



May 29, 2015 to October 9, 2015

On May 1, the 73rd Students' Legislative Council (SLC) was sworn into office at the SU's annual Colour Night celebration. A current list of SU elected officials is available on the [SU website](#).

The 73rd Executives' [2015-16 Operating Plan](#) was approved by SLC this September. This plan outlines the SU's key priorities, goals, and tactics for the coming year.

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

Quality of Education

By-Election

First year veterinary Medicine student Erik Burow has been acclaimed as the SU Faculty Representative for the Faculty Veterinary Medicine.

Get Out The Vote (GOTV)

The SU, as part of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), is running a non-partisan GOTV campaign to mobilize student voters for the federal election on Oct. 19. The SU is collecting students' pledges to vote and recruiting volunteers who will contact students to remind them to vote and

answer questions about voter eligibility and polling locations. The SU has already collected over 6,000 pledges and expects to collect at least 4,000 more before election day.

Library Resources

The SU collects a fee of \$3.75 per student each term that is directed toward the Library Endowment Fund. The university's Library and Cultural Resources matches the dollar value of students' contributions for collection purchases. In 2014-15, 52% was allocated for the purchase of new library materials, 21% was allocated to online/electronic resources, 22% was directed toward extending hours in circulation, reserve and learning commons, and 5% was used for the final processing of new books. Funding for online/electronic resources is being directed to Curio.ca (a CBC streaming video service), Literati (an academic alternative to Wikipedia), and patron driven acquisitions for e-books (resulting in the activation of 3,995 titles). The Library was able to purchase 892 books with the donation and matched funds this year.

Student Representation on Faculty Councils

Student representation on university Faculty Councils is inconsistent and variable across the institution. Consistent with existing practices at other post-secondary institutions in Alberta, the SU is advocating to faculties and senior administration that there should be students nominated by the SU appointed as voting members to every Faculty Council at the University of Calgary.

Deans' Dinner

The annual Deans' Dinner event hosted by the SU's VP Academic brings together deans, associate deans, senior administration, and SU elected officials who will work together to improve the student experience at the University of Calgary. 45 officials attended this year's event on Oct. 7.

Dr. Seuss in the Park

Dr. Seuss in the Park, a program promoting literacy and play, ran between Jun. 27 and Aug. 29 this summer. Through this co-curricular program, student volunteers read to children, teach them how to make themed crafts, and do face-painting on Saturdays in Riley Park. As shown in the table below, the program enjoyed record attendance this year:

	2014	2015
Total attendance	256	452
Average attendance	25.6	50.2

Quality of Student Life

Increased Support for SU Clubs

343 student clubs are currently registered with the SU. Over 200 of these participated in Clubs Week, which brings together students who share similar passions.

116 clubs are currently registered in the SU's new Junior Executive program, which encourages clubs to recruit first year students as executives-in-training who can potentially take over leadership of the club. This program was created in response to data showing that many clubs were struggling with executive leadership and transition. The Junior Executive program includes a workshop series offered by the SU and a new club award called the Club LOVE (Longevity, Ongoing Vitality and Engagement) Award which recognizes clubs that demonstrate a focus on the long-term success of their club.

As part of the annual budget approved by the Students' Legislative Council, the SU is offering an additional \$10,000 in special event funding for club events that support and enhance student life.

The SU's Clubs Committee is in the process of revising its procedures to better support student club success. The new procedures will reduce bureaucracy and ensure more expedient access to funding

and services for clubs that choose to register with the SU. These new procedures will also enable SU staff and the VP Student Life to work with clubs directly to support the groups while reducing the potential for conflicts of interest at Clubs Committee.

Treaty 7 Territory Recognition

On Aug. 18, the Students' Legislative Council approved an SLC Meeting Procedure amendment that introduces Treaty 7 Traditional Territory Recognition at the outset of each Students' Legislative Council Meeting. This symbolic gesture, a common practice at other post-secondary institutions in Canada, is intended to show respect and acknowledge the traditional aboriginal lands on which the SU is located. The SU consulted with the First Nations Students' Association and the Native Centre before approving this change. The Native Centre has provided a statement that will be read by the SLC Speaker.

