



The University Students' Council

Change is not something new to the USC. It is inherent in our purpose. Whether it be the yearly turnover of the Board of Directors, the annual addition of a first-year class or the transition of new staff, the USC has proven itself as an effective change manager.

The article written last week in the Gazette has distorted the current direction of our organization by relying on assumption and speculation rather than fact. Contrary to the opinions expressed by the Gazette, I can assure you that your organization stands on solid ground.

The success the USC has achieved in the last 40 years can be greatly attributed to the leadership of our previous General Managers - Jim Walden, Mark Sellars, and Karen Jackson. The USC would like to take this opportunity to publicly commend Karen for her 9 years of service to the students at the University of Western Ontario and wish her all the best in the future.

Working collaboratively with our Senior Management and staff, the USC has engaged in extensive consultations developing a plan to move forward that is in the best interests of students.

In the interim, we have appointed Kendell Wilde as acting General Manager. Kendell has served the USC as the Legal Affairs Officer and member of the Board of Directors in 2003 and as a corporate director and General Counsel since 2005.

Students can rest in the knowledge that the institutional memory and fiscal responsibility of the organization have not and will not be compromised. We take pride in our 57 full-time staff, many of whom have served the USC for upwards of 20 years.

The Senior Management team and Board of Directors have sought the counsel of an executive search firm for a multiplicity of reasons. The qualities we are seeking in our new General Manager are strengths that were possessed by our previous leaders and our consultation process hopes to build on that success. An executive search process is not an abnormal step to be taken on by an organization of our size. In fact, this process has been used in the past and is seen as a best practice among our colleagues at other students' unions.

We invite students to support us in moving forward by communicating with their faculty, residence, and affiliate college Council representatives as well as your Vice-Presidents, your Communications Officer, and myself.

Your consultations with us will enable us to acknowledge the contributions of our previous leadership and build on our capacity to enhance the quality of life and educational experience of all undergraduates at the University of Western Ontario.

Tom Stevenson
President
University Students' Council