available on the SU website.

The SU’s annual Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS) features selected students who present their projects to judges in the hopes of winning an award ranging from $500 to $1,000. The annual awards ceremony recognizes achievements in a variety of areas and across all faculties. On Dec. 3, 2015, in front of a crowd of 110, the winners were announced in 16 categories; more than $23,000 was awarded. A team of more than 50 judges made up of faculty and staff from the University of Calgary had the difficult task of determining the best submissions.

QUALITY MONEY

A unique partnership between the SU and the U of C Board of Governors, the SU Quality Money program is at the core of what sets the U of C apart from other post-secondary institutions. There is ~$1.6M in annual funding distributed by SU Quality Money Committee.

Quality Money is built on the foundation of partnerships and creating pride in the institution by empowering students, student groups, on-campus organizations, staff, faculty, and all members of the campus community to come forward with innovative ideas to improve the quality of education and the quality of student life at the U of C. It encourages members of this community to come together to propose ideas that make campus life better, enabling participants to create their own lasting legacies. All projects are selected by the SU’s Quality Money Committee before they are approved at the Students’ Legislative Council.

The application process incorporates the U of C’s Eyes High strategic vision to ensure that all projects support not only SU goals, but also those of the university. The SU has formalized the evaluation metric that the committee uses to decide on projects to include each project’s alignment with the shared goals of the campus community.

The SU successfully negotiated a three year renewal of the Quality Money program in 2013 with the Board of Governors.

In 2014, the 71st SLC allocated funding approved by the Board of Governors for 19 student-driven projects to improve the quality of the student experience at the University of Calgary. Highlights include: a successful service learning program for pre-service teachers in the Werklund School of Education, the implementation of a Welcome Centre for “new-to-Calgary” students, a new space for the Q Centre, and AIRUC upgrades to meet students’ wireless internet needs.

For a complete list of previous Quality Money initiatives, please visit www.su.ucalgary.ca/qualitymoney.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Through the formal SU partnership program, the SU provides a range of financial, communications, and in-kind support to student and university activities. Examples of partnership are below.

The SU supports and periodically co-manages events with Student and Enrollment Services, the Women’s Resource Centre, the SU Wellness Centre, Dinos Athletics, and others - contributing almost $47,000.

The SU financially supports Safewalk with an annual contribution of $12,000.

The SU provides significant in-kind support to university departments and organizations and students by offering the complimentary use of rooms in the MacEwan Conference & Event Centre and complimentary display tables in MacHall. This support is offered to numerous departments and organizations within Student and Enrolment Services, such as Career Services, the SU Wellness Centre, the Native Centre, the Women’s Resource Centre, the Centre for International Studies and Study Abroad, as well the Residence Students’ Association, Dino Athletics, and members of the Tri-Media group.

The SU provides input on how students’ contributions to the Library Endowment Fund are spent. Students voted to create the fund in 1997 and the university’s Library and Cultural Resources matches the dollar value of students’ contributions for collection purchases. The SU collects a fee of $3.75 from full-time undergraduate students in the fall and winter semesters which is directed toward the Library Endowment Fund. Student fees are dedicated primarily to: expanding the library book collection, book repair and extending library services. Book plates acknowledging the donation are affixed to the books and undergraduate students are hired to fill non-professional positions created through the donation.

Students contribute a small fee to the SU’s Committee of 10,000 which identifies worthy Calgary community charities to receive a donation. In 2014-15, 18 non-profit organization projects were selected by the committee and shared in a total donation of $24,750.
THE STUDENTS’ UNION ADVOCATES FOR STUDENTS

The Students’ Union (SU) is a strong advocate for students. Each year, the SU conducts a survey to gauge University of Calgary (U of C) undergraduate student satisfaction and solicit feedback to help guide the organization’s advocacy and planning priorities. Managing student debt levels, increasing student financial aid, improving campus services, and safe and affordable housing are just a few examples of the topics on which the SU lobbies and advocates on students’ behalf.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVOCACY

The SU strives to improve communication between the student leaders on campus and the general student body.