Additionally, SLC has reviewed the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations related to education and discussed opportunities to better recognize aboriginal history and meet the needs of aboriginal students at the University of Calgary. Student representatives look forward to being involved in the development of an aboriginal strategy.

Orientation Week and Kick-Off

The SU continues to partner with Leadership and Student Engagement to engage and inform new students. During Orientation Week the SU observed an increase in social media engagement and interacted with over 1,600 students at "Meet Your SU" sessions. 430 students attended the Night on the SU. 300 students participated in the Kick-Off Tailgate Funzone despite the rainy weather. Over the week, the SU gave away 2,700 SU-branded sunglasses, 1,000 tote bags, and 3,000 notebooks.

Vet Med BBQ

The SU hosted a BBQ event at the Spy Hill Campus on Sept. 22 to introduce students in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine to the SU's programs and services. Over 100 students attended the event.

Q Centre Open House

The second annual Q Centre Open House was held on Sept. 3. The event, which was open to the public, had 100 attendees and included both new and familiar faces.

Volunteer Services Renovation

Over the summer, with support from Quality Money, the Students' Union renovated Volunteer Services located on the second floor of MacEwan Student Centre (MSC). Between mid-June and late-August, Volunteer Services was temporarily located in the Q Centre while the space was under renovation. The new, open concept layout features a more inviting and efficient use of space that better accommodates the needs of 11 volunteer programs housed in Volunteer Services. This includes two new meeting rooms, a larger area for the Campus Food Bank, and new storage cabinets. Additionally, the renovations increase visibility and should positively impact students' awareness of Volunteer Services programming and services.

Pet Therapy

209 students attended Pet Therapy in That Empty Space on Sept. 25. This monthly event held in partnership with the Pet Access League Society (PALS) to engage students and relieve stress.

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; however, the figures from September 2015 indicate that demand may be plateauing.

	September 2014	September 2015
Number of Hampers	27	26
Number of Adults Fed	38	42
Number of Children Fed	14	13
Total Fed	52	55

SU Breakfast Program

The SU provides free breakfast to undergraduate and graduate students in the Q Centre every Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:30 to 9:45 am. In September, the Breakfast Program fed 298 people, 267 undergraduate students and 27 graduate students.

Information Centre/Lost and Found

Open on weekdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, the Information Centre/Lost and Found provides visitors with directions, and information about on campus resources and events. It also serves as the main lost and found centre on campus. As shown in the table below, the demand for the Information Centre/Lost and Found remains consistently high.

	September 2014	September 2015
Items handed in	354	569
Items returned to owner	128	190
On campus directions	636	841
Campus services questions	359	244
Total number of clients	1,908	1,898

Pride Parade

On Sunday, Sept. 6, SU elected officials, staff, and students-at-large marched with the Q Centre for Sexual and Gender Diversity in the Calgary Pride Parade on 9th Avenue. The University of Calgary Consent Awareness and Sexual Education (CASE) Club and Residence Students' Association (RSA) also walked with the SU.

La Taqueria

The SU has opened a new vendor called La Taqueria, located at the east end of the food court in MacHall. Utilizing the Den kitchen, La Taqueria provides fresh and authentic gluten-free, vegan, and Halal tacos. In response to student feedback obtained through the SU Survey, this SU-run vendor is designed to provide students with affordable and nutritious food options that are responsive to their dietary needs. It also supports ethical and sustainable options as the corn tortillas are sourced locally. All revenues generated support other programs and services offered by the SU including the Campus Food Bank, the Q Centre, the Information Centre/Lost and Found, SU clubs, and more.

Den Renovation

The Den, a U of C tradition for over 45 years, was renovated this summer to meet the evolving expectations of students. Inspired by classic beer halls, the newly renovated space incorporates features like exposed brick, bench-seating, and barrel-tops. Images of student traditions, like Bermuda Shorts Day, line the walls. The intent of this renovation is to provide students with the spaces and services they need to have an optimal social experience as part of their student experience at the University of Calgary and to give both current students and alumni a renewed sense of pride in their student establishment on campus. The Den and Black and Lounge continue to foster a safe and positive experience for students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community by providing outstanding service and exceptional food at an affordable price. Both food and beverage pricing continues to be subsidized with consideration for students' budget constraints.

