

TWUSA Semi-Annual Report

2011-2012



Table of Contents

Message from the Vice President of Finance	2
Financial Summary.....	3
Message from the Executive Vice President.....	4
Faculty Department	5
Class Department.....	6
Events Department	7
Department of Internal Relations.....	7

Message from the Vice President of Finance

Students,

Christmas is long gone, classes have started again, and the countdown for the summer has begun. But before we get too far into the semester, we wanted to give the student body an update as to where we currently are.

In respect to finances, TWUSA is healthy and rolling right along. We started the year with new realities and had to make some tough decisions in regards to what we wanted to do and what we could not do. However, this year's council has done a great job of showing prudence and resourcefulness when running events and overseeing the spending of student fees.

The Cube used bookstore, despite numerous technical problems, has continued to be successful. During the fall semester, we solid over \$8,000 worth of used books and are looking to surpass that number during spring semester. Please continue to have patience with us as we try to make the Cube experience easier and simpler for students.

In the table in the next section, you will see that we are roughly \$41,000 on the positive side of things. This is a positive sign for us as we enter the second half of the year but we still have some of our larger expenditures coming up including the publishing of the Pillar yearbook, the Grad Banquet for our senior students, and our signature events (Can-Am and Hootenanny).

It is our passion to serve students and we are looking forward to the spring semester. As always, if you have any concerns or questions or ideas, please drop by the TWUSA office. See you around!

Jeremy Cockrill, Vice President of Finance

Financial Summary

	YTD Actual (2011-12)
Revenues	
ADMINISTRATION	-116,474.97
MARS HILL	-3,527.53
PROPOSAL COMMITTEE	0
Total Revenues	-120,002.50
Expenditures	
ADMINISTRATION	40,539.19
CUBE	55
FACULTY	1,520.26
COMMUNICATIONS	1,175.25
EVENTS	4,120.87
PROPOSAL COMMITTEE	1,279.79
FRESHMAN CLASS	1,055.17
MARS HILL	24,944.84
PILLAR	3,711.35
Subtotal Other Expenditures	78,401.72
Total Expenditures	78,401.72
Less: Departmental Capital Budgets	
Total Expenditures	78,346.72
Operational Cash Flow (Surplus) Deficit	-41,600.78

***Current as of January 13, 2012

PLEASE NOTE:

1. Some transactions have yet to be processed and other transactions from 2010-2011 were not processed until this year.
2. Spring semester student fees have yet to be deposited into TWUSA accounts

Message from the Executive Vice President

As we moved into the academic year of 2011-12, the council branch of the Trinity Western University Student Association found itself in a fairly difficult position. A precarious financial situation was exacerbated by a serious backlog in legislative initiatives. After identifying numerous legislative and political issues as early as Autumn 2010, several elected members of this council pledged, as part of their platform, to undertake a serious examination of TWUSA's governing documents, and to implement reforms where necessary.

This semester, we are pleased to announce that we have brought forward some very important changes, consolidating departments and streamlining TWUSA's performance in order to ensure an optimally run student council in the future. The following are the most important changes that have been introduced.

1. Affiliated Entities

After prolonged attempts to deal with the issue of club operations under the banner of TWUSA, our council has built upon the work of two preceding councils to reform the structure. The relatively narrow club classifications which existed prior to this year have been replaced more broadly by "Affiliated Entities", allowing for a diverse array of TWUSA clubs to exist free of needless categorization. This allows for a more fluid relationship between clubs and the council, based more broadly on the principles of our community, and the relationships that we form as students of TWU.

2. Reorganization of Departments

Perhaps the most important initiative of this year has been the broad adjustment of TWUSA departments, which have been altered to reflect the budgetary realities of the present and immediate future. The greatest of these changes have come in the Class Representatives Department, which has historically been managed by the Vice President of Student Relations. After a review of student priorities, coupled with abysmal voter turnout for certain elected positions, the class representative positions have been significantly adjusted. Instead of four representatives, two hired assistants, representing the Freshman and Senior classes, will in 2012 begin to operate within the Events Department, as general assistants with additional specific functions.

Other minor changes have also been introduced in conjunction with this policy overhaul. The Class Representatives Department has been replaced by the Department of Student Relations and Publicity, in order to streamline communication between council and the students whom it represents. This department consists of the Vice President of Student Relations and the Associate Director of Communications. In addition, the role of the Ombudsman has been transferred to the jurisdiction of the Vice President of Student Relations.

Finally, the Department of Internal Relations has undergone some important adjustments. To be more specific, there is no longer a Department of Internal Relations. In addition to the reassignment of the Associate Director of Communications, the positions of the Administrative Assistant and the Executive Director of Internal Relations have been consolidated into a single position under the latter title. With the aforementioned removal of the Ombudsman's duties, this position will henceforth operate almost exclusively in a secretarial/administrative capacity, and as a *de facto* assistant to the TWUSA President and/or Vice President.

With full staff in all departments, this new structure will save approximately \$8,600 per year.

3. Administrative Updates

Finally, we have ensured that the governing documents are nominally updated, in order to ensure clarity for all TWUSA members (council or no) for both the present and the future. Such changes include the elimination of the \$1 club membership fee, and the renaming of Academic positions in order to better reflect the faculties that they represent. Related updates to the TWUSA Policy Manual will be undertaken in the coming semester, in order to leave orderly and comprehensive documents for the benefit of TWU students.

