



Andrew Clubine Vice-President Education's Report

May 2017

Federation of Students
University of Waterloo

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1. Introduction

It has been a busy start to the term, as you will see from the highlights I have listed below. But before the term even began, I had the pleasure of hiring three part-time staff to support my work over the next year:

- Academic Affairs Commissioner: Maya Venters ([bio](#))
- Co-op Affairs Commissioner: Hannah Beckett ([bio](#))
- Municipal Affairs Commissioner: Jennifer Chen ([bio](#))

These commissioners will help me carry out the items that I will be responsible for under the Executive Action Plan (forthcoming), and will also take on special projects throughout the year. We are supported by a team of full-time staff:

- Stakeholder Relations Manager, Aaron Francis
- Research and Policy Officer, Aisha Shibli
- Marketing Specialist (Advocacy), Kerri Behling

I am excited to work with each of these wonderful people, and others (such as Councillors and my fellow Execs!) to further Feds' advocacy goals over the next year.

2. Academic Affairs

a. Committees, councils and working groups

Between Maya and I, we sit on 20+ committees, councils and working groups across the University. We have been introduced to 2/3 of these. There are no major updates from any of these committees to-date.

b. Course Evaluations

After 3 years of meetings, the Course Evaluations Project Team, led by Prof. Mark Seasons, has completed its report and submitted it to the Provost. It is now up to the Provost to determine if/how to proceed. Some groups, including the Faculty Association (FAUW) and the Status of Women & Equity Committee (SWEC) has major concerns with the report, namely how the use of teaching evaluations might impact promotion decisions.

Maya and I will be meeting with the outgoing Provost and the incoming interim Provost to determine next steps.

c. Policy 70, 71 & 72 Advising

The Academic Affairs Commissioner provides support to students in academic distress. In recent months, the demand for these services has increased. Over the Spring term, we will be considering how we can best meet this

demand moving forward.

d. Indigenization

Staff have been working on a report that explores how Feds and UW can respond to the recommendations from Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report. It is expected to be released in June.

e. Action Planning

Maya will be completing her action plan in the near future. Some of the issues likely to be addressed in it include verification of illness forms and academic accommodations.

3. Co-op Affairs

a. Fee Review

Hannah and I met with Peggy Jarvie (Associate Provost, Co-operative and Experiential Education) to begin the fee review. We will be meeting again in June to develop an outline a process and timeline. This will be the primary focus for the Co-op Affairs Commissioner.

b. CECA Projects

With the recent launches of WaterlooWork, EDGE and Co-op 2.0, we expect to be fielding many questions from students and administrators. We monitor these project regularly and provide input to CECA as needed.

4. Municipal Affairs

a. Town & Gown Association of Ontario Symposium

Jennifer attended the TGAO Symposium in Ottawa on behalf of Feds. Several of our partners made presentations, including Waterloo councillor, Jeff Henry, and OUSA researcher, Marc Gurrisi.

b. Collaboration with WLUSU

Jennifer will be meeting regularly with her counterpart at Laurier's Students Union. Our partnership with WLUSU has proven very beneficial in recent years, and we hope to continue that.

5. Provincial Affairs

a. Meetings and Announcements

- i. Kathleen Wynne, (Premier) visited campus on May 3. She visited AHS labs, made an announcement about OHIP+ and met with Antonio. Through this meeting, Antonio was able to secure a meeting with MPP Daiene Vernile to discuss sexual violence prevention on campus.
- ii. Deb Matthews (Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development and Deputy Premier) announced increase mental health funding to campuses the same day as the Premier's visit to UW. I attended the funding announcement at the University of Toronto on behalf of Feds and OUSA.
- iii. Patrick Brown (MPP Simcoe North, PC Leader) visited campus on May 12. Feds and GSA met with him about student housing, mental health,

co-op and the university funding formula.

- iv. Michael Harris, MPP Kitchener-Conestoga met with me at Queen's Park on May 18th. We followed up on the items that has been discussed at our meeting with Patrick Brown, and items carrying over from OUSA's advocacy efforts last year.

b. Milestones

- i. Ministers Matthews (MAESD) and Hoskins (Health) announced the Province's commitment to increasing campus mental health funding from \$9M/year to \$15M/year for the next 3 years. The money is reallocated from the expired Mental Health Innovation Fund, just as OUSA had requested.
- ii. The Government introduced OHIP+, which includes prescription drug coverage for youth 24 years old and younger.

c. OUSA

OUSA is the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, a provincial advocacy organization composed of 8 member student associations, including Feds. A Transition Conference was held the week of May 15. Following the conference, we held our first Steering Committee meeting of the year. I was elected President. We will be determining OUSA's lobby priorities at a Strategy Conference in July.

6. Federal Affairs

a. Collaboration with the President

Given that the OUSA Presidency will put some increased demands on my time, and that Antonio has a strong advocacy background, Federal affairs will be a collaborative effort between the two of us this year. I will take the lead on Feds' lobby priorities and regular meetings with MPs, while Antonio will take the lead on organizing Advocan.

b. Advocan

Advocan is an informal lobby coalition of student associations from some of Canada's U15 research universities. In early June, we will be electing a Chair and beginning to set our priorities for our lobby week in the Fall.

7. Other highlights

a. Action Plan

The Executive Action Plan is in process, as are action plans within my portfolio. These will be finalized in June, and more details on goals for the year will be available at that time.

b. Surprise

The first three people to email me about this report will receive a very cool OUSA sticker.