MSC Patio Facelift

This summer, with support from Quality Money, the SU has purchased and begun installing new furniture and greenery for the MSC patio on the south side of the building. This facelift makes the space safer and more inviting for students, faculty, staff, and the community. Users of the space will observe that:

- The 25 year old cement tables and moveable plastic chairs have been replaced with larger commercial round tables with fixed seating. This increases the number of tables and seating and eliminates safety concerns associated with the moveable plastic chairs.
- New benches have been added around the perimeter of the patio to provide additional seating.
- The addition of patio umbrellas provides shade and makes the space more inviting.
- The addition of planters with cedar shrubs will aid in reducing noise, enable privacy screening and allow for a more creative layout.

U Help Students' Union Volunteer Fair

On September 22, Volunteer Services hosted the fourth annual U Help Students' Union Volunteer Fair. Taking place in the MacEwan Student Centre North and South Courtyards, representatives from thirty-five nonprofit organizations were in attendance, recruiting students to fill their vacant volunteer positions. Each booth attracted between 20 and 100 people, and all of the participants reported satisfaction with the event.

MacHall Dispute

On Sept. 29, the SU responded to the Sept. 22 letter from university administration. The SU's Sept. 29 letter further explains the SU's position and re-states expectations for continued negotiations. Since October 2013, the SU has consistently sought to have an open and honest discussion about building ownership with members of university administration involved in the MacHall negotiations. The SU does not believe that finalizing a new operating agreement for MacHall will be possible until the parties reach a shared understanding on the ownership issue. The SU is hopeful that productive conversations will commence on building ownership so that a reasonable solution can be reached quickly.

Affordability and Accessibility

MD Student Fees

This summer, the Students' Union became aware that Year 2 MD students were assessed fall/winter rates for spring/summer mandatory non-instructional fees in error. As a result, Year 2 students had mistakenly paid more than twice the correct rate for the Student Services Fee, Campus Recreation, and some SU fees. The SU has provided the Registrar with a correct fee schedule and made the Provost aware of the error. As a result, the Registrar has re-assessed the correct fees and refunded overpayments.

2015 QS Stars Ranking

Although students are pleased to see that the University of Calgary continues to achieve a five-star QS Stars rating, it is concerning that the university has dropped from 171st to 204th in the [QS World University Rankings](#) and that the University of Calgary continues to score poorly in the inclusiveness category. According to QS methodology, the inclusiveness category looks at the accessibility of the university to students, particularly at scholarships and bursaries, disability access, gender balance and low-income research. Given that the University of Calgary has consistently scored poorly on QS accessibility metrics, it is evident that more focus and resources must be devoted to increasing access.

TFCC Tuition and Funding Proposal

With tuition frozen for the 2015-16 and 2016-17 academic years and a pending review by the Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education, there is an opportunity for the SU and university to put forward a joint proposal for the tuition and funding model for post-secondary education institutions in Alberta. The

SU will work with university administration through the Tuition and Fees Consultation Committee (TFCC) to identify shared principles, goals, and ideas that may be presented to government.

S.U.P.E.R.WORK Program

The SUPERWORK program (the Students' Union Program for Education Related Work) provides a \$1,000 wage subsidy to 75 undergraduate students at the University of Calgary earning less than a competitive wage (i.e. less than \$12.50/hour) at a summer employment position related to their degree program. This program recognizes the importance of opportunities to gain valuable experience in the workplace related to one's field of study. 117 students applied for the program this year.

Refugee Student Program

Since 1986, students at the University of Calgary have sponsored refugee students through World Student Services of Canada (WUSC). In partnership with the university, the SU is able to support two students each year, enabling these refugees to pursue their education in an environment free of violence or fear. It also offers students and faculty a unique opportunity to learn first-hand about refugee and development issues. This year, the Refugee Student Program has selected Abraham Achuil from Kenya and Tamun Ahas Ras from Kenya to come to the University of Calgary to study in actuarial science and political science, respectively.

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

