



# GAUNTLET2007

## CANDIDATE REVIEWS

In the beginning, we anticipated interviewing candidates for the 2007 Students' Union general election would be a tedious process. It turns out, we were right. However, we still managed to make it through a long weekend of interviews and work that somehow lasted late into the night for several days.

We took on the task of interviewing all of the candidates for the positions of president, vice-president external, VP academic, VP operations-finance, VP events, senate representatives and board of governors representative. This year's selection of candidates was unique, given that nearly all are current SU elected officials. It made for a very experienced, polite—and some might even say boring—interviewing process. While the process lacked the crackpot candidates that usually turn out, the plethora of qualified candidates forced our panel to listen closely to what each SU hopeful had to say.

This year's panel was larger than in previous years. We assembled nine of the most qualified political experts we

could find hanging around the *Gauntlet* office to give you a non-partisan perspective of the SU candidates.

Despite our best intentions to portray each hopeful fairly, it's hard to get a completely accurate picture of someone from talking to them for a mere 20 minutes. We tried to point out both strengths and weaknesses, while giving a good overview of what each person brought to the table.

The opinions contained within are just that, opinions. Though they can act as a guide, we urge students to get informed on their own. Go to the remaining forums, read the SU-sponsored pull-out contained in this paper, seek out candidates on campus, check out their websites and hit up the SU website! Every student pays \$53.75 to the SU through their fees each semester. Make sure you're getting your money's worth by helping to select the best candidates for the job.

Sara Hanson and Amanda Hu  
Supplement Co-editors

## The process

For each interview, the candidate was seated across the table from our nine-person panel. They were given one minute to introduce themselves.

Following this, one member of our panel asked the candidate three to five standard questions. The questions were compiled based on position and all of the candidates from each position were asked the same standard questions.

Afterwards was a free question period in which the panel could ask the candidate questions relating to previous responses and the candidate's platform. The candidate was asked to limit their responses to under two minutes.

Including the photography ele-

ment, each interview was limited to approximately 20 minutes, after which the panel privately deliberated. All the interviews were recorded for later reference by the panel.

When arranging interview times, the candidates were all asked to bring a copy of their platform and qualifications to supplement their interview responses.

Each member of the panel was assigned a specific position to write reviews for and considered the input of the entire panel when completing these reviews.

The opinions of all the reviews are limited to the panel members in attendance during the interview process.

## The panel

### Sara Hanson

News Assistant, Supplement Co-editor

Sara has written countless news stories and has a solid grasp of what's happening on campus.

### Amanda Hu

Sports Assistant, Supplement Co-editor

New to the *Gauntlet* this year, Amanda has delved into the world of SU news covering the USRI beat.

### Chris Beauchamp

Editor-in-chief

Chris is the only member on the panel who has attended more SU meetings than Emily. Poor guy.

### Emily Senger

News Editor

Emily snoozes through SLC meetings every week and was editor of this supplement last year.

### Ryan Pike

Escapes and Pursuits Editor

The only thing Ryan finds more exciting than comic books and the Calgary Flames is SU politics.

### Andrew Rininsland

Production Editor

Besides making stuff work around the office, Andrew's second passion is SU politics.

# President

As the head of the organization, the president is both a figurehead and a leader. It is the president who speaks to the media, administration and government, while keeping the Students' Union a cohesive team. Any candidate must show effective leadership and creativity to succeed in this position.

## Julie Bogle

What kind of leader will you be?

"I'll be a very open leader, focusing on the students. I want to encourage open communication. I want to continue traveling office hours and expand that to traveling awareness weeks. A lot of students don't know where their over \$100 in student fees goes each year. I want to let them know about the Den, about the students' rights advisor and all the rest of our great projects."



**Qualifications:**

Events commissioner 2006/07  
SU budget committee 2006/07  
RSA VP apartments 2006/07  
Shinerama coordinator 2006

It's refreshing to see a presidential candidate running for the right reasons. Julie Bogle does not want to be Students' Union president to pad her resumé, to get into med school or to make political connections. Bogle is angry; she is disillusioned with many current SU practices and wants to make life better for students.

Bogle has distilled her frustrations into a solid platform with four internally-focused points: systemic restructuring of current SU practices, grassroots mobilization, affordable housing action and representing students. A noteworthy item on Bogle's platform is her desire to use the slower summer months to form a committee to review current SU governance to make sure students' needs are being met.

Bogle's downfall is her lack of experience relative to the other two presidential candidates. As an events commissioner as well as the Residence Students' Association vice-president apartments this year, Bogle has leadership experience and some knowledge of the inner-workings of the SU, but she lacks Wilma Shim's academic knowledge or Julie Labonte's exter-

nal qualifications. Bogle, though, is willing to learn. She has been doing her homework; she is aware of the provincial and federal political climates and was the only SU member other than president Emily Wyatt to attend the board of governors tuition decision. Sitting through a four-hour meeting of university administrators surely shows a desire to learn the issues.

Bogle's relative lack of experience with the academic and external commissions also means she will bring fresh ideas. While the other two candidates placed much of their external focus on work with existing provincial and federal lobby groups, Bogle has some innovative ideas to save students money, like working on the municipal level with the city to address housing bylaws and pushing the university to ensure that residence fees remain manageable.

A vote for Bogle is a vote for a very internally-focused president. However, with two strong external candidates vying for a single spot, an internally-focused president and a strong vice-president external could make for a solid executive team.

## Julie Labonte

What kind of leader will you be?

"I really put a lot of stake in being representational. I think that the SU has a bad rep and we've done a lot in the past few years to improve that. We have to be talking to students and figuring out what they want. I want to be very available and I think that ties into communication as well. A lot of the times, the students don't actually know what we do and they need to."



