



*Student Governance at the U of A
RIDRU Conference
Dec 9, 2016*



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
STUDENTS' UNION

What is the Students' Union?



- Representative body for all students at the U of A
- Technically, an \$11.4 million not-for-profit
- 5 elected executives overseen by 32 members (distributed by Faculty size) of Students' Council

What is the Students' Union?



- Offers services and businesses to students
- Organize events and programs
- Provide space for students
- Advocate for student interests

Students' Union Operated Businesses

THE DAILY GRIND

DEWEY'S

L'EXPRESS
& CATERING



ROOM AT
THE TOP

University of Alberta Students' Union

SUBmart

SUBprint



Students' Union Operated Services



WEEK OF WELCOME



safewalk



STUDENT
GROUP
SERVICES



SUSTAIN • SU
THE STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY SERVICE



PEER SUPPORT
CENTRE

Students' Union are NOT Supposed to Work

- Three levels of Students' Union
- Inverted corporate governance structure
- One year terms
- Being given the boot (“Transition”)

Advocacy and Representation



- Balancing efficiency with accurate democracy
- Diverse student body
- Maintaining presence and relevancy

Presence and Relevancy

- Bigger campuses struggle with member relevancy
- Governance is a complex language

How do we Respond to it all?



- Annual elections reflect student body
- One hand on the wheel; one hand on the other hand
- Transition with institutional memory

Questions?

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