

# THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII number 33 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ thursday, 7 february, 2008

## Proposed Lister Hall changes curbed by protest



NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

Lister Hall Students' Association President Kyle Marshall sprang into action when he received a memo Monday outlining proposed changes to restructure the way his residence conducts staff selection. The proposal, which would have taken votes for Floor Coordinators (FCs) and Tower Vice-Presidents away from Lister residents, came days before the hiring process was slated to begin.

48 hours later, the University of Alberta's Residence Services backpedalled away from changing hiring procedures for the 2008/09 academic year after a mass protest among Lister residents raised concerns regarding the lack of consultation prior to the sending of the memo.

"In the centenary year, it's a bit of an affront to the students [when] we are being brought with a decision without consultation," Marshall said.

Under the University's proposal, FCs would no longer be elected but appointed—something that Listerites argued would remove their residence's student-governance model.

PLEASE SEE **LISTER** ♦ PAGE 4

ALSO READ **GAUMONT** ON PAGE 7

**RESIDENT REBUTTAL** Hundreds of Listerites showed up in Lister's main cafeteria to show their objection to the University's proposed changes to FC and VP hiring.

## Samuel censured by Exec, Council over unauthorized document

RYAN HEISE  
Deputy News Editor

The Students' Union Executive Committee, along with Students' Council, have issued censures against Vice-President (Academic) Bobby Samuel following the creation and distribution of an unauthorized pamphlet outlining the successes, shortcomings, and future goals of the SU VP.

The first censure was handed down by the Executive Committee (made up of the President and VPs) at their 29 January meeting, while the second came from Students' Council on Tuesday evening. A censure, while lacking any real punishment, is formal way for the Executive and Council to distance themselves from Samuel's actions.

The pamphlet became a point of contention between Samuel and the rest of the Executive due to the use of the SU marketing department to create it, the use of the SU logo, and the fact that Samuel hadn't informed anyone that he was creating the materials.

When brought to the attention of the Executive, there were immediately doubts of its intended purpose, explained SU President Michael Janz.

"Vice-President Samuel said he created this document as a VP awareness document, but through the

questioning, it became explicitly clear that this wasn't the case," Janz said. "We believe that the document was created with SU resources, and the use of personal rhetoric could lead a student to believe that the SU was supporting him as a candidate and allowing the time and dollars of the organization to be put behind candidates, which is explicitly not the case."

"We felt it was very unethical and lacked character, and the resounding emotion that I felt was just disappointment."

Janz further explained that there were factual inaccuracies in the pamphlet, such as statements regarding Samuel organizing a national roundtable on textbook prices.

During the Executive meeting, Samuel was emphatic that the document wasn't meant as pre-campaigning for the upcoming SU elections, but later changed his stance, stating that the purpose of the document was two-fold.

"I wanted to conduct academic outreach with undergraduates, and I also wanted to do what I guess would be considered pre-campaigning," Samuel explained.

Samuel added that even if he was pre-campaigning, he did not violate any rules.

"The censure is made to really be about the violation of the rules. Was

there any specific rule I violated? Not really," Samuel said.

"I think what the censure came down to, however, was a difference of perspective. I guess from their perspective, they saw me as abusing my position. From my position, I saw it as actually going out and trying to talk to undergraduates to see what their issues are and to see what they are interested in with the Students' Union and to have a Students' Union that actually serves students' needs."

Samuel also said that he had only distributed about 15 of the 300 pamphlets he had printed.

At Tuesday evening's meeting of Students' Council, Samuel was again hammered with questions regarding the document, with specific attention to the use of the SU marketing department to give himself a potential edge over other candidates, as well as the ethics surrounding such a move. After questioning, many councillors still felt that Samuel showed a lack of remorse for his actions.

"I'm just angry about the whole situation and just wish that he would take responsibility and he would fess up to making a mistake," Nursing councillor Natalie Cloutier explained. "As of right now, he's completely not, and it really bothers me that he has no conscience on the issue."



MIKE OTTO

**COUNCIL QUAGMIRE** Bobby Samuel was censured by Council Tuesday night.

Cloutier, also a member of Ceres women's fraternity, explained that Samuel had also sent out emails or otherwise contacted every student group on campus to attempt to arrange meetings to discuss the academic portfolio. This also became a matter of contention when some councillors claimed Samuel was abusing his power to arrange these meetings for

personal gain.

Ultimately, Council voted 35 in favour and three against, with three abstentions, to censure Samuel. An amendment was made on the motion to also issue a cease-and-desist letter regarding the continued distribution of the pamphlets.

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## THE Student Body PART 3

### The final (calorie) countdown

If the old adage "you are what you eat" is true, you might want to put down that sumo-sized beef yakisoba and check out part 3 of our feature on student health

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