**Qualifications:**

VP external 2006/07  
CASA regional director 2006/07  
Senator, senate executive 2006/07  
Humanities faculty rep 2006/07

Julie Labonte is an ambitious candidate in this year's presidential race. She wants change and is not afraid to jump into the fire to get it. With her previous experience as this year's Students' Union vice-president external, she is looking for a new position where she can push for reform on issues that need revamping while tackling a lot of new projects. Two goals on the forefront of Labonte's agenda are informing students about what the SU does, and revamping the SU's image.

The highlights of Labonte's platform include a new four-year strategic plan for the SU, improving the student experience and bringing the quality of post-secondary education to the attention of university administration, provincial and federal government. Labonte also promises to bring tuition back into legislation, which shouldn't be too hard since Ed Stelmach already promised this in his election campaign. She also wants to make textbooks GST-free, which will take some of the stress off cash-strapped students. During her term as VP external, Labonte has learnt to gauge the poten-

tial success and setbacks of projects and wants to foster a sense of communication within the SU to reduce conflict and increase the effectiveness of the organization. It seems Labonte will be able to balance both internal and external goals, as she recognizes the interconnectedness of both aspects in the presidential portfolio.

Because of her involvement with the SU as VP external this year, Labonte understands the inner-workings of the organization, and she knows how to use it to achieve her initiatives. Despite this, her goals are lofty and it will be difficult for her to meet them all in the limiting span of a one-year term. Should she have to prioritize her projects, Labonte said she will focus on clubs and the student experience in order to make students successful in tasks that may not have traditionally been part of the SU mandate.

Labonte's previous positions have groomed her for the position of SU president. She is a good choice for anyone who wants a strong advocate with extensive SU executive experience and an ambitious student-oriented stance.

## Wilma Shim

What kind of leader will you be?

"I think I'll be a very personable leader. People see me as approachable. I feel that in order to represent students very well, I have to be a leader that is very approachable, someone people can speak to easily and I think that I will be able to fill that role."



**Qualifications:**

Academic commissioner 2006/07  
Kinesiology faculty rep 2005/06  
VP kinesiology students society 2004-07  
U of C 101 leader 2005

Approachability is the name of the game for Wilma Shim. By being articulate and simultaneously having well-being of students' at heart, she proves it really isn't how loud one says something but the importance of what they are saying. She is clear and concise with her thoughts, which is a valuable quality for any Students' Union president.

At the heart of Shim's platform, she addresses tuition increases, improving the quality of education and the student experience and open communication to ensure cohesiveness on campus. Through the specific breakdown of her goals she points out the lobbying resources available to the SU through the federal student lobby group CASA and the provincial group CAUS as well as steps to take when unifying clubs and other student groups with the SU. Of particular interest is her pledge to conduct a Palm Pilot survey rating student satisfaction. This could be very successful in reaching a large, reliable survey group that would ignore polls in other formats like e-mail.

Despite her lack of experience in the external

commission, Shim also displays a well-rounded knowledge of the external arena. She is willing to hold Premier Ed Stelmach to his campaign promises surrounding the affordability and accessibility of post-secondary education and use that as leverage in her lobbying. One lofty platform point is Shim's push for a tuition freeze. Since the government just instituted a brand new tuition policy this year, they will be unlikely to change this policy and put energy into a tuition freeze.

Shim is an academic commissioner this year and was the kinesiology faculty representative in 2005/06. She prides herself on the valuable experiences she gained working with administration to achieve joint goals. Her relationship with the Residence Students' Association as a student representative also provides her with a well-rounded view of the student demographic.

Ultimately, Shim has many good intentions and wishes for the 2007/08 term. Supporting her means a vote for articulate, level-headed leadership.

The vice-president external is responsible for all non-academic issues relating to students. Along with the president, the VP external must convey student interests and objectives to university administration, the public, and most importantly, the three levels of government. The VP external also administers Students' Union lobbying and membership in federal and provincial lobby groups CASA and CAUS.

# VP external

The VP external portfolio requires political adroitness, professionalism, a touch of hard-headedness and a hell of a lot of dedication. Teale Phelps Bondaroff has these in spades.

He knows politics and it shows in his very complete knowledge of issues such as tuition and the predicted upcoming provincial election. He's an articulate speaker who knows what to say and when to say it. His dedication can be seen in several facets, but most notably in his willingness to let his New Democratic Party membership lapse in order to pursue the external portfolio free of partisan ties.

Bondaroff's platform is pretty standard VP external fare, with a few surprises. Along with the standard "reduce tuition" and "create more scholarships" sentiments, Bondaroff pledges to work towards eliminating GST from textbooks and lobbying the city to provide affordable housing near campus. Also of note are his ideas to start relationships with various student groups in Quebec and create "Political Action Groups" to attempt to get rez kids and clubs

involved in lobbying efforts. On most other notes, though, his platform is pretty similar to his competitor's. Bondaroff also wants to increase the University of Calgary's presence in lobby groups CAUS and CASA, aiming to achieve a chair position in both, though it's likely a commissioner would hold the CASA chair if he managed to get both.

Bondaroff's position as a social sciences faculty representative gives him experience with university politics. However, his work with the NDP also gives him interesting experience in understanding election politics.

While he lacks elements of experience that an external commissioner would have, such as direct interaction with the administration, this is offset by his participation in numerous extra committees, including student academic appeals. Furthermore, his success in debate demonstrates his ability to not only cooperate, but also take an assertive stance with both administration and politicians who can be challenging to talk with at times.



## Teale Phelps Bondaroff

**What approach will you take with external stakeholders including the government and administration?**

"The SU has had a proud tradition of working with administration in the past. We've gotten our massive amounts of quality money, but at the same time we've gone a little bit complacent and the administration is buying us out. We've got to keep dynamic tension going. We need to work with them, but at the same time we're a student group and we're not in their pocket. I would be co-operative and make compromises of course.

I think I could also take that to the provincial government. You have to have a hard line, but be open to negotiation as well."

