

If you only run for one Students' Union this year, make it this one



VICTOR VARGAS

"Don't worry if your knowledge of the Students' Union is so low that you don't know the difference between CAC and the DIE Board—no one else outside the Students' Union knows what they are either. Just consider this a learning experience, and start braving the SU's convoluted excuse for a website."

If you're reading this article on Thursday, then you have only two weeks to hand in your executive nomination package and begin your quest for Students' Union power. Do yourself a favour and run: the best part of it is you don't even have to win to reap all the benefits.

First of all, without even winning the election, all your campaign expenses will be paid for. Yes, you too can have cheesy posters with your face plastered on them; you too can make speeches, get interviewed in the Gateway, and have an excuse to bust into unsuspecting lecture halls to declare how bloody awesome you are. Think of the name recognition, the after-parties in RATT, the opportunities for getting laid! And who knows: if you do manage to pull off a win, you can say hello to a host of SU benefits—and some awesome resumé filler.

Granted, this venture will require some forethought before you plunge in. While you don't need cash to run, you will need A) friends/cult followers to staff your tables and B) the GPA-crusher known as "time commitment." Odds are, you can guilt enough people into sitting at your

tables and distributing pamphlets telling of your genius.

But instead of dedicating hours to campaigning, let your student-bred powers of procrastination kick in. All you really need to do during election week is appear at the debate—which classes are cancelled for anyway. Other than that, you can run your whole campaign by making replies via laptop, pamphlets and friends.

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It'll take time, and you will have to go through pages of executive minutes that will make you wonder how people so utterly stupid got into university, let alone elected, but you will quickly gain an understanding of the glorious empire you can inherit.

Even if you're the most corrupt candidate in SU history, your running will likely still help the democratic process. After all, outside of the Presidency and VP Student Life, all the

other races will be lucky to have two candidates. Victory by acclamation is becoming a problem with the executive spots and an even bigger problem with the councillor positions.

For democracy to work, we need there to be a choice between one charismatic moron who's afraid of change, and a sexy idiot who's attempting a paradigm shift into retard land.

And finally, if you genuinely don't want any power, consider running a joke candidate. It would be incredibly awesome for SAGA to run Lord Apathy, or for Journalists for Human Rights to run Jon Stewart—or even for Delta Kappa Epsilon to run Commander Douchebag. It's a really smart decision considering the joke candidates' campaigns are fully paid for by the SU as well, albeit with a smaller budget.

If you ever doubt this method, then just get a can of green paint for good luck, make a speech entitled "My Struggle against Race, Cowardice and Stupidity" and remember that on the island of the blind, the guy with one eye is king—and what could be blinder than the justice of student democracy?

Put the 'I' in I-Week



MEGAN CLEAVELEY

If you've visited campus at all in the past month, you'll know that International Week is currently in full swing. There are posters and advertisements all over campus to tell us as much, but I have to admit that I know little to nothing about it. In all my time here, I've never attended one of the events that make I-Week and know nothing about it beyond the fact that it lasts a week and deals with subjects that are, well, international I guess. And I'm willing to bet that I'm not alone on this one.

With minimal research (and by that I mean reading the brochure), I've found out loads of information about all the different events on campus. There are free events every day in SUB at noon, as well as various talks around campus. And reading about all of this, it actually seems fairly interesting.

Never having attended any previous I-Week events because I figured they were just a bunch of fancy learning that would take up some of my precious spare time, I've been hard-pressed to accept the idea of attending a lecture for fun. But it's more than just lectures: there are over 50 free events in total, and although the week is nearly over, there are still things to see and do today and tomorrow, so take advantage. And if you're worried about the lectures being too much like

school, don't worry—they're hardly your standard university lecture fodder. The topics cover everything from poverty to environmental issues to freedom and rights.

All these issues addressed look interesting on paper, which is a promising start. And there's no better way to learn about these issues than from experts who are passionate about the subject they're discussing—especially when they're willing to do so for free, just for the sake of education. But beyond that, the subjects touched on are important ones that don't get the exposure they need or deserve. Likely we could all stand to learn a little more about the various topics, and that goes double for myself.

It's difficult to find the motivation to sit down and learn about human rights, food security, or education. I've found it's much easier to watch the newest episode of *The OC* and put it off for another day. But this doesn't diminish the importance of any of the issues, and it definitely doesn't make them go away. Not only are they here to stay, but apathy has never helped a cause.

As a result, it's probably worthwhile to learn about the issues chosen for discussion this year. The more informed we are, the better we fight apathy and understand and empathize with others. While it may seem like ignorance is bliss, ignoring an issue doesn't help anyone. So I for one am going to educate myself, become informed and not use my ignorance as a cop out. There's no better place to take the time to learn and grow as a person than university, and we should all take advantage of everything it has to offer.

REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF LAW

As you know, Professor David Percy's first term as Dean of the Faculty of Law will end on June 30, 2007; therefore, a Review Committee has been established in accordance with University regulations. Dean Percy has indicated that he intends to seek a second term in office.

At this point in its deliberations, the Review Committee is interested in your opinions about the state of the Faculty of Law under the leadership of the current Dean. The Committee believes it is critical that all faculty, staff and students in the Faculty of Law and other members of the community have the opportunity to convey their views to the Committee. All input must be signed; however, members of the community may ask the Provost to have their input circulated to the committee without attribution.

Specifically, the Committee is interested in the following:

- 1) Leadership** – ability to provide a vision and direction for the Faculty of Law and achieve the strategic goals of the Faculty;
- 2) Management** – fairness, balance and effectiveness in decision-making affecting the direction of the Faculty of Law; effectiveness at setting priorities and dealing with issues;
- 3) Personnel Management** – issues dealing with the recruitment and retention of staff, as well as the administration of all personnel within the Faculty of Law;
- 4) Contributions** – the contributions of the Dean within the Faculty of Law, the University, the Community (including alumni), and Professional Fields;
- 5) Development** – the success of the Faculty in achieving its goals with resources available and the effectiveness of the Dean in seeking outside funding through fund development and advancement activities;
- 6) Communications** – the effectiveness of both internal and external communications;
- 7) Other matters.**

If you wish to respond to the above issues, please forward your comments/advice no later than February 21, 2007 to my attention at the address below:

Carl G Amrhein
Provost and Vice-President (Academic) & Committee Chair
2-10 University Hall
Edmonton AB T6G 2J9 OR
E-Mail: provost@ualberta.ca

In addition, an open 'Public Forum' with the Dean will be held from 12:00 – 1:00 pm on Tuesday, March 6, 2007 in McLennan Ross Hall (231/237 Law Centre). At the Forum, the Dean will discuss his vision of the Faculty of Law for the next five years.

Your views are important to us and I encourage you to share your thoughts with the committee. Should you prefer to submit your comments to another member of the Committee, please feel free to do so. Please contact any member of the Dean Review Committee or myself for additional information.

Thank you for your assistance.

Carl G Amrhein
Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Chair, Dean Review Committee

DEAN OF LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION:

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