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TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS TOWN & GOWN COMMITTEE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2015
FROM:	KATE GRAHAM DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC INNOVATION
SUBJECT:	PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION & COMMITMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LONDON AND WESTERN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' COUNCIL

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the City Manager, the Mayor and City Manager **BE AUTHORIZED** to sign the attached Principles of Collaboration and Commitment from the University Students' Council (USC) of the University of Western Ontario, noting that this reflects a commitment between the City and the USC to working together on items of shared interest.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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- None.

BACKGROUND

Post-secondary students represent a significant portion of London's population, and an important part of the London community. The City of London works closely with local student unions on projects and programs which impact students and the broader community. The University Students' Council at Western University represents the largest student community in London, and has collaborated with the City on many initiatives over the past year, including:

- YourLondonCalling.ca, a website built by students to showcase the 'London experience' for post-secondary students living in London;
- The 2014 municipal election, including awareness campaigns, providing proof of address letters to all students living in residence, and providing space on campus for voting; and
- Active participation in the Town and Gown Committee, and fostering close partnerships with multiple City of London services, the London Police Service, and others.

The USC is interested in continuing to build collaborative relations with the City of London, and has drafted Principles of Collaboration and Commitment to promote continued positive relations in the future. The document envisions ongoing communications, regular meetings, and student consultations, which already takes place, representing a commitment to continue these efforts.

RECOMMENDED BY:
KATE GRAHAM DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC INNOVATION

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Principles of Collaboration and Commitment

BETWEEN

The Corporation of the City of London, Ontario

AND

The University Students' Council of the University of Western Ontario

These Principles of Collaboration and Commitment are hereby articulated between The Corporation of the City of London, Ontario, hereinafter referred to as the City, and University Students' Council of The University of Western Ontario, hereinafter referred to as the USC.

A. PURPOSE:

The purpose of articulating these Principles of Collaboration and Commitment is to set out a framework of cooperation between the City and the USC to develop mutually beneficial programs, projects and other engagement mechanisms in support of creating a better city for all of London's residents.

B. PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE RELATIONSHIP:

- 1. The City and the USC acknowledge, respect, and value the distinct yet complementary roles each plays within the City of London.
- 2. The City and the USC are at their best when both parties commit to inspiring, challenging and collaborating as colleagues, and governing relations informed by a mutually beneficial partnership.
- 3. The City and the USC believe that successful collaborative partnerships require time, commitment, compromise, and mutual respect.

C. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFITS AND INTERESTS:

City Benefits

- An 'on the ground' understanding of the Western student experience, and opportunities through partnership to continuously support and improve this experience.
- Strengthened student understanding and respect for specific challenges to undergraduate students in London
- Opportunity to increase strength of government relations efforts when the City and the USC approach other stakeholders with a united voice.
- Collaboration and feedback on programs from the city that affect students, including but not limited to The London Plan, Rapid Transit, Project LEARN and the Town and Gown Committee.
- Opportunity to leverage the USC's connections in the student community to deliver and/or support relevant City initiatives, including but not limited to municipal elections.

USC Benefits

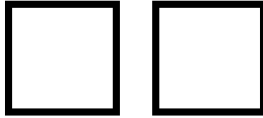
- Access to resources and information to better inform the organization's work.
- Opportunity to strengthen municipal relations efforts through positive relationships.
- 'On the ground' understanding for the challenges and pressures facing the city.
- A more nuanced understanding of pragmatic improvements for both students and the city as a whole.

Mutual Benefits

- A consistently professional, positive, and productive relationship.
- Stronger empathy and understanding of the challenges and limitations of each party, and a commitment to assisting to address them.
- Broader recognition of the strengths of each partner, and a willingness to capitalize on those strengths to face common challenges, and pursue common opportunities.

D. STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

The City shall:



1. Commit to two high level meetings (relevant political and administrative leaders) with USC (relevant PVP and Senior Management) biannually to review the state of the City-USC relationship, assess progress of ongoing projects, and set new goals for the expansion of the relationship.
2. Appoint appropriate individuals to the City-USC joint project teams that may be established from time to time to pursue common goal and initiatives.
3. Acknowledge the unique and legitimate role the University Students’ Council plays as an advocate for Western students in the community.
4. Support the USC to accomplish its mission to “enhance the educational experience and quality of life for all undergraduates at the University of Western Ontario,” and accomplish priorities contained within the USC’s long-term strategic plan, to the extent London is in agreement with them and it is reasonable to do so within London’s available resources.
5. Commit to strong communication between the two organizations about any relevant information which would impact either organization. The City will further commit to work with the USC on the principle of ‘no surprises.’
6. Seek to engage with the USC on any city matter which would directly affect Western students.

USC shall:

1. Commit to two high level meetings (relevant PVP and Senior Management)) with the City (relevant political and administrative leaders) biannually to review the state of the City-USC relationship, assess progress of ongoing projects, and set new goals for the expansion of the relationship.
2. Appoint appropriate individuals to the City-USC joint project teams that may be established from time to time to pursue common goal and initiatives.
3. Recognize and respect the fundamental role that the City plays in making London a stronger community for all of its residents, and acknowledge that, from time to time, what is best for the entire London community may be at odds with what is best for the USC, and /or undergraduate students.
4. Commit to strong communication between the two organizations about any relevant information which would impact either organization. The USC will further commit to work with the City on the principle of ‘no surprises.’
5. Support the City to gather student feedback on any pertinent issues relating to students as determined by the City.

The City of London, Ontario

University Students’ Council

Mayor

President

City Manager

Vice-President External

General Manager

Date

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