### Qualifications:

Social sciences faculty representative 2005-07  
Clubs committee 2005-07  
Federal NDP Calgary West candidate 2006

Mike Selnes is ready to fight the Students' Union's external wars with a unified front. He is dedicated to the idea of working with both the federal and provincial lobby groups, as well as Alberta's other major post-secondary institutions to ensure the changes students are asking for are implemented.

While Selnes' platform focuses heavily on increasing the lobby power of U of C students, it is light on the details of what he would like to see these groups accomplish. With the possibility of elections at both the federal and provincial level next year, Selnes prefers a reactionary stance instead of making concrete plans. Rather than just focusing on lobbying the government to lower tuition costs, Selnes would like to see an increase to the university's base operating budget so more teachers can be hired and more student spaces can be added to decrease classroom sizes. Increasing the number of scholarships and grants, especially for continuing students, and developing a stronger political action week are other strong points in Selnes' platform.

As a current external commissioner, Selnes has the advantage of knowing more about the internal workings of the external commission than his competition. His role as an ambassador for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations—the federal lobby group—over the past year provides him with the lobbying experience that is integral to the position. However, his strong dedication to the federal group and their mandate to see the dedicated education transfer implemented could take away from his focus on provincial lobbying.

Although Selnes lacks strong existing ties when it comes to communicating with administration, he is able to admit this is an area he needs to work on, and he believes he would have plenty of time to build a strong, professional relationship.

Selnes' biggest strength lies in his passionate desire to mobilize students to take action at all levels; however, if elected, he must balance his priorities between administration, the provincial government and the federal government.



## Mike Selnes

**What approach will you take with external stakeholders including the government and administration?**

"Of most importance is the communication we have with these groups. We already have a strong relationship with administration and we need to continue to foster that. We have to take a professional approach and work together on things. On the provincial front we need to work through CAUS and with the other universities. Federally, it's the same thing. I think this year it's more important that we focus our efforts [provincially] but you can never not focus on the federal aspect."

### Qualifications:

External commissioner 2005-07  
Member of campus recycling board  
Standing nominating committee  
Tuition consultation committee

The vice-president events is responsible for the non-academic side of campus life. This means planning and executing both fun and informative events for students. BSD, free concerts in That Empty Space and Cinemania, as well as informative events like Sexual Awareness Week and political speakers fall under this jurisdiction. A successful VP events ensures there's more to do on campus than just go to class.

# VP events

As the only acclaimed candidate for an executive position and the only holdover from this year's executive, it would be easy for Eric Jablonski to rest on his laurels. Luckily for students, he seems unlikely to be plagued by the coasting his predecessor Alex Vyskocil was accused of during his second term.

With a year of experience under his belt, Jablonski has a clear understanding of what works and what doesn't within the events commission, in terms of both budget and time constraints.

He's also very honest about what the commission's main successes are—Bermuda Shorts Day, That Empty Space and Cinemania—and aims to bring the rest of their events up to those high standards. Jablonski aims to "trim the fat" in the events portfolio, reducing the number of events and vowing to deliver several great projects rather than an onslaught of mediocre ones. He mentioned bringing more non-drinking options

to Bermuda Shorts Day with input from the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Prevention Team and showcasing more student talent through initiatives similar to fine arts appreciation week.

Despite the demise of the inter-faculty challenge from U of C 101, Jablonski hopes to create a year-long competition between both on- and off-campus groups—similar to the successful CJSW Slurpee Cup summer street hockey tournament—in an effort to foster a greater sense of community within the university.

Building on a year with several successes and a few minor setbacks, Jablonski brings an air of confidence and continuity to next year's executive. As long as he can avoid the sophomore slump and continue bringing some new ideas to the portfolio, we can forgive him for destroying the *Gauntlet* at Buck Hunter. Acclaimed or not, Jablonski is by far the best man for the job.



## Eric Jablonski

**What do you want to accomplish this year?**

"I think trimming the fat away and working on things that students really love is really important. The whole aspect of consistency is really good. To use That Empty Space as an example; this is the third year running, now the room is packed every single week and finally there's the kind of calibre of an event that we're looking for all our events to get to. A lot of these new ones need another year to get better. I hope to build in a lot of these events so they become those staple events that the VP events doesn't have to do, but will be more inclined to do when I'm gone."

### Qualifications:

VP events 2006/07  
CJSW board rep 2006/07  
Gauntlet vs. SU Buck Hunter tournament champion 2006

# VP academic

The vice-president academic is responsible for the academic policy of the Students' Union. The portfolio includes matters such as academic appeals and the teaching excellence awards. This position must ensure that students receive appropriate assistance and representation from the SU concerning matters of academic importance. They must also effectively use the Students' Academic Assembly.

## Teri Cameron

How will you ensure the quality of the undergraduate experience given the U of C's ambitious expansion plans?

"The quality of the educational experience can't be jeopardized based on goals the university does have. I think the goals the university has are great, moving towards improving our campus and improving our facilities are a good thing. However, academic programs and the things we're doing right now can't be compromised as a result of these expansions."



### Qualifications:

Fine arts faculty rep 2006/07  
Quality money committee 2006/07  
Fine arts appreciation week co-organizer 2006  
Residence CA 2004/05

With a year under her belt as fine arts faculty representative, Teri Cameron has developed a good knowledge of the inner-workings of both the Students' Academic Assembly and the Students' Legislative Council. She combines this knowledge with a platform focused primarily on the student experience to provide a very attractive package to voters.

During her term in office, Cameron managed to deal with the potential demolition of Craigie Hall C and worked to communicate the issues to students in her faculty and ensure that all information was readily available. Given this experience, it's no small wonder that Cameron presses the need for communication, both with the student body and within the commission itself.

Cameron wants to better use the su's list-serv, which could result in even more unwanted e-mails to students. Cameron also mentioned her main focus would be to combine the su's traveling office hours and meet your faculty rep festivities, building upon them to ensure

faculty representatives and commissioners are easily accessible to students.

