



**December 13, 2019**

We are pleased to submit this update on the Students' Union's (SU) governance, programs, services, and advocacy initiatives.

### **SU Governance**

#### **By-Election**

The SU filled four vacant faculty representative positions in a By-Election held October 16-18, 2019. There are currently no vacancies. One position has not been officially announced by the CROs due to a Review Board appeal.

### **SU Programs and Services**

#### **Teaching Excellence Awards**

The SU received 491 nominations from students for exceptional instructors and teaching assistants for fall 2019. The nominees have been shortlisted to 46 instructors and 10 TAs, and class visits are being conducted to survey their students. The Teaching Excellence Awards Committee will review both fall and winter nominations and select and celebrate winners in March, to be recognized at the annual TEA Gala in April 2020.

#### **Undergraduate Research Symposium**

The SU received 207 applications from undergraduate students from all eleven faculties. The Undergraduate Research Symposium working group reviewed the abstracts and accepted 115 participants for poster, oral, and display presentations. More than 55 judges were recruited to adjudicate students' research. The Undergraduate Research Symposium was held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in MacEwan Hall on Nov. 26, eleven unique workshops were held Nov. 27, and \$31,000 in awards were announced on Nov. 28 at the URS Gala.

#### **Adopt-A-Family**

Adopt-a-Family anonymously matches student families in need with community sponsors to ensure every child has gifts to enjoy this holiday season. Applications were due on November 20<sup>th</sup> and 15 families were matched. More details can be found on the Volunteer Services website:

<https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/programs-services/student-services/volunteer-services/>.

#### **Holiday Food Drive**

The SU Holiday Food Drive is a competition among SU clubs to see who can raise the most monetary and non-perishable food donations for the SU Campus Food Bank. It ran November 18-20. Seven clubs competed for a chance to win funding and other prizes. Their collective efforts raised over \$1,000 and collected over 270 donations.

### **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 2017	October 2018	October 2019
<b>Number of Hampers</b>	38	53	66
<b>Number of Adults Fed</b>	70	73	80
<b>Number of Children Fed</b>	33	24	15
<b>Total Fed</b>	103	97	95

### **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.

	October 2017	October 2018	October 2019
<b>Items handed in</b>	317	527	807
<b>Items returned to owner</b>	84	217	232
<b>On campus directions</b>	541	400	447
<b>Campus services questions</b>	101	148	110
<b>Total number of clients</b>	1442	1412	1368

### **Student Clubs**

Since the beginning of the 2019/20 academic year, the SU has allocated over \$9,300 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.

There are currently **359** student organizations registered with the SU.

### **Advocacy Initiatives**

#### **Get Out the Vote**

The SU collected close to 6,500 pledges from students in the Federal Election 2019 Get Out the Vote (GOTV) campaign. This was the most pledges collected out of all participating Alberta post-secondary institutions and the sixth-highest in Canada. Through the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), the SU reminded students to vote in advance polls and on election day. The campaign is a non-partisan effort to encourage students to vote.

#### **Quality Money**

Applications for this year's Quality Money funding closed on Nov. 29. Twenty-seven applications were received, requesting a total of \$1.74 million. Quality Money is a unique partnership between the SU and the university Board of Governors. Each year the SU is provided with approximately \$1.65 million of students' own money to invest in projects that will enhance the overall student experience. Decisions on projects will be made in the new year by the Quality Money Committee. The SU is working with the Graduate Students' Association to bring a motion for renewal of the Board's commitment to supporting

the Quality Money program in January 2020 after consideration and recommendation by Finance and Property Committee.

### **Provincial Budget**

The provincial budget released on October 24 included cuts to funding for post-secondary institutions, removed the tuition freeze, increase the maximum tuition cap, and included many other changes that affect undergraduate students. We have been working with our provincial counterparts in the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) to understand these changes and ensure students' voices are heard in the ongoing and upcoming decision-making processes.

### **Conclusion**

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



Jessica Revington  
President, 77<sup>th</sup> Students' Legislative Council

