

Students' Union, University of Calgary

SU Events Report

2016-2017



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1. Executive Summary

This report covers all major events of the Students' Union (SU) held over the 2016/17 academic year. Through our events and programs we reach undergraduate students as well as faculty, staff, graduate students and members of the greater campus community, as we strive to improve the quality of education, the quality of student life and to increase the affordability and accessibility of post-secondary education. The events that we run would not be possible without the valuable partnerships that we have with university units such as Centre for Community Engaged Learning, Leadership and Student Engagement, SU Wellness Centre, Women's Resource Centre, and Library and Cultural Resources. As our target demographic is always changing it is important that we are continuously evaluating the effectiveness of our programs and events.

2. By the Numbers

Program	# of campus community members reached 2016-17	# of campus community members reached 2015-2016	# of campus community members reached 2014-2015
Orientation Week	10331	8785	9665
StressLess Week	982	1108	1410
Frostbite	130	190	170
BSD	5871	8480	7792
Cinemanía	620	410	610
Yoga in the Space	3029	2755	3323
Faculty of Vet. Med BBQ	110	100	90
Pet Therapy	1639	1304	1145
Undergraduate Research Symposium	310	193	301
Calgary Leaders Dinner	74	86	67
Sex Week	268	270	237
Teaching Excellence Awards	2568	2870	2656
Destress Packs	1500	1500	1500
Total	27432	28161	29602

3. Mandatory Events

3.1 Orientation Week

Event	Number of Student Interactions 2015	Number of Student Interactions 2014	Number of Student Interactions 2013
Meet your SU Sessions	Approx. 2070	Approx. 1500	Approx. 2500
Night on the SU attendees	339	350	400
Q Centre Open House attendees	110	65	26
Kickoff Attendees	7512	5500	828 (concert)
Tailgate zone – Waivers signed	689	293	634
Number of sunglasses given out at the Resource Fair	3000	2250	2400
Total	10 331	9665	6154

Orientation Week continues to be the most important opportunity that the Students' Union has to brand itself to all incoming students.

Meet your SU sessions continue to be a great introduction for first year students during Orientation Week to the SU. We continued with the format of a short video followed up an info session hosted by a member of SLC where students were able to ask questions to the five Executive in attendance.

This year at Night on the SU we showed Zoolander. The Executive hosted a few minute-to-win-it a for 30 minutes prior to the start of the movie. These games proved to be more engaging then previous years.



Kickoff remained on the Friday of Orientation Week. We hosted the tailgate party full of interactive bouncers and music which drew in 689 students. Our numbers were significantly up from last year due to great weather. Our partnership with Leadership & Student Engagement continues to be a good one and both organizations benefit from its continued growth. Our giveaways and swag continue to be some of the most popular items given away during the week and SU sunglasses are worn all year long. We gave away 3000 notebooks, 3000 sunglasses and 800 reusable bags.

3.2 StressLess Week

Event	2016 Attendance	2015 Attendance	2014 Attendance
Destruction Therapy	30	160	250
Pet Therapy	478	439	399
Art Therapy	85	32	89
Nap rooms	5	30	N/A
Carnival	290	423	570
Total	888	1113	1308

StressLess Week is our newest annual event, now in its fourth year. Students appreciated the idea of short, low commitment activities, especially the “art therapy” where they could colour pages and decorate a variety of cookies. We hosted three Pet Therapy Rooms with the assistance of Pet Access League Society (PALS) which had higher attendance than last year. Next year, we will discontinue nap rooms as they are no longer popular. This year the carnival included a bean bag toss, giant jenga and a giant connect 4 as well as lego and colouring from prior in the week.

3.3 Frostbite

Year	Attendance
2017	130
2016	190
2015	170

In its sixth year, Frostbite continues to be a great partnership between the Students’ Union and Leadership & Student Engagement. The 2017 Frostbite winners were Victorious Secret. This year brought in 13 teams and each team was actively engaged throughout the week. We continued Heart Warmer again this year and introduced dodgeball in place of kickball. This was well received and we will continue it next year with longer games.



Frostbite continues to add value to the campus by bringing together various student groups, creating a sense of community, fundraising for the campus foodbank and giving back through Heart Warmer.

The biggest change this year was made to the bribery system. We limited any bribes to once in the week and gave specific criteria for a skit-type performance. The change had less of an effect on the overall scores but kept the teams even throughout the week.



