



# Nick Soave

## Vice-President Education's Report

July 2010

Federation of Students  
University of Waterloo

## **Executive Summary**

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### **1. Month Summary**

Hello from Grey Road 19! I am currently driving home from the OUSA Strategy Conference in Collingwood Ontario. We have had an amazing 4 days and have set some very ambitious goals for the next 10 months of OUSA. It's safe to say that we will accomplish some great things this year. Overall the goal is a focus on Student Success with a heavy emphasis on media relations for the year.

Another big part of my past month has been working on Academic Integrity. Following an Undergraduate Student Relations Committee meeting it became very clear that Academic Integrity is continuing to be a very important project for the university for the next year. EAC will be working with Associate Provost Bruce Mitchell on this project to ensure sufficient student consultation.

I started working on one of goals for the year over the past month. The writing center has always been a priority of mine and I was excited to receive a tour and meeting with the director of the writing center a few weeks ago. It quickly became very evident that there are some serious resource issues. The most notability the need for increased space to adequately serve students. A proposal will be coming forward from the Director of the Writing Center and myself. I will ensure that feedback from EAC and students at large is included in this proposal.

Finally CASA Policy and Strategy conference, which was held the 6 days after our last council meeting, was a huge success. CASA ratified an excellent new National Director Zachary Dayler. We also elected members to the various committees of CASA. I am happy to report that I am a member of the CASA Bylaws Committee meaning I can have a huge say in what happens internally for CASA.

### **2. Committees / Councils / Commissions / Boards**

#### **a. *Co-operative Education Council***

- **Responsibilities:** A forum to review and advise on Co-op at UW
- **Timeline:** Monthly meetings; ongoing

**Partners:** Bruce Mitchell (Associate Provost Academic & Student Affairs), Peggy Jarvie (Executive Director of CECS), Faye Schultz, others and one faculty rep per faculty and one student per faculty

- **Synopsis:**
  - As a result of CASA Policy and Strategy I unfortunately missed the last meeting of CEC on June 9<sup>th</sup>
  - We had student representatives present at the meeting but the CO-OP commitment piece from the Associate Dean Co-op Math was barely discussed
  - This issue will not be addressed at Senate Undergrad Council in September
  - This was the first meeting after changing the membership to 6

students plus the VPed.

- Was a direction setting meeting for the year and spent majority of time on topics to be discussed over the year.
- Only real debate was regarding the changes to the CAFCE By-laws of what a Co-op term is. This was a change I supported so there was no issue with it

#### **b. Senate Undergraduate Council**

- **Responsibilities:** The step before Senate that approves all changes to academic plans and does reviews of programs
- **Timeline:** Monthly meetings; ongoing
- **Partners:** Geoff McBoyle (Associate Vice-president Academic), Karen Jack, One student from each faculty and others
- **Synopsis:**
  - As a result of CASA Policy and Strategy I unfortunately missed the last meeting of SUC on June 8<sup>th</sup>
  - There was one point of interest for students regarding Engineering Course Syllabi essentially not needing to include penalties for late assignments. In the end the committee voted in favour of this proposal. This issue will be fought at senate.
  - Approved curricular items for Renison, Arts, and math
  - Only item of minor concern was that of UAE campus schedule of date. There are some tight timelines on the students and they will evaluate these dates in a year.

#### **c. Education Advisory Committee**

- **Responsibilities:** The group of students that advises the VP Education on their general tasks
- **Timeline:** Monthly meetings; ongoing
- **Partners:** Kristen Leal (At-Large), Nilani Logeswaran (At-Large), Reemah Khalid (Arts Councilor), Trevor Jenkins (Engineering Councilor), Umar Aftab (At-large).
- **Synopsis:**
  - EAC has been contacted by Bruce Mitchell to be a main player in the universities move towards a stronger academic integrity program
  - Set priorities for the year for the VPed of T.A. Training program creation and Review of the English Language Proficiency Program
  - Advised on involvement in OUSA, ultimately this did not work out
  - Planned to have bi-term meetings with administrators from Co-op to discuss co-op.

#### **d. Undergrad Student Relations**

- **Responsibilities:** A body to discuss undergraduate students and the university administration.
- **Timeline:** Monthly meetings; ongoing
- **Partners:** Bradley Moggach (President), Nikki Best (VP-Internal), Sarah

Cook( VP-Administration and Finance), Bud Walker (Interim Associate Provost Student Services) and Bruce Mitchell (Associate Provost Academic & Student Affairs)

- **Synopsis:**
  - Main topic discussed here was AI and from this meeting it was decided to bring this issue to EAC
  - This was a direction setting meeting where topics to be worked on through the year were set.
  - Also discussed changing the membership to 7 students and this recommendation was approved by the committee

### 3. Current & Continued Projects / Initiatives

#### a. Ta training

- **Goals:** By the end of the year have a proposal regarding how to improve T.A training of the graduate students at UW
- **Partners:** Mark Seasons (Interim Dean of Environment) and Jeff Casello (Associate Dean of Undergraduate Students)
- **Timeline:** ongoing
- **Priority:** High
- **Synopsis:**
  - I had a meeting with the Interim Dean (Mark Seasons) and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Students (Jeff Casello) in June to discuss the possibility of this project
  - The Interim Dean agreed to explore a multi session T.A. training program for all PhD students
  - Before leaving the faculty of environment I actually started this project
  - Will try and implement the skeleton of what ENV develops to all faculties

#### b. Writing Center Recommendations

- **Goals:** By the end of the year have a proposal regarding how to improve the Writing Center at UW
- **Partners:** Ann Barrett (Director of the Writing Center)
- **Timeline:** ongoing
- **Priority:** High
- **Synopsis:**
  - I had a meeting with Ann late in June and quickly determined that the main needed of this support unit if space
  - There is a proposal that I am going to provide feedback on that Ann and her team is creating to improve capacity of the Writing Center programs that are focused on helping students pass the ELPE.

