

NEWS BRIEF

NEW VP (RESEARCH) WANTS TO ENGAGE UNDERGRAD STUDENTS

The University of Alberta's new Vice President (Research) is confident that students will only reap the benefits of a research-focused campus.

Dr Lorne Babiuk will be leaving his post as CEO and director of the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) at the University of Saskatchewan to take over VP (Research) duties from the outgoing Dr Gary Kachanoski, a fellow University of Saskatchewan alum.

Babiuk, who takes up the post on 1 July, feels that he's a good fit with the current Administration at the U of A.

"[The U of A has] wonderful leadership in the President and the Provost. A lot of their philosophy was very similar to mine. It was just a great opportunity," he said.

He's also confident that U of A President Indra Samarasekera's request for more outside input into the VP (Research) portfolio is a positive move. This review allowed concerned individual from both within and outside the University community to express their wishes and concerns for the mandate of the VP (Research).

Babiuk is also concerned with better meeting the needs of students at the U of A. It's important, he argues, for students interested in research to be able to be involved in mentorship programs during the summer break. This exposure gives students the ability to determine how interested and invested they are in a research career.

"Not everybody's cut out to be a researcher," Babiuk said. "It's better you find that out earlier in your career rather than spending all the time getting your PhD and saying, 'Oh, I don't think I like this.'"

Regardless of a student's interest in pursuing this kind of career, Babiuk believes that all students will benefit when their professors are engaged in research.

"If [professors are] not in research, [they] will get the information from textbooks or from manuscripts, and often, textbooks are five years out of date by the time they're published. As students, you're getting current information by people that are engaged in research," he said.

Anna Johansen, News Writer

VPOF candidates have bigger plans for SU budget

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
JASKARAN SINGH
News Staff

1 What attracted you to the position of Vice-President (Operations and Finance)?

Eamonn Gamble: To tell you the truth, it was just [current VPOF] Chris Cunningham and the job he's been doing this year. I was on [the] Budget and Finance Committee with him, so I dealt with him all the time. It was kind of cool to see what he had to deal with on a day-to-day basis, and getting that kind of experience would be great towards going out to the real world and making something of myself, if I had an executive position on my resumé.

Jesse Hahn: That one is definitely an easy one to answer: my passion. There were lots of things that attracted me to [the position] and I really weighed them and I pined over the decision whether to run or not for a long time. The personal costs definitely outweigh the benefits so I like to think I'm doing it for the students and for campus. What attracted me to the position? Something about what I wanted to do when I grew up.

2 What is one major initiative you'd like to undertake as VPOF?

Gamble: I think the biggest thing is expanding the profitable businesses so we don't have to rely as heavily on student fees. To do that we're obviously going to have to do some renovations because the setup of SUB as it is right now doesn't really help out the Print Centre or the catering services. So there's definitely going to be some renovations needed.

Hahn: Definitely the reorganization of the Access Fund. I would like to incorporate it as a registered charity just to open up doors for other sources of revenue for it. I think it was a shame—I think it was necessary, but



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI (LEFT) & MATT FRHNER

DON'T JUST FLIP A COIN VPOF candidates want to convince you they deserve to be in charge of the SU's piggy bank.

also a shame—that the ten per cent was directed out of the endowment fund to meet the demand for students.

3 Are there any areas within the SU budget where you believe money is being misspent? Why?

Gamble: First of all, councillor remuneration, which was voted in a year-and-a-half ago or so, which I believe is ridiculous. It is budgeted for \$30 000 when if we wanted to raise SU fees by a couple of per cent, that's \$30 000 right there. Well, why don't we just stop paying ourselves when we're doing a volunteer position anyway? Other than that, I believe funding the Powerplant as it stands right now is a gross misuse of money. I believe that wasting \$1000 a day of students' money is a huge mistake, seeing as how the businesses are supposed to support student services rather than be the services themselves.

Hahn: Absolutely, utility costs. The University spent \$42 million on utility costs last year. They stated that it was the biggest detriment to their deficit. And with my environmental and economics background, with our

non-governmental organization background, that's what we advocate for is basically ways we can do things better, more efficiently, cheaper.

4 What are your plans to deal with the financial losses of the Powerplant?

Gamble: My plan would be to convert it into more study and relaxation space. Instead of having a coffee shop that we market ourselves, why not bring in a franchise coffee shop that's going to advertise for themselves and pay us rent at the same time? Something like a Second Cup or a Starbucks.