Cameron also aims to increase student awareness of academic policies, ensuring the average student knows their rights within the system. She wants to collaborate with the president and vp external to lobby and use quality money to reduce class sizes and increase scholarships and bursaries.

Cameron presents many great ideas that will appeal to voters, particularly her focus on a more personalized learning experience and teaching quality. However, her platform seems vague and, at times, lacks a consideration for how she would go about fixing these problem areas. Nevertheless, Cameron's experience within SAA and SLC, notably working as a member of the events commission during fine arts appreciation week, provides her with a solid base to work from. Despite a somewhat vague platform, Cameron is sincere enough in her desire to work for increased quality to make an great vp academic if elected.

## Brittany Sargent

How will you ensure the quality of the undergraduate experience given the U of C's ambitious expansion plans?

"Right now, the biggest hindrance to getting our teachers to be better teachers is access. We have a lot of really good programs that the Teaching and Learning Centre already has. If there's some way to create more access to those programs, then that's going to be an effective way to improve the teaching situation."



### Qualifications:

Academic commissioner 2006/07  
Research development and policy committee 2006/07  
TEA committee 2006/07

As an academic commissioner, Brittany Sargent has crafted a solid platform, highlighting her strong areas. Having served on the research development and policy committee, the teaching excellence awards committee and countless Students' Legislative Council and Students' Academic Assembly meetings, Sargent has a great deal of experience with the ins and outs of committee politics. As such, her platform focuses on teaching quality and undergraduate research opportunities.

Sargent wants to increase awareness of the Teaching and Learning Centre and other professional development programs available to instructors, while continuing improvements to the USRIS and other student feedback methods. In addition, she seems to embrace the university's newfound identity as a research mecca. She spoke of extending existing undergraduate research opportunities to allow more students to access them and creating a more streamlined

online application process. Given, this is nothing new, but an item borrowed from current vp academic Shannon O'Connor. Sargent's year in SAA has made her aware of several holes in university policy that she wants to address. She specifically mentioned the lack of policy regarding lectures running overtime.

The biggest strength of Sargent's platform, and perhaps the most divisive part, is her focus on undergraduate research. Her idea to use the existing Teaching and Learning Centre to improve quality is commendable and she fully understands the ins and outs of undergraduate research. Her focus on filling policy holes may be the most boring part of any candidate's platform, but it's also one of the most important.

Armed with her knowledge of the organization and her willingness to address teaching quality and undergraduate research, Sargent would become a superb vp academic.

# Board of governors

The board of governors represents the corporate side of the university and is a senior governing body with its academic counterpart, the General Faculties Council. Membership is garnered from many university officials and community members, as well as the su president. Among the BOG's duties is the task of setting long-term financial goals for the university and deciding admission requirements. One student-at-large is elected to this governing body.

## Emily Wyatt

Why do you want to be on the board of governors?

"It's the most powerful decision-making body in the university. There's lots of issues there that affect students and it's always great to be able to bring student perspective to light, particularly in the public sense."



### Qualifications:

SU president 2006/07  
RSA president 2005/06

As the current Students' Union president, Emily Wyatt has already spent the past year on the board of governors where she has been able to get acquainted with the other members. Not only does she know how the board works, but she also knows how to communicate student perspectives to the board's important and sometimes intimidating members.

While Wyatt's platform contains the standard and somewhat tired pledge to stand up for students' right to accessible, affordable and quality education by continuing to fight for a rollback in tuition, at least she's realistic. Wyatt's term as president means she knows what can and

cannot happen at the board level. In addition to fighting the on-going tuition battle, Wyatt plans to hold the province accountable to their commitment to fund capital projects such as the urban campus and the Taylor Family Digital Library. Wyatt also pledges to hold the board accountable to their long-term quality money agreement and she will stand up for the rights of those students who may be affected by the demolition of Craigie Hall C.

While her power as student representative on the BOG—a single vote—is limited, Wyatt's platform shows she is dedicated to providing a persistent voice for undergraduate students.

## Jeremy Zhao

Why do you want to be on the board of governors?

"My only goal would be to persuade the board of governors to either stall increases in tuition or cut the amount of increase there would be."



### Qualifications:

Former meat slicer

Jeremy Zhao is a completely unqualified candidate for board of governors representative. Despite claiming he doesn't have a platform, running without any relevant experience is his first-year engineering student's platform.

Zhao admits he's running a social experiment to see how many people will vote for a candidate who doesn't have a campaign or an image. His attempt to gain experience without producing any sort of campaign is a joke.

While Zhao's experience in slicing meat

and making pepperoni cheese platters at Superstore may not be relevant to the BOG position, if enough students are convinced solely by his decision to run, Zhao said he will not neglect his duties. He pledges to fight for lower tuition increases as well as more money for scholarships, though how he will go about it is a mystery, even to him.

If students don't vote for him, which he anticipates, then Zhao can always continue to develop his meat slicing skills at a local deli.

The senate is essentially a bridge between the campus and the community. Primarily a research and advisory board, it examines various issues on and off campus. They meet once every month or two and are also responsible for granting honorary degrees. Two student representatives are elected to the senate every year.

# Senate

Unfortunately, due to legitimate health issues, Deanna Cameron Dubuque was unable to attend our candidate interviews. She was, however, able to give a short telephone interview in which she discussed a plan for an interactive program that would see senators and students shadowing each other throughout their day to better understand the each others' concerns with the educational experi-

ence. Realizing that this may be a lofty project, she added that a coffee-with-a-senator program might be more feasible.

As a two-year veteran of the external commission, Cameron Dubuque has had experience dealing with external stakeholders and members of the community, similar to those she would be encountering in the senate.



## Deanna C. Dubuque

### Qualifications:

Students' Union external commissioner 2005-07  
International Student Centre volunteer  
Community services learning committee research assistant  
CASA national campaign creative manager  
Campus Sustainability Coalition

By far the most directly experienced of the candidates, Brent Kettles is running for his third term in the senate.

