



November 30, 2015 to March 4, 2016

We are pleased to submit this update on milestones met and progress achieved on our projects and plans. For continuity, this report has been organized around the SU's promise to undergraduate students contained within its mission, vision and values framework.

**OUR PROMISE: TO SERVE & REPRESENT**

With the MacEwan Student Centre as our home, the Students' Union exists to serve and represent University of Calgary undergraduates.

Through a unified voice we are dedicated to:

**Quality of Education**

To advocate on academic matters and provide academic services and programs that enhance the quality of your educational experience

**Quality of Student Life**

To enhance the quality of undergraduate student life on campus

**Affordability and Accessibility**

To advocate for the student community on an affordable and accessible post-secondary education experience

**2016 SU General Election**

Election results for the 74<sup>th</sup> Students' Legislative Council (SLC) were announced at the Den on March 3, 2016. The President-elect, who will serve on the Board of Governors, is current SU VP Academic Stephan Guscott. The 74<sup>th</sup> SU executive will also include Alicia Lunz (VP Academic), Tristan Bray (VP External), Patrick Ma (VP Student Life), and Branden Cave (VP Operations and Finance).

Voter turnout for the SU General Election continues to be among the highest for student association elections in Canada, with 24.7% of undergraduate students casting votes this year.

Shubir Shaikh was acclaimed as the student-at-large representative for the Board of Governors.

Full results are available on the SU website: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/new-student-leaders-elected-for-the-74th-slc/>. New student leaders will be sworn into office at Colour Night on April 28, 2016.

## **Quality of Education**

### **Board Agendas and Supporting Documents**

The SU continues to be disappointed that that open meeting materials for Board of Governors meetings are not made available to the public prior to Board meetings; only the open session agenda will be made available on the Board's website in advance of meetings. This prevents stakeholders from having a full understanding of issues being decided by the Board and creates a significant barrier for those who may wish to provide the Board with their perspective. Although stakeholders may know the list of items to be addressed, there is no mechanism for the public to gain a full understanding of issues and provide added input, either directly to the Board or through a stakeholder representative, which could be valuable context for the Board to consider in decision making. As a result, any public feedback on Board decisions can only occur after decisions have already been made. We see this as a deliberate step backwards in the university's commitment to transparency and openness in decision making.

### **Teaching Excellence Awards**

493 students submitted nominations for the SU's Teaching Excellence Awards this year. The SU has been administering its Teaching Excellence Awards program since 1984 to recognize University of Calgary instructors and teaching assistants who have had a positive impact on the undergraduate student learning experience. Award winners will receive an apple award and the SU will donate \$5,000 to the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning.

### **Student Representation on Faculty Councils**

The SU VP Academic and Provost met with student members of Faculty Councils in February to better understand challenges that student members encounter and determine how the faculties, central administration, and the SU can support students to be effective participants in Faculty Council meetings. There is significant variation in how Faculty Councils select student members.

Faculty Councils have committed to publishing meeting schedules, agendas, and open minutes online for students to access.

## **Quality of Student Life**

### **Beverage Management Agreement**

The university has proposed a standardized beverage management agreement for all liquor license users on campus to delegate use of its liquor license under the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Act; however, the scope of the proposed agreement goes far beyond what is required by the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC). The SU believes that a vibrant and engaged campus community includes events, concerts, and a campus bar, and recognizes that these initiatives come with risks that must continue to be managed successfully. The SU is working with the university to create an appropriate agreement that reflects upon and adequately recognizes the SU's exemplary record in managing these risks over the last two decades and which builds upon the recent excellence in liquor management achieved by the SU and university, resulting in Best Bar None accreditation by the AGLC, the City of Calgary and the Calgary Police Service, along with the title of Calgary's best campus bar in 2015.

### **MacHall Dispute**

The SU and university agreed on Dec. 3, 2015 to enter mediation with regard to ownership and an agreement to maintain SU management of MacHall. On Feb. 26, 2016, the parties agreed to extend mediation until Mar. 21.

### **Welcome to Canada Syrian Refugee Project**

Over a two week period in December, the SU's Volunteer Services invited members of the campus community to write messages of compassion and solidarity to Syrian refugees who resettled in Calgary. The messages were written on postcards, which said "Welcome to Canada from University of Calgary

students” in Arabic, English and French. Many of the messages themselves were later translated into Arabic by volunteers. Exceeding its 250 message target, the initiative collected a total of 401 messages, which were distributed to the Middle Eastern newcomers by the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society and Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth.