The SU collaborates with and consults with students to ensure the SU’s work is legitimate, timely, and visible. The SU survey is also used as an idea-generator that produces qualitative feedback and initiative suggestions for the SU’s use in policy-advocacy, services, and programming. The SU values every response its membership submits and devotes significant resources towards collecting and compiling the data, and responding in imaginative and practical ways.

The SU has an important role in ensuring that the student voice is heard on the quality of the university experience and university academic programs and services. To this end, the SU participated in and promoted the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) – a survey measuring students’ levels of engagement with their institution. The SU promotes student involvement in NSSE and encourages the university to address issues uncovered in the results received from students.

A U of C NSSE Action Team was created. In November the action team attended a retreat with associate deans and members of university administration to review select 2014 results related to high impact practices. The SU requested, but was refused, data on many questions related to the student experience at the U of C. The results from those questions, made available to the public via Maclean’s Magazine in February, are extremely concerning to student representatives. The SU looks forward to working with university administration to better understand students’ feelings about their experience at the U of C and to addressing these concerns with meaningful changes.

The SU continues to advocate that the Infrastructure and Technology plan at the university be responsive to the changing needs of students. This year, the SU advocated for increased Wi-Fi capabilities throughout campus so that students can access the internet in ways that enhance their academic and social success. The MacHall Wi-Fi renovation was completed and a supplemental project was approved by Quality Money.

For years, the SU advocated for the increase in the amount of prayer space on campus to accommodate the needs of the growing multi-faith population on campus. The university committed to funding a ‘multi-purpose prayer space’ with hopes to complete this promise by September 2015. However, full details and status were not released at the end of the term.

This year, the SU advocated to create more access to microwaves outside of MacHall. A quality money application put forward by the VP Student Life to implement 10 high-powered industrial microwaves in ICT was approved and implementation is scheduled.

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The SU is focused on advocating for all undergraduate students on an affordable and accessible university experience. This year, the SU looked at funding for bursaries to decrease financial barriers to students.
THE STUDENTS’ UNION ADVOCATES FOR STUDENTS

EXTERNAL ADVOCACY

The SU maintains ongoing lobbying efforts with municipal, provincial, and federal levels of government to protect undergraduate students’ interests. Some examples include:

• Legalization of secondary suites by lobbying municipal representatives
• Improving student voter turn-out through Get Out The Vote (GOTV) campaigns for any federal, provincial, and municipal elections
• Improving students’ access to voting by removing barriers to student voting at federal, provincial and municipal levels
• Supporting the LGBTQA community by SU marching in the Calgary Pride Parade in support of the SU’s Q Centre and the Queers on Campus Club

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) is the SU’s national lobby organization and is focused on ensuring students have a seat at the table to influence federal government policies related to post-secondary education - CASA’s sole focus. During the week of Nov. 18 – 21, SU President Jarett Henry and Vice President External Levi Nilson were among 60 student leaders representing more than 300,000 students as part of the CASA’s national advocacy week in Ottawa. Student leaders met with over 120 Members of Parliament and Senators advocating on issues related to youth unemployment, the Canada Student Loans Program, support for Aboriginal students, funding the indirect costs of research, and expanding the mandate of the Mental Health Commission of Canada.

Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) is an extremely effective organization with a proven track record and the SU’s primary vehicle for provincial advocacy. CAUS Priorities for 2014/2015 included Tuition & Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees, Mental Health Funding, Student Employment Programming, Targeted PSE Funding, and Student Financial Aid.

• CAUS advocated to see tuition continued to be tied to the Consumer Price Index
• Students looked for the government to make a long-term commitment to mental health funding
• Students asked for the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) to be re-instated
• The provincial government cut funding to post-secondary institutions by seven per cent in 2013 and CAUS advocated for increasing the amount of public investment made to institutions and making it a lasting and long-term commitment
• $54 million was cut from scholarships, bursaries, and grants in 2010 and offset by only $30 million in student loans. CAUS advocated for a mixed system that offered a blend of loans, debt relief, bursaries, and grants

As well, the SU lobbied for open textbooks to bring down costs for students resulting in a $2 million provincial grant to foster the creation and deployment of open educational resources, including open textbooks. The provincial committee approved 25 expressions of interest from campuses across Alberta, and is scheduled to complete the granting by the end of the year.