Kettles' platform rests on his numerous years of involvement in student politics, which have given him time to ingrain himself into the networks of both the Students' Union and senate. He has been a member of the SU both as a faculty representative and an academic commissioner and is currently involved with several high-level senate committees.

Kettles is realistic about the limited scope

and usefulness of the senate and sees it as an opportunity to share an undergraduate voice with members of the community.

The only criticism that can be levelled at him is his return to the same position for the third year in a row, something both uncommon in the SU and possibly detrimental because it prevents a newer senator's fresh perspective and ideas. However, he seems to have avoided the stagnation that threatens a returning candidate's creativity and his experience affords him a unique access that will make him effective.



## Brent Kettles

### Qualifications:

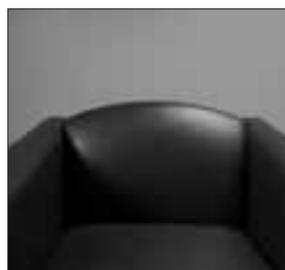
Senate representative 2005-07  
President of U of C Speech & Debate 2005/06  
Senative executive 2006/07  
Senator development committee 2005-07  
Senate honors committee 2005/06

David Pinto Marques has proven to be both useless to and uninterested in anything relevant to the SU or senate by not bothering to formulate a serious campaign or schedule an interview with the *Gauntlet*.

Pinto Marques' platform, consisting of the single nonsensical tagline, "No Change!!! Unless

You Ask For It!![sic]," poorly translated into 26 different languages, earns him points for multiculturalism but little else.

We never really want to call anyone an idiot, but just like proper and comprehensible English, there is always an exception to the rule.



## David P. Marques

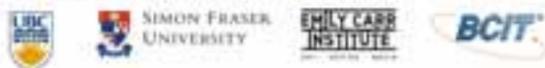
### Qualifications:

None submitted or apparent

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The vice-president operations and finance is responsible for the financial and business side of the SU. This includes overseeing the budget and dealing with anyone who receives an SU levy. Also under this portfolio are operations in MacEwan Student Centre including redevelopment, student health and dental plans and the SU travel expense budget.

## Kyle Olsen

**What should the SU's role be in corporate contracts like the ones with Pepsi, Bell, Benson and Hedges and Molson?**

"Originally the university was pursuing [the Pepsi contract renewal] without the SU and we weren't very happy about that. The commission stood behind Cody [Wagner] and said, we need to tell the university administration that if we're not consulted on this, we're prepared to go another way. I think the deals, philosophically, provide another revenue stream for the SU that let's us keep the student fee low. Instead of having them competing, and us making less money, we chose one to make more money."



### Qualifications:

Op-fi commissioner 2006/07  
Budget committee 2006/07  
Quality money committee 2006/07  
Clubs committee 2006/07

Kyle Olsen has the tool-set to be a fine vice-president operations and finance. Besides being on the budget, clubs, quality money, bylaw reform and policy committees, Olsen did the taxes for his mother's small business and has worked with the financial side of a construction management company. He is also currently an op-fi commissioner.

Of all the platforms in the VP op-fi race, Olsen's contains the most solid and unique initiatives. His environmental goals are the most notable. Though campaigning on environmental issues has become popular lately, actually following through with tangible results is less common. Olsen wants to reduce water use in MacEwan Student Centre by converting washrooms to low-flow toilets and waterless urinals. In addition, he wants to set up a printing station in Bound & Copied that allows for double-sided printing.

A platform pitch that will probably be the most popular with students is the goal of bringing \$7.99 pitchers to the Den on Fridays. Olsen backed up what seems like the drunken dream

of inebriated rez rats with fact by pointing out that cheap pitchers on Fridays would possibly attract academically-minded students who have school Friday mornings and don't want to ruin themselves Thursday nights.

The op-fi portfolio features many complex issues, like the CJSW situation and the loading dock concerns related to the planned Taylor Family Quadrangle. Olsen explained them thoroughly, demonstrating his solid background knowledge. Though his platform doesn't address the CJSW issue, he noted the SU will always offer CJSW support but he feels students would not appreciate the SU going further into debt to finance the radio station's expansion plans.

Olsen has many solid ideas and the skills to implement them. A platform including an idea like cheap pitchers on Fridays may seem like a vote-grabbing technique, but when backed up with logic, background knowledge and decent arguments, it actually makes a lot of sense. Even if the student body elects him based on that one idea alone, they will have lucked into a very solid candidate.

## Michael Prang

**What should the SU's role be in corporate contracts like the ones with Pepsi, Bell, Benson and Hedges and Molson?**

"It's in students' interest to have services that work well and to have money to spend on student projects and student priorities. Yet, at the same time, although you can benefit from corporate sponsorships, it's kind of difficult for an organization to serve two masters. We wouldn't want to be too much in the pocket of corporate sponsorships. In short, I think they can be beneficial in moderation, but too much of them is clearly a bad thing."



### Qualifications:

External commissioner 2004-06  
Clubs committee 2004-06  
Budget committee 2005/06  
Quality money committee 2004/05

It's easy to see why Michael Prang wants to stay in student politics. He's professional and comes off with an air of confidence—desirable qualities for any executive candidate. But Prang was hard to read during our interview, evasive in his answers and, at times, summarized complicated issues using rhetoric rather than explanations.

He addresses several key aspects of the vice-president operations and finance position in his platform, but does so using broad sweeping statements like "the Students' Union should belong to students; they are not customers... but the real owners and directors of the organization," and, "I pledge to make real headway in the construction of the student commons, MacEwan Student Centre expansion and renovation, and CJSW negotiation." These are nice sentiments but Prang needs a plan to achieve them.

Of all his platform goals, the most detailed is Prang's assessment of the SU clubs system. On his website, he posts 25 ways to improve the clubs committee, 24 if you subtract the throw-away 25th, "Vote Prang." All are sound suggestions and make sense, which shouldn't be surprising considering Prang sat on the clubs committee and stepped in as acting chair for a

few months. Unfortunately his other platform points are given only short summaries.

