



Legislative Council

Report of the Vice-President Finance & Operations October 13, 2011

"It is necessary to help others, not only in our prayers, but in our daily lives. If we find we cannot help others, the least we can do is to desist from harming them." – Dalai Lama

1. PREAMBLE

The past few weeks have been overwhelming yet exciting at the same time. I am pleased with the number of Councillors who drop by the office to chat about their plans and ideas. I am always looking for ways to improve, make myself more accessible, or work in conjunction with Councillors, Staff, and students. You are more than welcome to bring forward any concerns or questions to me (just remember to bring me some chocolate when you drop by to see me).

2. BUDGET AND FINANCES

SSMU Budget: The presentation of the budget will take place at the next Council meeting. I am hoping that the student fees will be rolling in shortly so that the estimates will be more accurate.

As an aside, I plan on meeting with each executive over the course of the next two weeks to discuss their respective budgets and also use the opportunity to discuss what other ways I can assist them with the financial perspective of their portfolios.

Financial Transactions: I have created a draft of the financial transactions document for Council, as per last week's resolution. Although it has been somewhat time consuming, the final document will be ready for presentation at the next Council meeting.

Clubs: The Club Finances document that I have been working on is finally complete and now posted on the SSMU website. In addition, by the end of the week, the sample Club Audit document should be complete and ready to be posted on the website.

Services: Many of the services continue to drop by the office to ask questions and chat which I believe is extremely positive.

3. OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES

Gerts: I worked as a busy boy at the bar and I think, overall, I did not fail too miserably. You can see me back to work on October 21, 2011 during Oktoberhaus.



Mini Courses: The courses officially began a few weeks ago and although the closure of the building on weekends was an issue at first, the team has been able to do well moving forward. We will be going through a review process to plan for next semester to provide the best service to students.

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: Last week, I met again with relevant members of the Staff to discuss the advancements of Marketplace. We were able to work out some issues before the launch. In terms of marketing plans for the Marketplace, the Graphic Designer produced a poster that we hope will help the Marketplace's initial introduction and I have also worked on a Marketing Plan to explore many other alternatives to better promote it.

Student-run Cafe: The Working Group will be meeting this coming weekend to discuss the vision and distribution of work for the business plan. The meeting will also enable the Working Group to go over the completed research undertaken during the summer term and the early months of the September; Councillor Khan and I will present a report highlighting some of the main points during the first meeting in November.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

Accounting Committee: This committee will be meeting next week to discuss any concerns and developments in the Accounting Department.

Finance Committee: This committee will be meeting towards the end of the month to go over the budget.

Financial Ethics Research Committee: I find it very easy for projects to be forgotten about; however, I have created a strong strategy to ensure that FERC this year makes progress. Every week or two, members of this committee will be given a breakdown of tasks and responsibilities with a firm deadline. Their work will be integrated into the Ethical Investment Policy and revamp of the Purchasing Policy. I have already started to work on a draft of the Ethical Investment Policy that will be brought forward for approval towards the end of the semester.

Funding Committee: These past few weeks, funding has been overwhelming, with numerous applications being submitted. That said, I am happy that the Club Workshops has increased the number of Club Fund applications that were submitted this year.

Operations Management Committee: The committee met on Friday, October 7, 2011 to discuss its plans for the year. Councillor Khan and Qin will be heavily involved with the student-run cafe and Councillor Cannon will be meeting with me shortly to be briefed on Marketplace. We also discussed the plan of action for the second floor project. The committee will be preparing a detailed report to summarize the proposals that have been received.



5. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

ASEQ: On my end, there have been few questions from students in regards to the Student Health & Dental Plan.

Transition: Although there is quite a bit to achieve, I have already started working on the transition material for my successor. During the summer, I organized the basics of the SSMU that every executive should know and also commenced a VP FOPS guide that will include everything and anything that falls under the portfolio.

Peace be with you,

Shyam Patel