



October 11, 2016

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

SU Governance

Vacancies

The SU is currently seeking to fill vacancies for Faculty Representatives in the Faculty of Social Work and the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, and a Student-at-Large Senate Representative.

Annual Budget

The SU's [2016-17 Annual Budget](#), approved by SLC in July, is available on the SU website as part of its commitment to transparency and openness. The SU's revenue is generated through student fees (11%), lease revenue from tenants in the food court and MacHall (15%), and SU-owned businesses and other areas (74%). The SU then uses this money to fund the various programs, services, events, and advocacy to improve student life on campus. Additional details about the SU's budgeting process is available on the [SU website](#) as well.

Annual Operating Plan

SLC has approved the executive's annual goals, which align with the SU's 2016-19 Strategic Plan. The full [Annual Operating Plan](#) is available on the SU website.

SU Programs and Services

2016 SU Survey Results

The SU is pleased to share the results of its [2016 SU Survey](#), which asked students about their satisfaction with SU programs and services. 10.9% of undergraduate students responded to the survey, administered Jan. 7 to Feb. 14, 2016. Overall, the survey results show that student satisfaction with the SU has increased since 2014, however the survey also identifies a number of areas for improvement related to students' awareness of SU programs and services, and highlights key areas for advocacy.

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 interacted with over 2,000 students at "Meet your SU" sessions. 340 students attended the Night on the SU. 700 students participated in the Kick-Off Tailgate Funzone. Over the week, the SU gave away 2,750 SU-branded sunglasses, 800 tote bags, and 3000 notebooks.

Pride Parade

On Sunday, Sept. 4, 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.

Pet Therapy

226 students participated in Pet Therapy in That Empty Space on September 23, 2016. This monthly event held in partnership with the Pet Access League Society (PALS) to engage students and relieve stress.

Refugee Student Program

The two refugee students sponsored by the SU arrived earlier than in past years and were able to participate in Orientation Week and other activities prior to the start of school. Aline Uwera Dieumerici and Janvier Biziyaremye are originally from Rwanda.

The Refugee Student Board has also added a representative from the Residence Students' Association (RSA) to help support and integrate the refugee students into the residence community.

SUPERWork

The Students' Union Program for Education Related Work (SUPERWork) provides a \$1,000 wage subsidy to undergraduate students earning less than a competitive wage at a summer employment position related to their degree program. 124 students applied to SUPERWork this year and 75 received funding.

Breakfast Program

Since the 2013-2014 academic year, the SU has provided free breakfast to undergraduate and graduate students. This year, the Breakfast Program opened its doors on September 27. Based in the Q Centre, it runs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30 am to 9:45 am. In September 2016, the Breakfast Program fed 121 undergraduate students and 13 graduate students.

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. Over the past two years, the demand for hampers has significantly increased and usage continues to rise.

	September 2015	September 2016
Number of Hampers	26	39
Number of Adults Fed	42	61
Number of Children Fed	13	24
Total Fed	55	85

Information Centre/Lost and Found

During the semester, the Information Centre/Lost and Found is open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. It provides visitors with directions, and information about on campus resources and events. It also stores lost items, returning them to their owners. As shown in the table below, the demand for the Information Centre/Lost and Found has increased in most areas.

	September 2015	September 2016
Items handed in	569	402
Items returned to owner	190	197
On campus directions	841	1,190
Campus services questions	244	388
Total number of clients	1,898	2,530

Dr. Seuss in the Park

Between July 2 and August 27, Volunteer Services offered Dr. Seuss in the Park, our only program that runs exclusively during the summer. Promoting literacy and play amongst children, the program invites parents to accompany their children to Kensington on Saturdays. Based in Riley Park, the coordinators

and volunteers read to children, teach them how to make themed crafts and paint their faces. Although two events were cancelled due to rain, the program set an attendance record this year.