His platform also states that his "25 ways the SU can save money" should be on his website. However, at the time of the *Gauntlet* review process, it wasn't present.

Prang doesn't have the experience of sitting on the op-fi commission, coming in as a previous external commissioner from 2004/05 and 2005/06, but he has sat on the budget committee and he has a strong background knowledge of all the issues that VP op-fi will face. However, unlike previous VPs, and the other candidates, Prang is more focused on the decision making processes within the SU rather than the financial aspects. Prang came up with several intelligent ideas on how to get students more involved with what the SU does, including adding student-at-large representatives on key committees and holding town hall meetings to address plebiscite issues.

Though the title reads VP of operations and finance, the finance side tends to get the larger treatment in campaigns. Prang comes in with an alternative, trying to reform the complicated internal workings of the SU and increasing transparency. Both are noble goals, and if elected, they'd be within Prang's prongs.

## Fraser Stuart

**What should the SU's role be in corporate contracts like the ones with Pepsi, Bell, Benson and Hedges and Molson?**

"I believe we are here to provide a choice for students so an example would be Benson and Hedges with something like tobacco on campus. I think that we provide a service to students that choose to purchase tobacco but by no means should we be pushing it down undergraduates' throats. I think we should be respected in negotiations with large corporations and as a VP op-fi I'm there to stick up for the students' voice and get the best deal for them."



### Qualifications:

Academic commissioner 2006/07  
RSA events commissioner 2005-07

Fraser Stuart has the experience and personal qualities required to make a good VP op-fi. Though his platform is narrow in scope and his somewhat vague pledge to uphold the students' voice doesn't lend itself to concrete plans, Stuart's approachable and easygoing manner makes him possibly the best candidate when it comes to leadership qualities.

His experience as a current academic commissioner and as a Residence Students' Association events commissioner have allowed him to work with budgets and multiple portfolios, skills certainly important in the SU's money master. Further, his sincerity is evident and his willingness to admit he would have a lot to learn is refreshing in any candidate.

Unfortunately, Stuart's stated platform goals aren't as broad in scope or specific in ideas as his competitors'. Of his five major points, four are already underway in SU policy planning and

the fifth, increasing awareness and budget for travel and conference funding, will only affect a minority of students. His remaining goals—moving clubs material online, increasing awareness of what fees are used for, moving the development of student space in MSC forward and securing a CJSW agreement by next fall—are valuable, but hardly groundbreaking. In our interview, he was unable to articulate specific ways to move these goals forward, short of some uncertain plans to catch students in U of C 101.

Stuart's decent background knowledge on a range of topics was impressive, as was his articulation of his stated ideas. Overall, his willingness to learn and obvious experience, ability and confidence would likely allow him to overcome the shortcomings of his lackluster platform and make a solid VP op-fi.

Everybody could use a little extra money. These guys are depending on you to give it to them. Worthwhile? You decide.

# Referenda & plebiscites

## Women's Resource Centre seeks base funding



Emily Senger/the Gauntlet

Chelsea Detheridge and Sarah Leask take some time out for homework in the Women's Resource Centre.

Emily Senger  
News Editor

The Women's Resource Centre has been operating on a budget of almost nothing since its grand opening four months ago, and plans to ask students to help foot the bill for its base operating costs during the Students' Union general election.

In September, the WRC gained a newly renovated space on the third floor of MacEwan Hall through a private donation by special advisor to the president on student life Sheila O'Brien and her husband Kevin Peterson. Now the WRC is asking students to approve a fee of \$1 per full-time student and 50 cents per part-time student each semester in a referendum question.

This would amount to between \$10–12,000 per semester, which would be used to sustain the centre's core programs, according to WRC executive director Stephanie Garrett.

"It won't cover all of our costs, but it will help us offer more programs," said Garrett. "This place is buzzing every single day. It's one of the student services most accessed."

O'Brien funded the centre through last semester's Take Your Place Project, which renovated 40 student spaces around campus in celebration of the University of Calgary's 40th birthday. According to O'Brien, university administration pays for two permanent full-time staff positions and expected the

WRC to sustain itself through grants after the initial donation.

"Our donation is structured in such a way that we gave a large capital amount and a small amount each year for five years to assist them," said O'Brien, noting her donation paid for construction, equipment and furniture as well as \$5,000 per year for the first five years to assist the WRC with fundraising efforts.

According to Garrett, women's centres at other Canadian universities are often funded by a student levy.

"Most campus [women's centres] receive levies and they can be as high as four to five dollars a person," explained Garrett. "There is also the American model where the centre is entirely funded by the university."

Garrett also said some campus women's centres run on an entirely volunteer-based model. She noted that while a volunteer-based model is cheaper, it is also precarious. If volunteer interest wanes the centre can fold.

To date, the WRC has funded many of its programs through grants and community donations. Some of the WRC programs include a women of colour collective, peer support, mentorship programs, a spousal support group, community service learning and a sexual education program. Garrett also recently returned from Kenya where she was in the process of setting up the first U of C exchange program to Africa with the University of Nairobi.

## CJSW needs cash for quality

Katy Anderson  
News Assistant

Students will decide CJSW's future budget next week.

In this year's University of Calgary Students' Union general election a referendum will be included asking students to increase campus radio station CJSW's levy from \$4 to \$5 per semester, per student.

"The levy goes towards the operation of CJSW," said CJSW station manager Chad Saunders. "It covers the salaries, running the office, anything that you'd associate with the excitement of stationary, staples, phone bills and all those sort of things. That's all covered by the students. When we do our funding drive it covers the capital, the equipment and such."

Saunders explained the increase will continue to maintain and expand CJSW over the next few years.

"We only have three salaried staff and we have a fourth position which is on a temporary contract," said Saunders. "That position has become more important over the years. It's our volunteer/office coordinator. We want to make it a better position to come work at

CJSW and make sure that students coming into the station are maximizing their experience here."

