Mathewson pushed to resign

Document obtained by The Gateway indicates that 2009-10 SU president was given an ultimatum by executive committee to leave or face council resignation. The Gateway's 16-page DisOrientation supplement will tell you all you need to know about going out on the town as the weekend approaches.

Former Students' Union President Cory Mathewson resigned from his position on January 11, 2010 after the executive committee gave him an ultimatum either to resign or they would recommend to Students' Council that he be removed.

According to a document obtained by The Gateway:

"On 21 December 2009, the Vice Presidents of the Students' Union provided a draft letter that systemati-
cally cataloged the expectations and purported failures of the President of the Students' Union since the inception date of the Executive on 1 May 2008."

"The Executive met on 29 July, 25 November and on 18 December, and at the final meeting, the Vice Presidents provided an ultimatum to the President of the Students' Union that the President resigns or the Vice Presidents would pass a motion in Executive Committee recommending to Council that the President be removed as an officer of the Students' Union."

On January 11, Mathewson's resignation was effective. In the letter, Mathewson expressed regret and said that he was resigning for "personal reasons."

The executive elected for the resignation of President Mathewson, VP (Finance) Nick DeBoer, and Vice President (Academic) Leah Trushold.

"Nothing to say. Former President Mathewson wasn't elaborating on the "personal reasons" for resigning that he outlined in his January 11 resignation letter."

NOTHING TO SAY Former President Mathewson wasn’t elaborating on the “personal reasons” for resigning that he outlined in his January 11 resignation letter.

Number of provincial loan applications on the rise

The university will see an increase in students applying for financial aid this year, a result of high unemployment and increases in student fees.

According to the Alberta Ministry for Advanced Education and Technology, 24 per cent more students received provincial student loans in 2009-10 compared to the previous year, and preliminary estimates predict that rates will increase again for the 2010-11 year by 15-18 per cent. Rachel Rossini, spokesperson for Advanced Education and Technology, said that increases in student accessing financial aid is actually a positive thing, especially during a period of economic downturn. "These increases could mean that students are more familiar with the program or it could be correlated with more people returning to post-secondary schools in an economic downturn. There are a number of factors, but we are seeing more and more students, or adults, who come to university or college after losing their jobs during the current economic downturn."

However, U of A Students' Union Vice President (Finance) Adam Murphy, who is also chair of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASAA), feels differently about the statistics. He said that increases in students seeking loans are the direct result of increases in student fees, including the $395 Common Student Space, Sustainability, and Security (CoSS) fee added to student tuition this year.

"For students at universities across Alberta, we are not seeing increases to enrollment. Increases in loans are due to an increase in financial need."