#### c. Pharmacy Co-op jobs

- **Goals:** Provide support to the Pharmacy students in their meetings with the ministers and finding jobs in the future
- **Partners:** Brad Linton (SoPHS President), and Andrew Langille EXTRA

- **Timeline:** Ongoing
- **Priority:** Low
- **Synopsis:**
  - The pharmacy students have a meeting at the end of June with Minister Malloy and Minister Matthews that I will provide assistance with.
  - The co-op job issue is being handled by CECS and I am just providing updates to the Pharmacy students. Unfortunately the Pharmacy Industry is still trying to catch up with the legislation and this is affecting jobs.
  - Vice President Best and myself attended one of the Society of Pharmacy Students meetings to discuss co-op and a few other things. Overall this conversation was great for FedS we provided a great deal of information to the Pharmacy students. The students requested some guidance regarding a letter they were going to send to the Minister of Training Colleges and Universities and the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care regarding the recent legislation that is going to affect the Pharmacy Industry.

#### d. **Colour Me Educated**

- **Goals:** To create a 8 month Colour Me Educated Campaign that has regular events and a large termly event.
- **Partners:** Laura McQuinn (Special Events Coordinator)
- **Priority:** Low
- **Synopsis:**
  - Had a meeting with Laura McQuinn to discuss Colour Me Educated and the 8 month plan
  - Just starting to plan an outline of the 8 month campaign with the Special Events Coordinator and we do not have a solid plan yet
  - This will become a priority after I come back from CASA

#### e. **Northdale Neighborhood**

- **Goals:** To create a response to the cities and HUGWaterloo proposals.
- **Partners:** Bradley Moggach (President) and Andrew Langille (EXRA)
- **Timeline:** Ongoing
- **Priority:** Medium
- **Synopsis:**
  - Northdale Neighborhood has been the ongoing topic of discussion between President Moggach and myself. We have met with Bud Walker from the University to get a feel for the universities take on the issue. We have also been starting to develop our own opinion on the issue through research on the student housing in Northdale. We will be sending a few representatives from FedS to the City Council meeting on Monday to present a statement from students' council.

## 4. Upcoming Projects / Initiatives

## 5. Completed Projects / Initiatives

### a. Budget

- **Goals:** Create my budget
- **Partners:** My Computer and old budgets
- **Synopsis:**
  - My budget has been completed and sent to Sarah Cook (VP AF). I look forward to explaining my lines when we present the budget to council.

### b. CASA Transition

- **Goals:** To become orientated with CASA
- **Partners:** Bradley Moggach (President), Other member schools from Ontario, and CASA Home Office Staff
- **Synopsis:**
  - CASA was a high level discussion of what the role of CASA is in the Federal post secondary education sector. How CASA Lobbies and on what topics we lobby. Overall CASA is an extremely effective lobby organization and its member (we are a member) schools set the direction of lobbying. The rest of the transition was spent discussing failures from last year and how we are moving forward from those mistakes. By the end of the week we had a very strong grasp of what CASA was and how we can contribute as a member.

### c. OUSA Transition

- **Goals:** To become orientated with OUSA
- **Partners:** Bradley Moggach (President), Other member schools from Ontario, OUSA Home Office Staff and representatives from partners
- **Synopsis:**
  - OUSA on the other hand was a very brief high-level discussion then we got right into discussing the issues facing the Provincial post secondary sector. The most beneficial part of the OUSA transition was the partner's parade. The partner's parade brought representatives from the OUSA's partners in to give the member schools presentations about the relationship they have with OUSA then a discussion on current issues facing PSE. This provided a great way to start the conversation on potential policy for the year and strength the existing relationships with our partners. Leaving OUSA transition I am confident that this is going to be an amazing year for OUSA!

### d. CASA Policy and Strategy Conference

- **Goals:** From June 6<sup>th</sup> to June 12<sup>th</sup> President Moggach and I will be in Charlestown PEI at the CASA Policy and Strat conference. This conference is to set the direction for the year ahead at CASA. To determine which polices to create and what CASA's lobbying priorities will be.

- **Partners:** Bradley Moggach (President), other member schools, and CASA home office staff
- **Timeline:** June 1, 2010 to June 12, 2010
- **Priority:** High
- **Synopsis:**
  - Before the conference starts there is policy and research that needs to be done to be a productive member at CASA
  - Currently the reading is about 300 pages so that is a current project before we leave for PEI

**e. OUSA Strategy Conference**

- **Goals:** Develop a strategy for the year ahead of OUSA
- **Partners:** OUSA Home Office Staff and other member schools
- **Timeline:** July 4<sup>th</sup> to July 7<sup>th</sup>
- **Priority:** High
- **Synopsis:**
  - Decided our priorities for the year ahead and our advocacy priorities for the year
  - Focus on Early Outreach, Student Financial Assistance and Student Success
  - Decided a very idealistic media strategy
  - Discussed a plan for switching the A's from OUSA