"We've expanded so much in the last 10 years. It's quite amazing what we do run with 200-plus volunteers and only four paid staff."

Saunders said even though not all students are involved with or listen to CJSW, the station plays an integral part of the campus community, both as a student association and an outlet for students to gain experience in broadcast journalism.

"Eighty or 90 per cent of our programmers are students, alumni or professors here at the U of C," said Saunders. "I think all in all, the reflection of who's been part of this U of C community both currently and in the past is reflected certainly through our programmers."

Saunders explained that the amount of the levy is not the only factor in the station's budget.

"Enrollment's been down or stagnant for the last couple years," said Saunders. "If the university's true on their word—that they're making more room for 7,000 students—then we won't need increases in the levy, hopefully."

## Plebiscite: students asked how to spend \$1.4 M

Kay She  
Gauntlet News

Following in the Barenaked Ladies' footsteps, the Students' Union will ask undergraduates in the upcoming election how they would improve university education if they had a million dollars, well, \$1.4 million, exactly.

The University of Calgary board of governors gives the SU and the Graduate Students' Association money each year to enhance the quality of the student experience.

The election ballot will include a plebiscite question asking students to choose the initiatives they would like to see quality money spent on. Choices include class size reductions, student common areas expansion, additional Information Commons computers and increased SU undergraduate research funding.

SU president Emily Wyatt said she believes the plebiscite is the best way to reach a broad audience.

"It works two-fold in a sense that it gives students direction as to the priorities that they

see," said Wyatt. "As well, it informs them of what quality money has been doing in the past because a lot of students don't know."

The results of the plebiscite will be non-binding, meaning the SU can still spend the quality money as they see fit.

"As far as adhering to the plebiscite, it's only one of the many ways to communicate and kind of get a basic overview of the top priorities that undergraduate students face," said Wyatt.

Wyatt acknowledges the plebiscite question does not provide the most accurate results.

In the Students' Legislative Council meetings on Tues., Jan. 16 and Tues., Jan. 23 there was a heated debate over the plebiscite question. Many council members argued that the question is an inaccurate and expensive way to gauge student opinion.

However, Wyatt noted the plebiscite results are valuable for other SU decisions and funding allocations.

"The widespread feedback is something really good about the plebiscite," said Wyatt. "I encourage everyone to vote and fill out the plebiscite question."

## campaign trail quips



"It's my right as a student. You shouldn't need any other incentive than that."  
— Edis Tupkovic, first-year international business



"To be paid, hot ladies or free food. A combination of the above would work too."  
— Jeff Lee, first-year kinesiology



"I know one person that is running, so that will make me vote. Also, if the candidates come up and talk to me, that will help."  
— Camille Diaz, third-year business



"Good advertising and if I have time and if it's convenient."  
— Ayan Ehen, fourth-year international relations

# Gauntlet endorsements

Each year we sit down with all candidates in the major races of the Students' Union general election, and most years we sit down with a lot of the candidates again after these endorsements are published. Without fail, some are disappointed, some want to say thanks and some are just plain pissed. Regardless, from our privileged vantage point we are in a position to publicly declare how we'd vote, so we do. **Take it or leave it.**

## Emily Senger, news editor



president: **Wilma Shim**  
Shim is the surprise candidate in this race. The Julies are both very vocal in Students' Union meetings, but Shim's thoughtful, articulate leadership style is refreshing enough to get my vote.

VP external: **Teale Phelps Bondaroff**  
Though both candidates are equally knowledgeable and passionate about student issues, Phelps Bondaroff has more new ideas and will execute them with his signature flair.

VP academic: **Brittany Sargent**  
Both candidates are strong, but Sargent's platform was tangible, where Cameron's remained vague.

VP operations and finance: **Kyle Olsen**  
Olsen has all the right qualities needed for the op-fi portfolio: he's intelligent, articulate and level-headed. His platform is also bursting with innovative and achievable goals.

board of governors: **Jeremy Zhao**  
Wyatt is definitely going to win the BOG spot, but Zhao made me laugh after two days of solid interviewing —for that he gets my vote.

senate: **Brent Kettles and Deanna Cameron Dubuque**  
The third candidate didn't bother to schedule an interview, which makes my voting job easy.

Women's Resource Centre levy: **Yes**  
I fully believe university administration is ridiculous for building the centre without covering base operating costs. That said, the women's centre has accomplished many great things already and I am willing to spend \$1 a semester so they can keep their program running.

CJSW levy: **Yes**  
As a loyal CJSW listener, I don't mind paying a little extra to support my favourite station. Students who tune in to Cj92 or some other such crap may want to vote otherwise.

## Andrew Rininsland, production editor



president: **Julie Labonte**  
This is a difficult race this year. Bogle is well-informed of the issues and has great ideas that would benefit everyone on campus, but Labonte has tonnes of experience and is incredibly passionate about improving the student experience.

VP external: **Teale Phelps Bondaroff**  
Another difficult race. Bondaroff has an incredibly ambitious platform, but I also have faith he has the skills and energy to accomplish it.

VP academic: **Teri Cameron**  
She's qualified and her fine arts background means she can maintain the undergraduate research aspect of the portfolio while making sure students not involved with the sciences won't be left out in the cold.

VP operations and finance: **Kyle Olsen**  
His to-the-point, no-nonsense business demeanour is a breath of fresh air for a position that has been occupied the last few years by politicians more concerned with image than accountability.

board of governors: **Emily Wyatt**  
She knows university politics and already has experience with the BOG due to her involvement with it as SU president this year. Also, if elected, her presence will be a boon to whoever takes her office.

senate: **Brent Kettles and Deanna Cameron Dubuque**  
Kettles is so qualified for the position it isn't even funny and frankly, a potted cactus would be more qualified than David Pinto Marques.

Women's Resource Centre levy: **Yes**  
While I'll probably never step into the place and I really believe the university, not students, should pay for it, the centre should at least be given a chance.

