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| TO: | CHAIR AND MEMBERS CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2013 |
| FROM: | ART ZUIDEMA CITY MANAGER |
| SUBJECT: | ENGAGING POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT |

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| RECOMMENDATION |
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That, on the recommendation of the City Manager, this report with respect to engaging post-secondary students in local government **BE RECEIVED** for information.

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| PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER |
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- Item #9 – Corporate Service Committee – May 28, 2013

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| BACKGROUND |
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On May 28th, 2013, the Western University Students' Council (USC) and Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) made a joint presentation to the Corporate Services Committee with recommendations on how to better engage post-secondary students in municipal government:

- Appoint one post-secondary representative annually as a non-voting member on each of the citizen advisory committees. It has been recommended that four student representatives from both institutions will be selected by USC and FSU to fill eight one-year non-voting seats in the advisory committees.
- Expand internship and co-op opportunities for student at City Hall.
- Engage the USC and FSU in developing economic strategy of the City.
- Hold a Council meeting at Fanshawe or Western annually; allow USC and FSU to host a council meeting at City Hall.
- Include student representatives in foreign delegations reception and relevant trade missions.

Municipal Council, at its meeting held on June 11, 2013, resolved:

“That the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to utilize the services of students to assist with implementing the various recommendations pertaining to the increased engagement of post-secondary students in local government by September 2013, as detailed in the communication appended as Item #9 of the Corporate Services Committee’s May 28, 2013 Agenda, from A. Fearnall, President University Students’ Council, Western University; it being noted that A. Fearnall and A. Gourlay, President, Fanshawe Student Union, gave a verbal overview with respect to this matter.”

Over the past three months, the Civic Administration reviewed the USC and FSU’s recommendations and identified other opportunities to connect students with local government.

Based on the consultation with representatives with USC and FSU, a number of opportunities are current being pursued:

- The Civic Administration is recommending an amendment to the Terms of Reference of the requested Advisory Committee to expand the non-voting members to include representatives from Western University and Fanshawe College; noting that a separate report from the City Clerk on this agenda pursues this amendment. This recommendation is addressed in a separate report from the City Clerk.
- The Civic Administration provided information regarding municipal government for USC's new student guide for first year undergraduates. This new guide was developed under partnership of USC and Downtown London with special focus on knowledge of London.
- The Civic Administration has and will continue to reach out to the USC and FSU where there are appropriate opportunities for student involvement when City hosts visiting delegations.
- The Civic Administration will continue to connect with the USC and FSU in terms of student interests, and to provide opportunities for engaging students in the City's public consultations, particularly on issues that impact students.
- The Civic Administration has offered to partner with the USC and FSU in designing on-campus and off-campus activities that connect students with local government in a fun and meaningful way, and engage them in the broader London community.

The Civic Administration will continue to explore the other recommendations, and continue the dialogue with the FSU and USC. The City, the USC and the FSU have a shared goal of ensuring a positive and enriching student experience in London, and in providing opportunities for students to experience all that the London community has to offer.

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| CONCLUSION |
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There are many positive signs of the strengthening relationship between the City and its post-secondary students and institutions: the USC and FSU reached out to the City proactively as a result of their shared commitment to engaging students in the London community; the administrative leadership from the City, Western and Fanshawe recently did a shared presentation on building “Canada’s Education City”; Western University’s new strategic plan states its commitment to “making London a world-class city”; and, Fanshawe College’s new downtown campus offers significant benefits for the London community. Administration will continue to explore opportunities to strengthen these important relationships.

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| PREPARED BY: | PREPARED BY: |
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| JULIE HE INTERN, CITY MANAGER’S OFFICE | KATE GRAHAM MANAGER, CORPORATE INITIATIVES |

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| RECOMMENDED BY: |
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| ART ZUIDEMA CITY MANAGER |