



**December 6, 2016 – March 6, 2017**

We are pleased to submit this update on the SU's governance, programs and advocacy.

### **SU Governance**

#### **2017 SU General Election**

Following Nomination Days, there are 52 candidates in the 2017 SU General Election.

- Only the Faculty of Social Work and Werklund School of Education representative positions are vacant. The SU's Nominations Committee will strike a subcommittee to find students to be appointed to fill the roles until the fall by-election.
- There are acclamations for Faculty Representative positions in the faculties of law, nursing and veterinary medicine.

Campaigning for the election began on Feb. 17. Voting days are Mar. 7 - 9 and unofficial results will be announced at the Den at 5:30 p.m. on March 9.

#### **Quality Money**

SLC approved changes to the SU Quality Money Committee approval process in early October. These changes increase the voting requirement for approval of projects from a simple majority, meaning a minimum of 50% +1 of the votes cast, to a two-thirds super-majority. The deadline for 2017-18 project submissions was Nov. 25. The SU received 41 project proposals totaling approximately \$5.4M. Decisions on funding are expected in April.

#### **SU Sustainability Fund**

The SU Operations and Finance Committee approved \$23,029 in projects from the SU Sustainability Fund. Projects funded included, a residence hall composting pilot project to introduce a composting program in the Cascade Hall residence, a 3D interactive energy model to show building energy usage, solar panels for the campus community garden, and support for the campus community kitchen project.

#### **SU Policy Updates**

The SLC Policy Development and Review Committee (PDRC) examined all Students' Union policies and procedures to set a standard for inclusive and gender-neutral language.

### **SU Programs and Services**

#### **Frostbite**

Thirteen teams participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Frostbite, the University of Calgary's official winter games, run in partnership with Leadership and Student Engagement. Teams competed in a series of challenges the week of Jan. 23, 2017 in order to earn points. The team that earned the most points won the coveted Frostbite Cup and a winter ski vacation for the team.

### Calgary Leaders Dinner

The SU hosted the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Calgary Leaders Dinner. Hon. Stephanie McLean and Mr. Brian Jean spoke about the importance of student advocacy and engagement in the political process. The event was attended by 21 municipal, provincial, and federal politicians, including almost half of Calgary City Council, and was an excellent opportunity for student leaders to gain insight from political leaders.

### Pet Therapy

During StressLess Week in December 478 students participated in three Pet Therapy sessions. Another Pet Therapy session was held on Feb. 3, where 192 students participated. This event is 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. In December and January, the SU Campus Food Bank fed 52 more people than it did during the same period last year.

	December and January 2015	December and January 2016
Number of Hampers	78	94
Number of Adults Fed	110	145
Number of Children Fed	48	65
Total Fed	158	210

### Information Centre/Lost and Found

During the school year, the Information Centre/Lost and Found is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It provides visitors with directions and information about on-campus resources and events. It also stores lost items, returning them to their owners. In December and January, the Information Centre/Lost and Found helped 487 more people than it did during the same period last year.

	December and January 2015	December and January 2016
Items handed in	644	788
Items returned to owner	232	322
On campus directions	665	849
Campus services questions	284	279
Total number of clients	1,941	2,428

### Support for Student Clubs

Winter Clubs Week was held the week of Jan. 16, 2017, and there were 183 registered clubs that participated, plus eight prospective clubs.

The SU currently has 334 registered clubs.

### MacHall Dispute

The university took over the building management of MacHall on Oct. 17, 2016. The negotiations around the transition of responsibilities have been productive and respectful. The SU and the university have been working on a Letter of Intent to create understanding guide the management transition from the SU to the university. This does not

affect the SU's lawsuit against the University of Calgary and the Board of Governors related to student ownership of MacHall.

Revenue from the SU's tenants (approx. \$1.9M/annually) is now being collected by the university. The university has committed to returning the proceeds of the revenue to the SU, once they have deducted their unspecified building management expenses, which are still to be finalized.

The SU will continue to handle all conference and event bookings in MacHall. The SU will continue to handle and receive revenues from all bookings for common space and tables in MacHall.

## **Advocacy and Representation**

### **Youth Employment**

The economic downturn in Alberta has impacted every corner of the province. For students, this impact is felt not only by fewer opportunities for them to find degree relevant work while in their studies but also with the uncertainty that awaits them upon graduation. The SU continues to advocate for more opportunities for paid internships, apprenticeships, and co-ops as participation in these experiential learning programs is linked to strong employment outcomes.

### **Strong City, Stronger Campus**

The SU has outlined its 2017 Calgary General Election priorities (Stronger City, Stronger Campus) to ensure that student needs remain a priority for Calgary City Council. The SU has made the following recommendations:

- Increase safety and affordability of housing by reforming current Secondary Suites legislation.
- Increase transparency of Calgary Transit by creating and implementing an administrative process for bylaw offences such as transit tickets.
- Increase base line access of Calgary Transit to new communities.
- Work with the Government of Alberta to expand exemptions from taxation to include university residences.
- Ensure that students have long term access to municipal voting on campus.

## **Conclusion**

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



Stephan Guscott  
The Students' Union, The University of Calgary