3.4 Bermuda Shorts Day

Event	Number of Students Involved 2017	Number of Students Involved 2016	Number of Students Involved 2015	Number of Students Involved 2014
Beer Garden	5871	7928	7752	7958
BSD Day of Service	N/A	40	40	68
Total Interactions	5871	7968	7792	8026

Bermuda Shorts Day (BSD) continues to be the largest event that the Students' Union runs and regularly has the largest number of student participants. This year we gave out nearly 9000 wristbands, unfortunately the number of students through the beer gardens were lower due to bad weather. The Annual BSD Day of Service was cancelled as the Office of Leadership and Student Engagement made the decision to focus on UCalgary Strong Festival and we focused our resources on BSD. The music and food trucks at the event continue to lend themselves well to the festival feel.



4. Weekly Events

4.1 Cinemania

Cinemania 2016 Fall	7:00 pm
Total attendance	267
Average attendance	27

Cinemania 2017 Winter	7:00 pm
Total attendance	353
Average attendance	27

Cinemania is one of the Students' Unions longest running programs. This year, for the first time in a few years we saw an increase in students attending Cinemania. This can be contributed to the move to The Den in Winter of 2016 and reducing to one screening at 7:00 pm. We saw an increase in the average of students each movie to 27 from 16 last year.

4.2 Yoga in the Space

YEAR	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Total Fall attendance	1469	1307	1824
Total Winter attendance	1560	1448	1499
Total	3029	2755	3323

Average # of students	Fall 2016	Winter 2017
Tuesday	51	49
Wednesday	39	30
Thursday	39	47

Yoga in the Space continues to be a very popular activity amongst students. This past year we continued with the same two instructors as last year and we saw an increase in numbers overall this year. However, Wednesday remains the least attended class. We will continue to monitor numbers but both instructors have been well received and we will continue to work with them in the future.



5. Portfolio Specific Events

5.1 Faculty of Veterinary Medicine BBQ

Year	Attendees
2016	110
2015	100
2014	90

This is the fifth year we have held an outreach BBQ on the Veterinary Medicine campus as part of Orientation Week. While this event is held outside of the traditional Orientation Week, it is some Veterinary Medicine students' first introduction to the Students' Union. The BBQ is a combination outreach event and resource fair. We include resources about the SU, clubs and Volunteer Services (CFB, Q Centre etc.) The sunglasses are always a hit as well as the Health & Dental resources, notebooks and information on volunteer opportunities.

5.2 Pet Therapy

Date	2016/17	2015/16	2014-15
Total attendees	1639 (9 sessions)	1304 (8 sessions)	1145 (8 sessions)

Pet Therapy was held in partnership with PALS and was intended as a monthly de-stressing event. All members of the campus community were welcome but the majority of those who attended were undergraduate students. This event was first piloted during Stress Less Week 2013 and due to its overwhelming popularity it has continued.



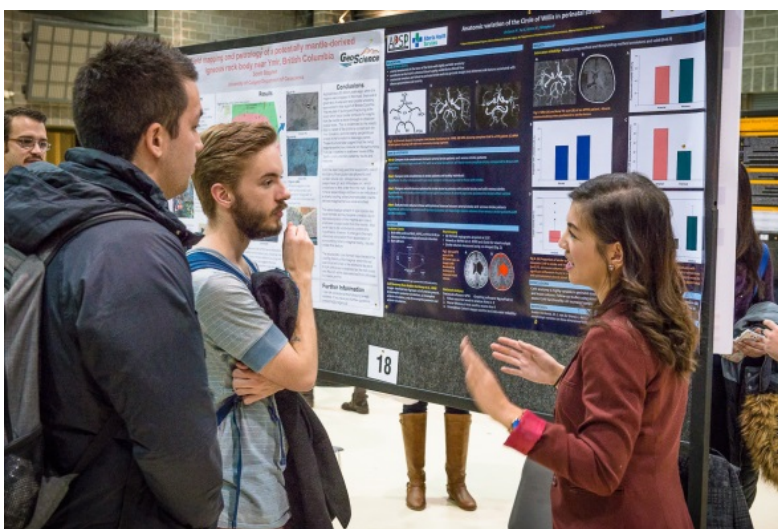
5.3 Undergraduate Research Symposium

	2016	2015	2014
Number of abstracts submitted	119	143	117
Number of participants	101	101	98
Number of judges (mainly faculty members)	51	51	53
Estimated attendance at URS	310	150	150
Number of award winners	32	23	25
Award value	\$500-\$1000	\$500-\$1000	\$500-\$1000
Total amount awarded	\$29,500	\$21,500	\$23,500

The Students' Union Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS) gives students an opportunity to showcase research alongside other undergraduate researchers from across campus. In 2016, the SU received 119 applications from students to participate in the 11th annual event. Although submissions were down from 2015, we have seen an increase in the variety of faculties in which students belong to which is positive.

