

# LVR Student Council Progress Report

*First Semester 2015-2016 School Year*

Written collaboratively by the Student Council of 2015-2016 (Simon Hradil-Kasseckert, Kozmo Sammartino, Hannah Sachs, Amelia Martzke, Sophie Burkholder, Linn Murry, Lily Miller, Talia Westergreen, Charly Defouw, Hannah Collinson, Kaitlyn Taburiaux, Margeret Saville and Sophie Borhi)

§1—Formation of the Council

§2—Gathering Information from Students

§3—Results and Information Gathered

Issue 1

Issue 2

Issue 3

§4—Visual Aids to Accompany Report

Layout of the council and its duties

Academics brainstorm from 'world café'

Green School brainstorm from 'world café'

Student Life brainstorm from 'world café'

Technology brainstorm from 'world café'

Survey Results for the entire school (pie chart)

Survey Results for individual grades (bar graph)

## §1

A student Council for LVR has been in the works since last year when a few students decided to tackle an issue that was slowing the progression of their classes. These students were in classes that were highly dependent upon the use of computers and wireless internet for research and Word document processing. Unfortunately, the technology at the time was not good enough to keep up with the pace of the students and their teachers. In response, Simon Hradil-Kasseckert, Lily Miller, Michael Marsland, Merissa Dawson, and Kozmo Sammartino reached out to other students with petitions, and a letter writing campaign to express the need for better technology to administration, as well as politicians that deal with education in BC. Once the letters and petitions were sent off, responses were received from premier Christy Clark, as well as School District 8 Superintendent Jeff Jones. Christy Clark wrote back with insights regarding BC wide improvements to technology through the Ministry of Education, and Jeff Jones wrote back eager to meet with students to discuss what the school district was doing about it, and where there is room for improvement.

While meeting with Jeff Jones, it became evident to Simon, Michael, and Lily that there needed to be a better channel for students to communicate with SD8 administration. The student council was formed to bridge this gap.

The formation of the council required a lot of coordination and cooperation between the students and administration. Before proposing the initiative, Simon created a plan for the council which included having members from all aspects of the school, and a dynamic but easy to follow layout for how the council would tackle issues. Firstly, this included brainstorming with any LVR students that felt they had something to share, surveying the student body to find out what issues were most pertinent to them, and creating a plan to solve those issues with administration. After seeking permission to advance from Mr. Huttemann, Simon along with Kozmo, Michael, Lily and Sophie Burkholder began planning their next steps. The group of students came up with an appropriate format to accept applicants to the council. This involved a system that would offer equal representation as well as acceptance based on leadership skills, and references. Before

evaluating the applications, it was important to make the council known to all of the students to give everyone a chance to be on the council should they want to. From there, the group of senior students that led the setup of the council chose the members that would be representing the school.

Since its formation part way through the first semester of this year the council, comprised of Simon Hradil-Kasseckert, Kozmo Sammartino, Hannah Sachs, Amelia Martzke, Sophie Burkholder, Linn Murry, Lily Miller, Talia Westergreen, Charly Defouw, Hannah Collinson, Kaitlyn Taburiaux, Margeret Saville and Sophie Borhi, has worked hard to move towards a school that is more connected with its administration. What's unique about the LVR student council is that the entire initiative is student led. With the mission statement "building student voice while collaborating with administration", the student council hopes that it will not only make it easier for students and administration to communicate, but that it will also instill into LVR students the habits of effective citizenship.

## §2

So far, the council members have hosted a world café style open meeting to brainstorm issues, and have conducted a school-wide survey to see which of the issues brainstormed are most pertinent to the students. The council's next step is to present the findings of the survey to the administration, and have a dialogue about how the students can solve the issues while working toward a uniform goal with the administrators of SD8.

The open meeting was held in the school's multipurpose room at lunch, to make it available to all students. Prior, it was announced on LVTV, the school's website, and the council's Facebook page to make as many students as possible aware. The meeting was held in a world café style with the brainstorming topics: technology, green school, student life, and academics. The ideas that the students came up with were interesting, and the council worked hard to decide which ones to incorporate into the survey.

The student council decided that the easiest and most efficient way to gather information about issues around our school would be to do a survey for all the students. Using the issues brainstormed at the meeting, the survey was handed out to every class in the school. Students picked which issues they thought were most important, and numbered them 1-5 (5 being most important, 1 being the least important). The council then tallied up the numbers of all the issues. Based on the results, the council chose the top three to be their main focus for improvement in semester two.

