



**December 5, 2017**

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

### **SU Governance**

#### **Appointments**

On Dec. 5 new Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Faculty of Arts representatives were sworn in. Julie Choi aims to better integrate Spy Hill Campus with the UCalgary community. Sheliza Ismail plans to focus on professional opportunities for Arts students. Ms. Ismail is filling the seat vacated by Puncham Judge when she became VP External.

### **SU Programs and Services**

#### **Stress Less Week**

From Dec. 4 to 8, the SU provided a week of stress relieving activities for students at the end of term. These activities were aimed at encouraging students to achieve balance. Activities and events included:

- Winter Wonderland – students got a snow cones and participated in a winter photo booth.
- Pet Therapy – a monthly event held in partnership with the Pet Access League Society (PALS) was offered three times that week.
- Tea and Art Therapy – an afternoon of painting and tea in That Empty Space.
- Yoga – held regularly throughout the academic year, Yoga in the Space provides students with free yoga classes to enhance their physical and mental wellness.
- Terrarium Gardens – students learned to build a terrarium.
- Holiday Decorating – students got into the holiday spirit and decorated cookies, cards and ornaments.
- Mini University Carnival – this event featured board games, video games, cotton candy, popcorn and more.

#### **Teaching Excellence Awards**

The SU received 500 nominations from students for exceptional instructors and teaching assistants for fall 2017, a 98% increase since fall 2016 when we received 252 nominations. The nominees have been shortlisted to 51 instructors and 10 TAs, and class visits were conducted to survey their students. The Teaching Excellence Awards Committee will review both fall and winter nominations in March and select and celebrate winners at that time.

**Undergraduate Research Symposium:**

The SU received 140 applications from undergraduate students in nine different faculties. The Undergraduate Research Symposium Working Group reviewed the abstracts in late October and accepted 98 students for this year’s symposium. More than 49 judges were recruited to adjudicate the poster presentations. The Undergraduate Research Symposium was held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in MacEwan Hall on Nov. 30 and awards were announced on Dec. 6.

**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.

	October/November 2016	October/November 2017
Number of Hampers	86	79
Number of Adults Fed	134	135
Number of Children Fed	75	57
Total Fed	204	192

**SU Holiday Food Drive:**

The 29<sup>th</sup> annual SU Holiday Food Drive wrapped up on Nov.16. For three days’, 10 clubs competed to collect the most donations for the SU Campus Food Bank. This year, the event collected \$988.81 and 475 items.

**Information Centre/Lost and Found**

During the fall and winter semesters, 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.

	October/November 2016	October/November 2017
Items handed in	866	1041
Items returned to owner	386	299
On campus directions	1037	1000
Campus services questions	368	187
Total number of clients	3272	2741

**Student Clubs**

Since the beginning of the 2017/18 academic year, the SU has allocated over \$5,000 in funding to clubs to support their initiatives, events, and programs. This funding allows clubs to provide students the opportunity to engage with the community around them.

The Clubs East space was renovated over the summer and re-opened in September. 41 new club lockers were added along with highly-requested additional study and storage space. The renovation was funded through a Quality Money grant.

There are currently 340 student organizations registered with the SU.

## **Advocacy and Representation**

### **Student Experience**

SLC worked this semester to define the term “student experience” in order to better understand and refine our advocacy efforts on campus. Student experience is an incredibly challenging term to define as it does not simply entail what happens outside of the classroom, but rather it is the intersection of many different areas of student life that play out on campus.

The Students’ Union define our student experience as:

- Our autonomy to develop as people, professionals, and leaders in our community;
- Our ability to explore, take risks, and push boundaries, even if this makes us uncomfortable;
- Our sense of being valued and respected by administration and the leaders at our institution, which is demonstrated through their accountability, care, and open-mindedness toward our needs and values;
- Our resilience in the face of challenges and growth from overcoming adversity;
- Our access to the resources and opportunities we require to flourish in school, after graduation, and for the rest of our lives;
- Our interactions with the facilities and environment that surround us every day and welcome us to spend time on our campus;
- Our sense of belonging to a community of our peers who bring us pride in being students and graduates of the University of Calgary;
- Our relationships which are cultivated through everyday interactions;
- Our acknowledgement and acceptance of everyone regardless of who they are or who they love; and
- Our nervous excitement about our future and what exists for us after the University of Calgary.

We acknowledge the intersectional and dynamic nature of students and so, while we aspire to the perfect student experience, it is the ability and opportunity for us to shape our own experience that is most important.

### **Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) – Advocacy Week**

From Nov. 27 to Dec. 1, CASA delegates, including the SU’s President and VP External met with over 150 Senators and Members of Parliament in Ottawa to advocate for students across the country. Delegates advocated for the following priorities:

- Increased support for students with disabilities by increasing the Canada Student Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities by 50%.
- Creation an up-front, non-repayable Canada Student Grant for graduate students with financial need.
- Allowing international students to do an internship or co-op under their study permit.
- Increased per student expenditure for the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP).
- Preserving education as a component of fair dealing under the Copyright Act and preserve existing exceptions to copyright infringement for educational institutions.
- Developing Open Educational Resources by creating a pilot grant through the Tri-Agencies that provides funding for graduate students and faculty to develop the resources.

**Conclusion**

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



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