CJSW levy: **Yes**  
CJSW kicks ass. I listen to it almost exclusively while driving, and if \$1 means they will finally be able to move into their new space, so much the better.

## Ryan Pike, E&P editor



president: **Julie Labonte**  
While all three candidates could do a great job, Labonte seems best-suited due to her VP external experience.

VP external: **Teale Phelps Bondaroff**  
His previous political experience gives him a natural advantage in dealing with big-wigs, and his platform had several concrete ideas.

VP academic: **Brittany Sargent**  
Both candidates are extremely qualified, but Sargent's focus on utilizing existing programs and fixing policy holes wins my vote.

VP operations and finance: **Kyle Olsen**  
The only candidate from within the commission has a fantastically intricate and feasible plan for the next year.

board of governors: **Emily Wyatt**  
No contest. Wyatt has the experience and drive to effectively represent students on the board.

senate: **Brent Kettles and Deanna Cameron Dubuque**  
Kettles has represented students well in his past two terms. Dubuque has SU experience and will work well with Kettles.

Women's Resource Centre levy: **Yes**  
While I'd rather not pay more fees, the university really needs a women's centre.

CJSW levy: **Yes**  
CJSW's an essential part of the campus community and as somebody who's donated during funding drives, I have no problem giving an extra loonie a year.

## Amanda Hu, sports assistant



president: **Julie Labonte**  
Labonte has a fiery passion for student politics. She'll stand up for student concerns and push to the end with her initiatives.

VP external: **Teale Phelps Bondaroff**  
Phelps Bondaroff knows the ins and outs of the system and articulates his beliefs like a fiend. His extensive experience in the political arena gives him the edge on external knowledge and savvy.

VP academic: **Teri Cameron**  
She's lived through the controversy of the Craigie Hall C demolition in stride while fine arts rep. Her platform is student-oriented and will make her a good choice for people who want their quality of education addressed.

VP operations and finance: **Kyle Olsen**  
Quiz Olsen on the nitty gritty of the U of C's financial situation and he'll give you hard, cold dollar and cents answers. Pair this knowledge with his formidable accounting experience and he's very qualified.

board of governors: **Jeremy Zhao**  
Wyatt had her 15 minutes of fame with that whole SU president thing this past year. Zhao's position of Gunnery Sergeant on Battlefield 2 overshadows Wyatt's piddly accomplishments in nearly every way. Zhao is going to pwn Wyatt like a n00b.

senate: **Brent Kettles and Deanna Cameron Dubuque**  
This is Kettles' third go, which makes him an obviously qualified candidate. Dubuque has a lot of SU experience, making her a good choice as well.

Women's Resource Centre levy: **Yes**  
The Women's Resource Centre serves a very important purpose in both the university and the community. I'm definitely behind the university being held accountable to their initiatives and this space.

CJSW levy: **Yes**  
I will always fully support my fellow Trimedia groups and think that while an extra dollar isn't much to most students, the total will mean a lot of good change for our friendly campus radio station.

## Chris Beauchamp, editor-in-chief



president: **Julie Labonte**  
In a race lacking weak candidates, Julie Labonte takes my vote for her experience, poise and passion. Wilma Shim and Julie Bogle could both make effective presidents, but Labonte edges them out for her experience as a VP alone.

VP external: **abstain**  
Unfortunately, I was unable to attend one of the interviews for VP external and cannot publicly endorse either of these two strong candidates.

VP academic: **Brittany Sargent**  
Every major race in this election is close, and VP academic is no exception. I'm voting Brittany Sargent over her qualified competitor because her ideas for expanding undergrad research and using the Teaching and Learning Centre to improve quality of instruction are realistic and likely effective.

VP operations and finance: **Kyle Olsen**  
I've got to go with Kyle Olsen in this race. Although he might strike some as, well, dry, he's charmingly awkward and extremely intelligent. Besides, his platform has more solid and unique ideas than both of his competitors' combined.

board of governors: **Emily Wyatt**  
I'm afraid Jeremy Zhao's mediocre rank in Battlefield 2 isn't quite on par with Emily Wyatt's years of SU experience.

senate: **Brent Kettles and Deanna Cameron Dubuque**  
Brent Kettles and Deanna Cameron Dubuque take it, though one wonders when Brent will move on.

Women's Resource Centre levy: **No**  
Though I support what the women's centre does and is capable of, the university should be funding this initiative, and voting no is the only way to tell them so.

CJSW levy: **Yes**  
The station needs the support of students now more than ever in order to overcome their epic battle with the SU and get into their new space. Gotta vote yes.

## Sara Hanson, news assistant



president: **Julie Bogle**  
While Labonte has more external experience, Bogle shows a willingness to learn the ropes when it comes to working with groups such as CAUS. Her strong internal connections, as well as her desire to change the status quo of the SU gives her my vote.

VP external: **Mike Selnes**  
The race for VP external will by far be the closest, as both candidates have the experience and passion required for the position. Selnes' experience within the external commission as well as his plan to unite with Alberta's other institutions gives him an edge.

VP academic: **Kyle Olsen**  
Olsen knows the op-fi commission inside out and has great ideas about how to make the campus more environmentally friendly. His only downfall is a slight lack of leadership personality, oh, and he probably doesn't pull off argyle as well as Stuart does.

board of governors: **Jeremy Zhao**  
Three words: pepperoni cheese platters.

senate: **Brent Kettles and Deanna Cameron Dubuque**  
Kettles has spent the past two years becoming tight with the other senators. He could use another year to see his ambitions through. As Dubuque has some SU experience under her belt, she probably has other strategies to voice student opinion under there as well.

Women's Resource Centre levy: **Yes**  
While the university should be covering the operating costs, the centre at least deserves a chance to show what they can offer to students.

CJSW levy: **Yes**  
Supporting a community that is dedicated to fostering both local and global music is a good enough reason for me to give up my beloved coffee one day each semester.