## §3

71% voter turnout was achieved. The results from the survey showed an interest in all of the issues presented in the survey. One, however stood out at 9% more interest than the rest—improve slow Wi-Fi around the school. The top three were:

### Issue 1—Improve Slow Wi-Fi Around the School:

Slow and inconsistent Wi-Fi was voted as the top issue by the student body in the conducted survey; it was the top choice for 22% of the students. The student council would like to improve the Wi-Fi in order to help the student body conduct fast and efficient online research, both inside and outside of the classrooms. The council recognizes that electronic devices are not always used for academic purposes in class; however, having slow and unreliable Wi-Fi can have negative effects on certain academic uses, such as research assignments and projects.

The council proposes several possible solutions for the slow Wi-Fi within the school:

- Upgrade the current Wi-Fi system.
- Introduce regulations on the usage of electronic devices in school.
- Increase the use of the internet for classroom related activities during class times.
- Introduce regulated times where phones can be used in class.

- Place restrictions on certain websites that slow down the Wi-Fi and have no academic value (eg. Netflix).
- Possibly marking attendance by phones (placing boxes at front of classrooms).
- Encourage the use of computers and other devices within classes for academic purposes and for use by both students and teachers.

### Issue 2—Reduce Harsh, Flickering Lights around the School:

This particular issue got 12% of the vote from student body which represents a significant amount of interest relative to others. While the disadvantages of poor lighting are obvious to anyone who has worked for long periods of time in a school or office, there is also significant research to back these up. It causes health related issues such as headaches, migraines, eye strains, stress/anxiety, distraction and can affect the mood and attention span of students in the learning environment. The council would like to solve this issue.

While there are several possibilities, the council proposes having lights changed more regularly, relying less on artificial light, or simply removing some of the lights.

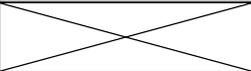
### Issue 3—Make Improvements to the Washrooms:

The results from the student survey show that 13% of the students voted to improve the state of the schools washrooms. This includes providing a constant supply of soap, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, and hot water. Proper hygiene is essential to prevent illness when working in an environment with other people. The council hopes that this will be an issue that it can contribute to the solution of.

The importance of solving this issue is evident in the following research:

- In London, if everyone routinely washed their hands, a million deaths a year could be prevented
- A large percentage of foodborne disease outbreaks are spread by contaminated hands. Appropriate hand washing practices can reduce the risk of foodborne illness and other infections
- Hand washing can reduce the risk of respiratory infections by 16%
- Poor menstruation hygiene can lead to fungal infections. Repeated infections can lead to serious reproductive tract infections. These could cause infertility.

By improving the hygiene in our school bathrooms, students can prevent illness. To solve this, we propose fixing the hand dryers in the washrooms or constantly replenishing paper towels. Furthermore, maintaining hand soap (biodegradable if possible) or providing hand sanitizer would improve bathroom hygiene. Moreover, feminine hygiene products should be present in all female and single use bathrooms—dispensers should be checked regularly and restocked. If possible, students should have access to hot water from the taps in all bathrooms as well.

<p><b>Council Coordinator:</b>  <b>This student would participate in all meeting and other activities going on within the student council and insure that things are running smoothly.</b></p>	<p><b>Student Council School and Community Publicity Team:</b>  <b>This group of students would be in charge of creating awareness around the school that we have a student council at the school to receive their input. This team would be doing things like creating a Student Council Face book Page, a Student Council Wed Page linked to the School web page, and talking about the student council and its members on LTV. This group could also be contacting newspapers in town to give the community feedback about their highschool.</b></p>			
	<p><b>Grade 9 Students</b></p>	<p><b>Grade 10 Students</b></p>	<p><b>Grade 11 Students</b></p>	<p><b>Grade 12 Students</b></p>
<p>1. Team specified around collecting information about issues and/or potential for improvement from the learning environment.</p>	<p>a. To gather student input.  b. To give feedback to the students about what is being done.</p>			
<p>2. Team specified around communicating with school and school district administration about the issues, and to receive input about them from those sources.</p>	<p>a. To present the thoughts gathered and coordinated by the student council to the administration.  b. To gather feedback about the thoughts being dealt with by the council from the administration.</p>			
<p>3. Team specified around initiating solutions and new programs or opportunities in the learning environment.</p>	<p>a. To present information gathered about issues and solutions to the students.  b. To initiate new programs and other solutions in the school</p>			
<p><b>Council Meetings:</b>  <b>The Student Council could have regular meetings weekly. These would take place at lunch. Every second meeting could be open for students to attend.</b></p>			<p><b>Council &amp; Administration Meetings:</b>  <b>The Student Council could meet with administration once every two months to present ideas; and gather feedback, and support.</b></p>	