	2014 Attendance	2015 Attendance	2016 Attendance
Total attendance	256	452	571
Average attendance	25.6	50.2	71.4

Vet Med BBQ

The SU hosted a BBQ event at the Spy Hill Campus on Sept. 20 to introduce students in the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine to the SU's programs and services. Over 100 students attended the event.

Open House

The SU participated in the UCalgary Open House on Oct. 1 to showcase its programs and services to perspective students. The SU interacted with approximately 400 prospective students at this event.

Q Centre Open House

One of the highlights of Orientation Week was the annual Q Centre Open House, which took place on Thursday, September 8. Open to the public, the attendees met the new program coordinators while enjoying pizza, soft drinks and pop music. It attracted a crowd of 100 students.

Student Clubs

- Clubs Week was held the week of September 19, 2016. 219 registered clubs participated, plus seven prospective clubs.
- There are currently 317 student organizations registered with the SU. Thirteen were registered over the summer and there are currently 13 pending approval.
- Clubs Committee has allocated \$12,000 in special event funding to support registered student organizations for the fall term.

Beverage Management Agreement

In August, the SU signed a Beverage Management Agreement with the university, which formally sets out the terms and conditions for the SU's use of the university's liquor license in MacHall.

MacHall Dispute

On Oct. 7, 2016 the SU and university received the court's decision denying the SU's request for an injunction regarding the university's termination of the LOOMA. The decision provides assurances that the university will not remove the SU from MacHall, and that the revenue, net of utilities and operating costs, will be remitted back to the SU in support of its programs and services. As of Oct. 11, 2016, the SU has agreed to transition management of the building to the university on Oct. 17, 2016 and will be meeting with the university to facilitate this transition. The SU continues to believe that an expensive, drawn out legal battle is not in the best interests of the SU or the university and hopes to work toward a solution on the ownership issue, ideally out of court. As two organizations that care deeply about the student experience and the campus community, our capacity to make MacHall a successful student centre is greater if there is shared responsibility for the space and joint investment in the building. The SU is hopeful that with this injunction decision, the university will be willing to come back to the negotiating table and approach the ownership issue from a refreshed perspective of cooperation and collaboration to recognize the significant investments that the SU has made over time.

Advocacy and Representation

Secondary Suites

Over the summer, the SU met with city councilors regarding a proposed compromise on secondary suites in Calgary. In accordance with the SU's Secondary Suites Policy, the SU continues to advocate for

secondary suites to become a city-wide permitted use to ensure that students have access to safe and affordable housing. Currently, an ongoing concern is that many students continue to live in unsafe, illegal secondary suites due to barriers involved with bringing existing suites into compliance.

Transit

The SU is continuing to advocate to the City of Calgary and Calgary Transit regarding costly and unfair fines for students who may forget their UCID card, but can prove that they have paid for a UPass. The SU plans to propose the creation of an administrative process for transit users to dispute fines received for transit-related infractions. Similar appeal mechanisms are already used in Vancouver and Toronto, and support continued ridership because users perceive the system as fair.

Council of Alberta Undergraduate Students (CAUS)

CAUS is celebrating 30 years of student advocacy this year. Its priorities and goals for 2016/17 are:

- Meaningful consultation with the Alberta Learning Review
- Predictable tuition tied to CPI
- Closure of tuition loopholes
- Transition of tax credits into needs-based, up-front grants for low to middle income students
- Mental health funding provided to students on a per-student basis
- A focus on experiential learning during, and meaningful employment after, post-secondary studies.

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

CASA has outlined its 2017 federal budget priorities in a pre-budget submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. CASA made the following recommendations:

- To increase the Canada Student Loans Program's weekly loan limit.
- To make graduate and doctoral students eligible for the Canada Student Grants Program
- To fully fund the Post-Secondary Student Support Program
- To support reconciliation programming at post-secondary institutions
- To create a Canada Part-Time Jobs Program
- To support the indirect costs of research

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

