



Legislative Council

*Report of the Vice-President Finance & Operations
January 26, 2012*

"The future belongs to those who prepare for it today" – Malcolm X

1. PREAMBLE

The first few weeks of the semester has busier than I assumed it would be; it feels great to be back to work.

Although in my last report, I included a few points of improvement for this semester, I have included them in this report as a reminder and have also made additions:

- Legislative Council: although active working with Councillors on committees and projects, I would like to focus on being more active at Council itself
- Gerts Food Promotion: assist in marketing the food in addition to continuing helping with the events (i.e. continue bus boy duties or helping with coat check during a busy night)
- Marketplace: spend more time implementing the marketing strategy
- Funding: proactively promote funds that are available to student groups

If you have any suggestions for this semester, I welcome your feedback. You can either send me an e-mail or drop by during my office hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 1:00 – 3:00pm or make an appointment.

2. BUDGET AND FINANCES

SSMU Budget: After a hectic semester, I finally managed to complete the Financial Plan which has been sent to the General Manager and the Comptroller for feedback. Next meeting, I will bring forward the plan for approval for the February 9, 2012 Legislative Council meeting.

Financial Transactions: A separate report has been submitted; the report provides an overview of all financial transactions above \$1,000 within the SSMU.

Clubs: As usual, the office hours prove to be useful since many student groups drop by to readily ask questions or chat. In the next few weeks, I will be making a greater effort to promote the Club Audit in conjunction with the Clubs & Services representatives.

I also met with Councillor Winer to discuss the possibility of adding a sustainable component to the club audit. We decided that we will create an extra tab on the excel sheet where clubs will submit a sustainable report and according to the criteria, clubs that excel in sustainability will be provided a



bonus point for their efforts. Therefore, this week, I will be working on revamping the audit form to integrate this new aspect of the club audit.

Services: I will continue to set appointments with the different Services to touch base and review the finances to date.

3. OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES

Gerts: Firstly, all meetings for Gerts between the Bar Manager, the General Manager, and I are now in French since one of goal's is to refresh my French. Secondly, on my end, I attended a few Week 101 events the first week of the semester to support Vice-President Plummer. I will also be busy preparing a Gerts Sales Report to provide an update of the financials of the fall semester.

Mini Courses: Mini Courses registration closed last Friday and the figures for this semester are better than last semester. I helped a bit with in-person registration last week by registering students to a Mini Course at the SSMU Kiosk on the first floor.

As an aside, I am excited to be taking a Mini Course this semester!

Book Bazaar: Status quo.

Marketplace: This semester, the usage of Marketplace seems to have increased. Although the number of items posted is positive, there is much work to be completed. The free book event on January 12, 2012 went better than expected; I had to end the event late in the afternoon since many students dropped by, thus most of the books were gone in the end.

Student-run Cafe: This week, I will be spending much of my time on preparing the Business Plan before the end of the semester while the Working Group will be meeting over the weekend to go over action items for this semester. Overall, this will be an exciting semester for the Working Group once the interactive events are planned to integrate student feedback, and the overwhelming support from students makes it even more worthwhile.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee met last Friday to discuss the Student Health & Dental referendum question. This semester, other topics of discussion, include but are not limited to the Financial Plan, Revised Budget, and the 2012 – 2013 Budget.

Financial Ethics Research Committee: Thank you to the team for working on the Ethical Investment Plan! Moving forward, we will be working on two major projects for the semester. Firstly, the committee will responsible for preparing a report on the Investment Portfolio, as per the policy. Secondly, the committee will bring forward another policy for discussion this semester. The Purchasing Policy has been prepared by the FERC Coordinator, reviewed and edited by me, and will be further discussed by the committee before being brought forward.



Funding Committee: This committee, for the winter semester, will be meeting every Wednesday evening to review funding applications.

Operations Management Committee: No update this week; still in the process of finalizing a meeting date.

5. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

ASEQ: I will be meeting with ASEQ in coming weeks along with the incoming SSMU Comptroller, to provide the Comptroller with an opportunity to better grasp the finances of the Student Health & Dental plan.

By-law Book II Revision: Status quo.

Daycare: Along with the Daycare Manager, I completed a Power Point presentation for the Legislative Council. The Daycare Manager will be attending the next meeting to provide Councillors an overview how the Daycare operations and to explain its importance to the undergraduate student body.

International Women's Week: Last week, I met with the Vice-President Externals of the Social Work Students' Association, Councillors Jean-Claude and Parent, to discuss plans for International Women's Week.

In the coming days, I hope to meet with Councillor Jean-Claude and his colleague (Echo Parent) from the Social Work Students' Association to prepare for International Women's Week and the different events we would like to establish.

Sustainability Case Competition: On Wednesday, January 18, 2012, we held a cocktail for the teams who made it into the second round of the competition; the six mentors who will be meeting the teams were also present at the cocktail. Thank you to Councillor Qin and the Executive Dean of Student Services, Jana Luker, for attending the cocktail.

TaCEQ: I attended another TaCEQ meeting with Vice-President Pedneault over the weekend; seeing him in action is always a pleasure.

Transition: As you are already aware, I have been preparing material for my successor since last semester. By mid-February, I hope to complete all the transition material in preparation for a smooth transition period.

Peace be with you,

Shyam Patel