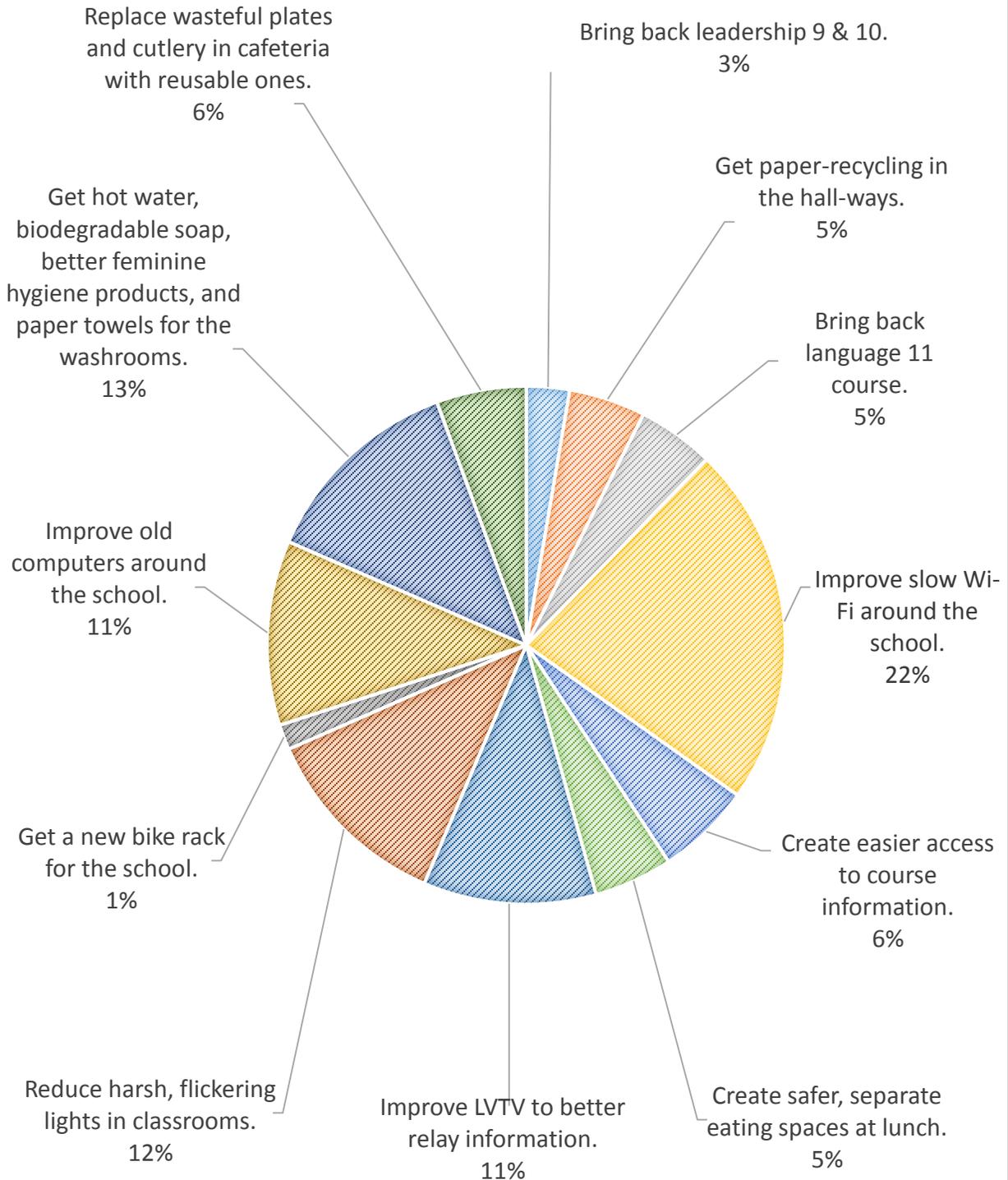
Academics				
		What	Why	How
L A R G E I S S U E S	1	Bring back Leadership 9/10	To bring all grades into leadership rather than just 11/12's.	Speak to admin/school board. Confirm that it's a priority for the student body. Raise money for funding.
	2	Bring back language 11 courses	Many universities require a language 11 and at the moment that's not possible.	Speak to admin/school board.
	3	Textbooks/workbooks	At the moment students have to pay for certain workbooks (math). Dirty, worn out textbooks	Get funding for new textbooks.
S M A L L I S S U E S	4	Publicize more scholarships/opportunities/courses	To inform students about unknown opportunities.	Speak to counsellors. Hold meetings on select topics. Spread information.
	5	Easier access to course info	So that students are more informed about what electives there are.	Talk to councillors.