It is important to know that these changes have been introduced in order that TWUSA might better serve students. Please feel free to observe the technical changes by comparing the new and old sets of Bylaws, available at www.twusa.ca. For any further information, please email twusavp@twu.ca.

Ted Lewis, Executive Vice President

Faculty Department

This past semester, faculty representatives have hosted a number of events tailored to their departments. Faculty Representatives have been busy hosting various speaker events and social events. For instance, the SAMC department welcomed Commander Tim Kerr of the Canadian Forces to speak on “Ethics, the Military, and Communications,” an eager NATS department hosted Dr. Linda Matsuuchi, Associate Director of Life Sciences at UBC, to speak on B lymphocytes, and the HKIN department hosted a hockey party. Back in the office, faculty representatives have been participating on various in-house and campus-wide committees such as the food services committee, the undergraduate academic council, the library committee, and the document review and policy committee. In the boardroom, numerous clubs were re-ratified. There are more than fifteen active clubs on campus, which include the TWU Men’s Glee club, ISJC, the Math and Science Club, the Biology club and the Foreign Affairs Society.

Brooke Goossen, Vice President of Academic Relations

Class Department

During the fall semester, the Class Representatives threw events for their given constituencies. The freshmen mingled at a meet and greet with victuals from Tim Horton’s, sophomores danced the night away at the Christmas Dance, the junior rep in conjunction with Student Life, put on a rockin’ Party in the Penthouse and the seniors grabbed a bite to eat at the late night breakfast put on by the senior rep.

There were three Open Mic Nights (OMN) held this past semester. Talented students have appeared at each event, including poets, musicians, and dancers. Sodexo provided amazing meatball sub deals at the Fall OMN, and Christmas cheer was in the air at the Spirit of Christmas Remix event. If you missed out on the OMN’s from the fall semester, don’t worry! There are three more of these events planned for the spring semester.

TWUSA ran Operation Christmas Child during the month of November. Collectively, students completed 105 shoeboxes. These shoeboxes were then delivered to a collection centre, and then delivered to various locations all around the world.

Finally, our Freshmen Representative, Jordan Schroeder, is taking a semester off. Jordan was an energetic and passionate council member and we are sad to see him go. His position is currently under review by the Representative Assembly.

Mary Esplen, Vice President of Student Relations

Events Department

Last semester the events department of TWUSA proudly hosted 5 successful events. The semester started strong with a delightful barbeque and book sale, in which many students came out to reconnect and welcome in the beginning of great year. The first Saturday of the semester was the Banana Challenge, where dorms went head to head in different challenges. It was a fun filled morning for all who came out! That evening, the talent seen at Dorm Skits blew the judges away. Many dorms came up with creative acts and presented them to the student body. For the first time in years, TWUSA hosted Can-Am soccer where Canadians and Americans went to battle on the soccer field. The year came to a fantastic close as we celebrated Christmas with local artists and musicians as we held an open mic and craft fair event.

We are also very excited about our upcoming events. On February 17th we are hosting the *Hootenanny*; we look forward to showcasing TWU's talent incorporated into a night of laughter and fun! The last big event this council puts on is the legendary Can-Am Game. On March 29th, Canadian girls will face American guys in an ultimate game of hockey. Make sure to come out and enjoy these events!

Kelly Lamb, Director of Events

Department of Internal Relations

This year, the TWUSA office saw its fair share of changes. First and foremost, we are now serving free Tim Horton's coffee and hot chocolate! Students are welcome to pick up a cuppa joe as well as a free Globe and Mail at the office during its regular hours; I would also highly recommend reading John Ibbitson's column found therein. It is also pertinent to take this moment to remind all students that we have free copying and printing available. The first ten pages cost nothing, and everything after that is five cents a page. Also, please feel free to rent TWUSA equipment or book the office for dorm, club, or sporting events. Our job is to serve you guys with everything from BBQ and projector rentals to just watching the Canucks with your friends over pizza.

Switching gears, I believe it is important for students to remember that the Ombudsman service is a legitimate way to pursue resolutions for detrimental academic and campus life situations. If you, the reader, or someone you know, is in need of advice regarding the various avenues available to appeal issues of academic dishonesty or community covenant infractions, please do not hesitate to contact the Ombudsman at twusainternalrelations@twu.ca. On a purely student-to-

student level, I believe it is important for students to know their rights and responsibilities in order to make the best decisions they can regarding their career here at Trinity.

As a last note, all of council has had to find ways to serve you better while reducing costs. One of the ways that the Director of Internal Relations has done that this year is by joining the Executive Vice-President in archiving important TWUSA materials. Every year, all of council changes as elections occur in the Spring. This high turnover rate can create inefficiencies-good ideas can be lost or forgotten, or misinformed policy re-enacted without due consultation to past initiatives. In order to overcome this, it has become paramount that key files be preserved by TWUSA before the transition in April from one council to another. The EDIR, with no new cost to students, will now be assisting the Executive Vice-President in this endeavour to help make council better and brighter with each passing year.

Thank you for your attention. I wish you the best of luck in your new classes and God's blessings throughout the year.

Nathan Giede, Director of Internal Relations