Through a solid partnership with staff at the Taylor Family Digital Library, URS was once again well promoted at the library and student work continues to be showcased through the U of C's institutional repository.

The SU Undergraduate Research Symposium's [financial support](#) continues to grow each year because of the generosity of U of C departments and faculties. This year over \$29,500 was awarded to students on December 7, 2016 at a formal ceremony. A full list of awards and winners is attached as Appendix I.



5.4 Calgary Leaders Dinner

21	Politicians attended the event
12	Sr. university administration attended event
18	SLC
11	Students-at-large
4	Politicians who RSVP yes but did not attend
62	Total attendees

The sixth annual Calgary Leaders' Dinner was held on Thursday January 18th, 2017. The event is a good opportunity for student leaders to meet Calgary's federal, provincial and municipal leaders over dinner to discuss current issues and gain insight from their experience in leadership and government in an informal setting. All of Calgary's elected leaders from all three levels of government were invited to attend of which 22 came for either dinner or cocktail hour. Student leaders from across campus and several student leaders from other post-secondary institutions also attended the event. Minister McLean (MLA for Calgary-Varsity) and Mr. Jean (Leader of the Official Opposition) both spoke during the program. In the future, we will limit the event to one speaker to better contain the length of the program.

5.5 Lobby Training

Now in its second-year, Lobby Training was held on Wednesday October 26, 2016 from 5 to 8 pm and was host to 45 students. The event began with an introduction by VP External, Tristan Bray of the Students' Union addressing the organizations advocacy efforts municipally, provincially and federally. Once the presenter, Andrew McIntyre – Senior Policy Advisor with the Office of the Mayor, finished the group took a break which allowed an opportunity for students to mix and mingle. After dinner students broke into tables and each moderator hosted an activity where students could practice what they had been taught with real life advocacy situations that the Student's Union had worked on in the past such as MNIFs, market modifiers and mental health funding. We had changed the date to the fall semester which worked better for schedules and providing dinner was a nice addition.

5.6 Sex Week

	Total Students Reached 2017	Total Students Reached 2016	Total Students Reached 2015
Students Union workshop attendance	268	270	237

Sex Week is a week of workshops that the SU helps organize and runs in partnership with the Women's Resource Centre (WRC) and the SU Wellness Centre. This is an information and outreach week that informs students about sexual and gender wellness. Twelve workshops and activities were offered this year. This year's Carnival set up with passports and the games in the middle increased participation and interaction with our table vendors.

The Q Centre hosted the following during Sex Week:

- Sex Week Carnival: Educated students about STI's and sexual and gender wellness in a fun, low commitment setting.
- Alphabet Soup: An introduction to LGBT language.
- Trans 101: A workshop about different trans* identities across the gender spectrum.
- BDSM 101: A wildly popular introduction to the kink community
- BDSM 201: A discussion on taking BDSM further, including discussion of how kink plays into different types of relationship.
- Asexuality 101 Workshop: What does "ace" even mean? Hosted by local Ace activist, Sam Stockton, to find out about the terminology, history, and logistics of the asexual community.

5.7 Destress Packs

Destress Packs were an initiative started by the 70th SU Executive to help combat exam time stress for students on campus and was continued this year. This year the packs included: a granola bar, apple, tea, headphones, slurpee coupon, sudoku, lip balm, candy, encouraging note and chocolate. The packs also included a pamphlet which included information about mental health resources on campus as well as study spaces. This year we were able to purchase fabric drawstring bags to build the destress packs. This was a onetime order and will not be repeated moving forward due to cost.

5.8 Teaching Excellence Awards

	2016-2017	2015-2016
Number of students who submitted an online nomination:	568	488
Number of instructors nominated	110	227
Number of class visits for shortlisted candidates	103	101
Estimated number of students surveyed through class visits	2000	2020
Number of winners	23	24
Number of honorable mentions	9	10

Online nominations for outstanding professors and teaching assistants teaching undergraduate courses from all faculties were once again accepted in both the fall and winter. The nomination period is approximately six weeks long in each semester and during this time various methods are used to promote the TEA program, including a strong social media presence through the SU Facebook and Twitter accounts.