Green School				
		What	Why	How
L A R G E I S S U E S	1	New trees in front of the school.	To replace the painful hole where once the lovely old trees did reside.	-Get a group of students for .community service - Talk to Admin. -Talk to GP.
	2	Eliminate paper cups/ reusable dishes and utensils.	Eliminates large portion of waste from cafeteria.	-Look in thrift stores garage sales. -Fundraising. -Talk to admin.
	3	New bike rack.	Fits more bikes, and encourages students to bike.	-Fundraise. -Talk to city Council. -Talk to admin.
	4	Biodegradable soap.	Less damaging to lake and hands.	-Look into buying it -make Admin buy it.
	5	Better labelling on recycling, trash and compost.	To make it easier for students to recycle.	-Talk to GP.
	6	Rain Barrel.	Saves water to be used on garden.	-Acquire a rain barrel. -Fundraise.
	7	Get better garden in court yard.	Make the court yard look pretty.	-Get a group of students together for small community service project. -Talk to Admin.
	8	Toilet bags/ rocks	Saves water	Talk to admin.

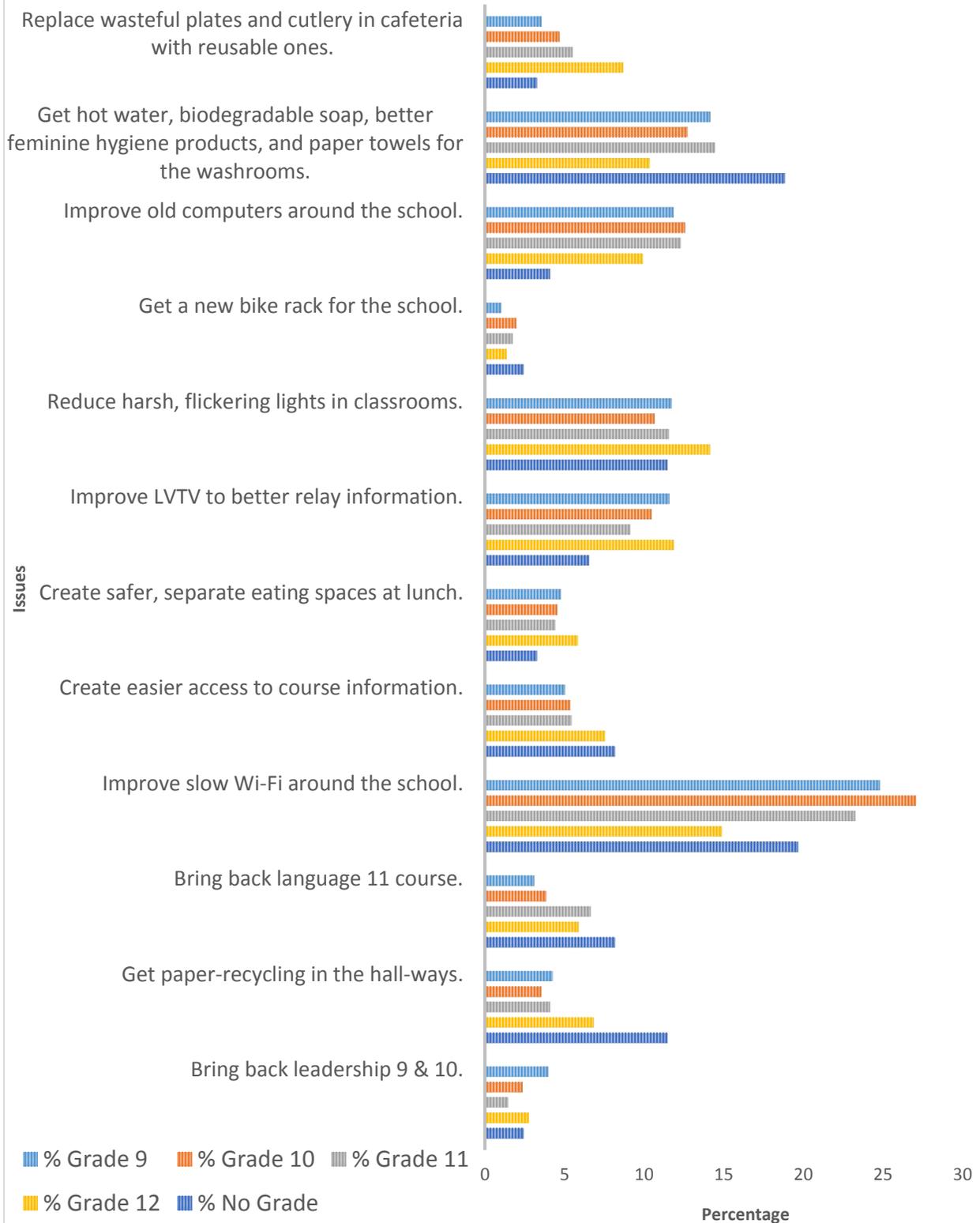
Student life				
		What	Why	How
L A R G E I S S U E S	1	Outdoor classroom.	Different learning environment.	Green school group/healthy school group.
	2	Student newspaper.	Student information / more opportunities for art students/writers etc.	Jonesy/ teachers sponsor .
S M A L L I S S U E S	3	Hot water for sinks.	Hygiene.	Talk to Hutteman.
	4	Fixing bathrooms; paper towels, soap, etc.	Hygiene.	Hutteman, janitors.
	5	Classroom lights.	Student comfort /focus.	Maintenance/ teachers.
	6	Feminine hygiene products upgrade.	Hygiene/basic needs.	Hutteman/janitors/ad min.
	7	Lower priced food in café.	More lunch options for different budgets.	Lunch administrators.
	8	More funding for sports.	Student enjoyment.	Fundraising/administrator.
	9	More art/mural in school/multipurpose room.	Welcoming environment.	Art students/admin/annety /balloon + paint fundraiser.