### **SU Campus Food Bank**

The SU Campus Food Bank provides emergency food hampers to current students, staff members and alumni who have graduated less than two years ago. During the 2014-2015 school year, the Campus Food Bank saw a significant increase in the number of hampers distributed, and adults and children fed. The figures from the current academic year indicate that demand continues to increase, albeit at a slower rate.

	September 2014 to February 2015	September 2015 to February 2016
Number of Hampers	193	199
Number of Adults Fed	279	292
Number of Children Fed	93	112
Total Fed	372	399

### **SU Breakfast Program**

The SU provides free breakfast to undergraduate and graduate students. Based in the Q Centre, the Breakfast Program runs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30 am to 9:45 am. So far this year, an additional 336 students have accessed the program.

	September 2014 to February 2015	September 2015 to February 2016
Number of undergraduate students fed	2,649	2,921
Number of graduate students fed	355	417
Total students fed	3,003	3,339

### **Students for Literacy**

The SU Students for Literacy program matches student volunteers with learners looking to improve their English speaking skills. The annual Students for Literacy book sale in MacHall sells donated books for \$2 to raise money to support the program. This year, volunteers sold 480 donated books and raised \$728.85.

### **Volunteer Tax Program**

The Volunteer Tax Program provides free income tax return completion to current undergraduate students, graduate students, staff, and faculty who meet the eligibility requirements. The clinic, located in MacHall, is open Feb. 26 – Apr.8. This year, the SU expanded this service by offering the clinic to students at the Foothills Campus on Feb. 25.

### **Support for Student Clubs**

- Over 160 clubs participated in the Clubs Showcase Jan. 18 to 21.
- Since the Clubs Showcase in January, 11 new clubs have registered with the SU and ten other new clubs have applied to register with the SU. In total, there are currently 336 active registered clubs.
- The SU received 43 nominations for the Eric Lahoda SU Memorial Scholarship, which recognizes students who have made positive, meaningful and unique contributions to student life. Ten \$1,000 scholarships are awarded each year.
- The SU has received 367 nominations for its annual Club Awards, which recognizes club achievements in 14 categories including advocacy, alumni engagement, campus pride, community service, first year engagement, innovation, and sustainability.

## **Frostbite**

190 students participated in Frostbite from Jan. 25 – 29. The Can Boss event generated 2,100 non-perishable food items for the SU Campus Food Bank. A new event, Heart Warmer, encouraged teams to do random acts of kindness; teams went above and beyond, donating care packages to the homeless, writing thank you cards for Campus Security, and donating blood.

## **Sex Week**

Sex Week, Feb. 1 – 5, included workshops and a documentary film screening. The Sex Week carnival was attended by over 200 students who had the opportunity to learn about a variety of on- and off-campus services.

## **Cinemanía**

Since moving to the Den on Monday evenings at 7pm, Cinemanía has observed an increased number of students in attendance each week. Cinemanía continues to be a free event for students, with \$1 popcorn, couches, and a big screen. Cinemanía in the Den features a better sound system and food and drink specials that students can enjoy during the movie.

## **Affordability and Accessibility**

### **UPass Advocacy**

Currently, there is no recourse available to students who receive a ticket for failing to produce their UPass to prove that they have a valid UPass. The UPass differs from other monthly passes in that it is attached to students' UCID cards, which are a form of photo identification. Students use their UCID for a number of reasons (i.e. accessing the gym, paying for meals, using the library, etc.) and it makes sense that cards are unintentionally left in gym bags, lockers, etc. from time to time. The fine for failing to produce proof of fare is \$250, more than \$100 more than the cost of a UPass and a significant expense given that all students do purchase a UPass.

The SU and university are jointly advocating to city councilors that the Transit Bylaw (4M81) be amended to address this issue and ensure that students are held accountable by requiring them to follow up with the court.

### **Residence and Meal Plan Fee Increases**

SU President Levi Nilson and VP External Romy Garrido met with Susan Barker, Voula Cocolakis, Randy Maus, Lakshmi Sangaranarayanan, and RSA President Shaan-E-Abbas Nathu on Jan. 14 to discuss concerns previously raised by the SU in regard to residence consultation processes.

## **Conclusion**

The Students' Union is proud to serve and represent undergraduate students in nearly every aspect of their experience at the University of Calgary.



Levi Nilson  
The Students' Union, The University of Calgary

