



Report to the Board of Governors from the University of Calgary Students' Union

March 27, 2020

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

COVID-19 (Update)

Following the advice of Alberta Health Services (AHS) and the University of Calgary's recent decision to move to online course delivery, we have cancelled all SU events for the remainder of the semester. This includes events such as Brain Break, Fitness in the Space, all SU Clubs bookings, and Pet Therapy. In addition to these student-focused events, we will sadly be cancelling two events dedicated at recognizing some of the outstanding individuals on campus: the SU Teaching Excellence Awards Gala and the SU Club Awards Banquet.

This list of events includes Bermuda Shorts Day (BSD). This was a very difficult, but necessary decision for us – none of these decisions were made lightly. We know that avoiding large gatherings is the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and the best way to protect each other, our extended families, and our campus community.

We look forward to welcoming students back to campus at a later date. As this is a rapidly changing situation, we are encouraging students to remain informed by checking their email regularly and referring to the university and Government of Alberta websites for up-to-date information. At the time of writing, the SU has committed to remaining open in the interest of providing students with the services and support they need during this difficult time.

Governance

General Election

Election results for the 78th Students' Legislative Council (SLC) were announced at the Den on March 5, 2020. The following students were elected to the SU Executive:

- Frank Finley, President
- Semhar Abraha, VP Academic
- Marley Gillies, VP External
- Assad Ali Bik, VP Student Life
- Mohammed Ali, VP Operations and Finance

Voter turnout for the SU General Election continues to be among the highest for student association elections in Canada, with 22% of undergraduate students casting votes this year. Full election results are available on the SU website: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/results-announced-for-2020-students-union-general-election/>. New student leaders will be sworn into office on May 1, 2020.

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Programs and Services

Teaching Excellence Awards (TEA)

1,146 students submitted nominations for the SU's Teaching Excellence Awards this year. The SU has been administering its Teaching Excellence Awards program (in its current form) since 1984 to recognize University of Calgary instructors and teaching assistants who have had a positive impact on the undergraduate student learning experience.

SU Q Centre Discussion Series

The SU Q Centre continues to offer bi-weekly discussion groups every other Thursday focusing on key topics in the sexual and gender minority community. Discussions are open to all members of the campus community. On March 5th, the topic was Multisexual Identities.

Pet Therapy

126 students (and 10 dogs) participated in a Pet Therapy session in That Empty Space on February 28. This monthly event is held in partnership with the Pet Access League Society (PALS) to engage students and relieve stress.

Student Clubs

Since September 2019, 51 new clubs have been registered (out of 71 clubs that have applied to register with the SU). In total, there are currently 348 active registered clubs. The SU received 48 applications for the Eric Lahoda Memorial SU Clubs Scholarship, which recognizes students who have made positive, meaningful, and unique contributions to student life. Ten \$1,000 scholarships are awarded each year. This program is funded by SU Quality Money.

The SU has received 424 nominations for its annual Club Awards, which recognizes club achievements in 14 categories including advocacy, alumni engagement, campus pride, community service, first year engagement, innovation, and sustainability.

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. Donations are accepted and appreciated on an ongoing basis and can be made by visiting the campus food bank (located in MSC 225). Additional details are available online at <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/foodbank>.

	February 2018	February 2019	February 2020
Number of Hampers	28	39	57
Number of Adults Fed	43	52	69
Number of Children Fed	10	14	12
Total Fed	53	66	81

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. Usage numbers from both November and December are below.

	February 2018	February 2019	February 2020
Items Handed In	640	245	186
Items Returned to Owner	226	175	176
On-Campus Directions	565	374	313
Campus Services Questions	124	77	95
Total Number of Clients	1367	1004	1189

Advocacy Initiatives

Quality Money

The SU Quality Money Committee evaluated applications and selected 17 projects to fund for implementation in 2020/21. A full report of approved projects will be sent to the Board of Governors in March, at which time successful applicants will be notified. Once funding is received, contracts will be issued to the project holders and their initiatives can begin. The SU, in collaboration with the GSA, is asking the Board of Governors to renew their 3-year commitment to the Quality Money Program in March 2020.

Additionally, the SU approved five projects to be funded through the SU Sustainability Fund, which is itself a Quality Money project. This year's projects include the Spy Hill Garden Project, the Bike Root Bike Repair Stand, and the SU Volunteer Services Paperless Volunteer Station. A full list of projects is available at <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/sustainability-fund>.

Budget 2020

The SU has worked in collaboration with other organizations, including the university where possible, to ensure the value of post-secondary in Alberta is widely understood and appreciated leading up to the release of the 2020 provincial budget. Specifically, CAUS has released a white paper on campus sexual violence and advocated for a 3-year commitment to increased levels of government support of mental health. Additionally, the SU has provided a critique outlining concerns related to performance-based funding metrics proposed by the government of Alberta. This letter, along with additional documents and information on the impact of the provincial budgets and change in funding model, is available on our website: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/budget-2020>.

Arts and Culture MNIF

The SU engaged in consultation with proponents from the university on a newly proposed Arts and Culture Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee (MNIF). Approval from SLC is required for any new MNIF (per PSLA 61(6)). After careful consideration, the Students' Legislative Council (SLC) voted against supporting this new fee at this time given the recent increases to tuition and fees for undergraduate students; however, SLC provided seven recommendations to the proponents of this new fee to address before it is brought back for further consideration by the SU in the future.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jessica Revington', written over a light blue rectangular background.

Jessica Revington, President
Students' Union, University of Calgary