



Legislative Council

Report of the Vice-President Finance & Operations  
November 3, 2011

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*"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." – Martin Luther King Jr.*

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## 1. PREAMBLE

The month of October was particularly busy on my end. However, I have been able to get a lot of work completed during the month. That being said, I am excited for winter to begin and to take some time off during the winter break.

## 2. BUDGET AND FINANCES

SSMU Budget: The presentation of the budget has been pushed to the November 17, 2011 Legislative Council meeting. This will allow the Finance Committee to meet and will also give me enough time to meet with the SSMU Services to make any revisions according to their needs.

During the last two weeks, I have also met with Vice-Presidents Fraser and Pedneault to go over their respective budgets and discuss ways I can better support them during the year in terms of finances.

Financial Transactions: I have included a separate report for this specific item.

Clubs: The sample Club Audit can now be found on the SSMU website. I will also be welcoming the SSMU clubs to set an appointment with me over the next three weeks to go over the club audit on an individual club basis.

Services: This week, I will be meeting the Services to go over their respective budgets in preparation for the budget presentation to the Legislative Council. Thus far, eleven Services have contacted me to set-up an appointment.

On a more personal note, I am extremely happy with the calibre of the Services' dedication and cooperation this year.

## 3. OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES

Gerts: I am very content with the attendance at Oktoberhaus. Although I never had a minute to enjoy the event; it was fun being a busy boy during the day and helping with coat check at night. After the event, the Gerts Administrative Committee went over the event and potential ideas for next year.



Mini Courses: After the mid-term review meeting, the Mini Courses team will slightly adjust its marketing strategy for the winter semester. This year, the team will open registration earlier to provide students with more time to register. I also recommended that the team conduct its in-person registration at the SSMU front kiosk to enhance its presence.

Book Bazaar: I have finally been able to sort through past documents, although much of it was not very helpful. By the end of this week, I will start returning unsold books to the student owners.

Marketplace: Councillor Cannon and I met to discuss all the work relevant to Marketplace that was undertaken during the summer term. He is now abreast of the information and will be working on the promotional aspect of Marketplace. The Network Administrator and the Communications and Publications Manager are working rigorously on the launch of the Marketplace.

As an aside, I would really like to thank President Knight and Vice-Presidents Clare and Fraser for helping out on the morning of Friday, October 21, 2011 with moving books from the Book Fair to the SSMU Building; a huge thank you to Councillor Burnett and Kunev as well for their dedication and efforts! The books that were provided will be either sold on the Marketplace or given out for free to students in the Shatner building (more information to come once a plan is set forth).

Student-run Cafe: Finally, after a month or so, I have received all the research from the members of the Working Group. Specifically, I would like to thank Councillor Khan and Working Group Members Eady and Kerr for their diligent work.

#### **4. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES**

Accounting Committee: Status quo.

Finance Committee: The committee will meet before the budget presentation to the Legislative Council.

Financial Ethics Research Committee: The committee has started working on a draft for the Ethical Investment Policy after reviewing the research submitted by the committee. I have distributed the draft to the committee for edits. The FERC will bring forward the plan for approval during the December 1, 2011 Legislative Council meeting. Aside from the Ethical Investment Plan, the FERC is working on research for the Purchasing Policy; this research will be later compiled by the FERC Coordinator.

Funding Committee: Currently, the Funding Coordinator has been working hard to process the high volume of applications. I am glad he is back in the office because the last few weeks were very hectic in terms of dealing with a portfolio and reviewing applications. As an aside, I also posted the criteria for funding on the SSMU website, asked the Environment Commissioners to promote the Green Fund, and will explore other ideas to advertise the funds. That said, I am not at all worried about students applying for funds because there is never a shortage of applications.

Operations Management Committee: A report will be presented separate to this one.



## 5. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

ASEQ: Along with the Comptroller, I will be meeting the Program Manager to go over some of the finances to plan for future years.

Council: I have sent an e-mail to Councillors and Senators to remind them of my office hours. This a good time of the semester to drop by, ask questions, and let me know your ideas for the year, especially since a lot of projects require much time and care.

Sustainability Case Competition: Over the past few weeks, I have been working with the co-chairs of the case competition to go over some of the plans for the year. The plans included the creation of a budget, an organizational chart of all tasks and responsibilities, promotional material, and funding opportunities. To maintain this organization, I will be meeting with the two co-chairs once a week to go over updates and we will also schedule a broader meeting to go over the overall vision.

Transition: I am looking forward to the winter break so I can sit down and dedicate a considerable amount of time to prepare material for the transition period for next year.

Peace be with you,

Shyam Patel