Hahn: Well, I have plans. I have lots of plans for the Powerplant. Such as, right now I've got to wait. I'd gotta wait to see what [Students'] Council has to say about the Powerplant. I mean, bottom line: Council decides. If Council decides to let the Powerplant go on for another year, then I have plans for it there. If Council decides to put a bullet between its ears and shut the Powerplant's doors or stop serving alcohol, then I think it would make great common space. That being said, I've mulled [it] over and it's in the

hands of the people right now. But once a decision is made, I'm going to go either way.

I got a really good strategy for the Powerplant. [But] I'm not going to be as naïve as to tell you that I can solve all the Powerplant's problems by myself. If it's going to be run like a bar then we need to hire somebody who has experience turning these things around and we really need to address the issues seriously. If it's going into common space, well we're just going to do what works best, consult with the VP (Student Life) and the VP (Academic) and see what's really going to benefit students the most.

5 In five minutes or less, write a haiku that tells the student population why you should be elected.

Gamble:
Eamon is the best
Finance is my nature strength
Vote for me, or else

Hahn:
Tuition is suck
What can we do better?
Vote for Jesse Hahn

ASK QUESTIONS
GET ANSWERS
GET INFORMED » ATTEND A FORUM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27 | 5:00PM

LISTER HALL CAFETERIA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 | 12:30PM

CAMPUS ST. JEAN

THURSDAY, MARCH 1 | 12:30PM

SUB STAGE DEBATE #1

FRIDAY, MARCH 2 | 2:00PM

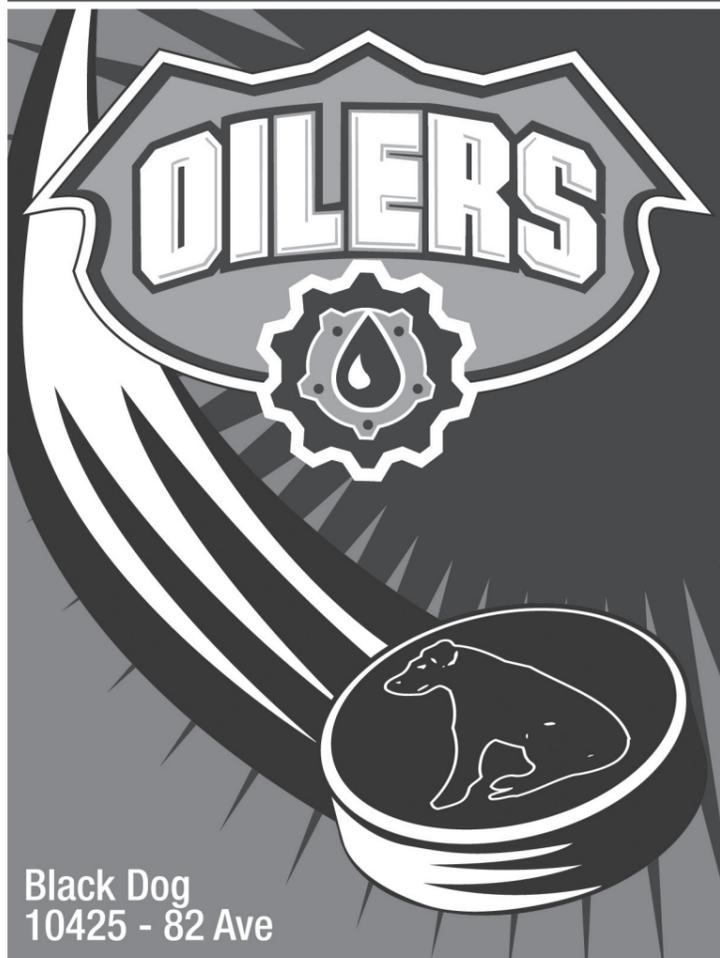
SUB STAGE DEBATE #2

MONDAY, MARCH 5 | 12:00PM

MYER HOROWITZ FORUM • CLASSES CANCELLED 12–1PM

ADVANCE POLL
MARCH 5TH, 302K SUB

SHOWING ALL OILERS PPV GAMES



Black Dog
10425 - 82 Ave

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STUDENTS' UNION ELECTION 2007
MARCH 7TH & 8TH LEARN ABOUT THE CANDIDATES AT »

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