At a formal ceremony on April 29, 2017, the SU Teaching Excellence Awards Committee awarded 23 professors and teaching assistants with TEA awards, while nine individuals received honorable mentions. The SU will continue to work with faculty deans and the SU Elected Officials to promote this important academic initiative to students and recognize instructors across campus. A full list of winners is attached as Appendix II.

Appendix I

2016 Undergraduate Research Symposium Award Winners

ATB Financial - Creating Happiness Award (1x\$500) (ATB)

- Winner: Suhyeon Park

Cumming School of Medicine (4x\$1000) (MDFH/MDBI/MDPD/MDRE)

- Winner: MDPD: Igor Stukalin *Pathology/Disease Research*
- Winner: MDBI: Philip Surmanowicz *Bio/Molecular Research*
- Winner: MDRE: Zhi Tang Yan *Medical Research*
- Winner: MDFH: Marissa Nahirney *Family/Community Health*

Department of Psychology (1 x \$500) (PYSH)

- Winner: Safa Abida

Faculty of Arts (1x\$1000) (ARTS)

- Winner: Janelle Morhun

Faculty of Kinesiology (1x\$500) (KNES)

- Winner: Ashley Kolstad

Faculty of Law (1x\$1000) (LAW)

- Winner: Mark Shearer

Faculty of Science (3x\$1000) (1x\$500) (SCIE)

- Winner: Trevor Low, Jack Zhang, Cole Sugden
- Runner up: Ningzhi Gu

Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (1x\$1000) (VETM)

- Winner: Jesse Tin Ching Tong

Office of the President (1x\$1000) (PRES)

- Winner: Prajay Shah

Office of the Vice-Provost (Libraries) (2x\$1000) (1x\$500)

- Winners: XingYu Chen and Rena Far
- Runner up: Joanne Wong

Office of the Vice-President (Research) (2x\$1000) (VPRE)

- Winners: Cynthia Lam and Gurleen Brar

Provost's Award for Excellence in Internationally-Focused Research (1x\$1000) (PRIN)

- Winner: Kevin Capuno

Program in Undergraduate Research (PURE) Award (1x\$1000) (PURE)

- Winner: Kyeong-Min Jeon

Schulich School of Engineering (2x\$1000) (ENGG)

- Winners: Qian Qian Wang and Hugo Olaciregui

SU Sustainability Fund (1x\$1000, 1x\$500) (SUST)

- Winner: Lise Margaux Rajewicz
- Runner up: Jebina Shrestha

Sustainable Energy Development Graduate Program (1x\$1000) (SEDV)

- Winner: Peter Friedrichsen

The Chancellor's Award (1x\$1000) (CHAN)

- Winner: Catherine Bowman

The John Hickie Award (1x\$1000) (JHIC)

- Winner: Raveen Virk

The Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning (1x\$1000, 1x\$500) (TI)

- Winner: Sangwook Ahn
- Runner up: Hasham Kamran

Werklund School of Education (1x\$1000) (EDUC)

- Winner: Christopher Klune

Appendix II

2016-2017 Teaching Excellence Award Winners

Teaching Assistant Winners

Benjamin Blyth
Pier-Luc Champagne
Noor H. Jafri
David Ledo
A.J. Macaulay
Tom Sewel
Neil Surkan

Teaching Excellence Honorable Mentions

Mark Migotti	Arts
Catherine Burwell	Education
Jeff Turner	Education
George F. Jergeas	Engineering
Yousry Elsabrouty	Engineering
Brad Kilb	Kinesiology
Dr. Cari Din	Kinesiology
David W. Hobill	Science
Melanie Lind-Kosten	Nursing

Teaching Excellence Award Winners

Karen Bourrier	Arts
Walter Glannon	Arts
Annette Tézli	Arts
Joelle Welling	Arts
Leighton Wilks	Business
Larry A. Wood	Business
Yvonne Poitras Pratt	Education
Markus Dann	Engineering
Ahmad Ghasemloonia	Engineering
William Bridel	Kinesiology
Dr. Maureen T. Duffy	Law
Zenaida Roxas Boerhave	Nursing
Heather Addy	Science
Kyla Flanagan	Science
Rob Longair	Science

Hall of Fame:

Robert L. Malach