



March 7, 2018 – May 15, 2018

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

SU Governance

Orientation and Transition – 76th Executive and SLC

The 76th SLC officially took office April 27, 2018. Incoming SU Executives and Faculty Representatives continue to participate in a rigorous orientation and training program to introduce and prepare them for their new roles as student leaders and advocates. For Executives, this orientation process has included job shadowing and a retreat with the outgoing Executives, a retreat with SU staff, issue-based orientation and transition sessions, provision of transition resources, and skills training.

Incoming SLC members have received a handbook and transition resources provided by their predecessors, participate in pre-orientation sessions, and receive orientation and training for SU and university governance processes, including Robert's Rules of Order.

Current Vacancies

The VP External position is currently vacant. The SU's Nominations Committee will oversee this appointment process and will report on their progress publicly at SLC meetings. A by election will be held in October.

SU Policy Updates

A new SLC Committee Transparency Procedure has been implemented. This procedure will set standards for student access to committee meetings and minutes.

SU Programs and Services

Teaching Excellence Awards

The SU honoured 39 faculty members, instructors and teaching assistants for their commitment to student success at its annual Teaching Excellence Awards ceremony on April 18. Students determined the nominees and winners; 1,146 students submitted nominations for this year, and an SU committee selected the award recipients. The SU donated \$5,000 in recognition of the winners to the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning.

Pet Therapy

139 students participated in Pet Therapy in That Empty Space on March 9 and another 194 students attended the event on April 6. The monthly event is held in partnership with the Pet Access League Society (PALS) to engage with students and relieve stress. The program is now complete for 2017-18 and engaged with over 1,600 students throughout the year.

Volunteer Tax Program

Every year, the Volunteer Tax Program provides free income tax return completion to current undergraduate and graduate students, staff and faculty who meet the eligibility requirements. The Volunteer Tax Clinic (located in the

MacEwan Building) was open between February 26 and April 6. This year the program completed 998 returns and served 902 clients and added almost \$30,000 in value to the campus community.

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.

| | March/April 2017 | March/April 2018 |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Number of Hampers | 77 | 99 |
| Number of Adults Fed | 111 | 157 |
| Number of Children Fed | 62 | 41 |
| Total Fed | 173 | 198 |

Information Centre/Lost and Found

During the spring and summer, the Information Centre/Lost and Found is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It provides visitors with directions and information about on-campus resources and events. It also stores and returns lost items to their owners.

| | March/April 2017 | March/April 2018 |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Items handed in | 867 | 789 |
| Items returned to owner | 358 | 318 |
| On campus directions | 717 | 633 |
| Campus services questions | 160 | 219 |
| Total number of clients | 2,190 | 2,153 |

De-Stress Kits

The Students' Union provides De-Stress Kits to help ease students' stress during exam periods. These are re-useable drawstring bags that contain items intended to support students through the stress of final exams, including a set of headphones, a pack of tissues, snacks, an apple, a box of tea, guides to study spaces and on-campus de-stress resources, compliment cards, and more. A total of 1,500 DeStress Kits are prepared and distributed to students by SU Elected Officials during exam periods in December and April (750 per semester).

Eric Lahoda SU Clubs Memorial Scholarship

Ten students have been named recipients of the Eric Lahoda SU Memorial Scholarship, which recognizes students who have made positive, meaningful and unique contributions to student life. Each recipient receives a \$1,000 scholarship.

Club Awards

The SU held its annual Club Awards Banquet on April 9, recognizing excellence among registered student organizations. The club of the year is the Reforming Education on Drugs (RED) club and best new club was awarded to the Boulderling Club. A full list of award winners is available on the SU website: <http://suclubs.orgsync.com/awards>

Advocacy and Representation

CAUS Advocacy Week

CAUS met with 50 elected officials in Edmonton during its annual lobby week in the first week of April. Students had the opportunity to meet with several ministers including the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Advanced Education. Issues discussed include:

- affordability;

- governance;
- campus mental health;
- student employment;
- institutional funding.

Conclusion

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sagar Grewal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Sagar Grewal
President,
76th Students' Legislative Council