	10	Garbage pickup / clean school environment.	Clean environment.	Students/teachers.
	11	Safe eating space in school/open classroom.	Calm/eating/homework/safety.	Designate room/staff/having student supervisor.
	12	Hot water in lunch room between breaks 3-4.	Student necessity/refills of drinks ect.	Lunch administrators.
	13	Coffee between break 3-4.	Student necessity.	Lunch administrators.
	14	Recycle bag on hallway garbage cans.	Green school.	Janitors/sponsor group.
	15	Ping pong supplies.	Improved recreation.	Buy supplies.

Technology				
		What	Why	How
L A R G E I S S U E S	1	Slow WiFi (worst in library). 4	Necessary work space, Many students need WiFi for work.	Talk to administration, staff, tech specialists
	2	Slow, old student computers.	Many don't work. Necessary for modern learning environments.	Apply for a grant, contacting administration. Replace with tablets.
	3	Make the multi-purpose room friendly and habitable.	To make it a fun, healthy learning situation where students feel comfortable socializing and working.	Ask students what they would want and enjoy. Fundraising, grants, etc.
	4	LVTV not working well enough to relay information among students. 5	Students are missing important announcements and forgetting over the day.	Contact LVTV class and come up with a functioning compromise (bulletin board, email list, etc.)
	5	PA system difficult to hear or comprehend.	Students miss important announcements and opportunities.	Address hardware issues with school maintenance, establish cost of replacement, how to increase volume.
	6	Buy a telescope.	Start an astronomy school and increase interest in astronomy, sciences and physics.	Apply for a grant.
S M A L L I S S U E S	7	Smart boards not being used by teachers.	Lots of money has been spent on them and teachers don't know how to use them to make teaching easier.	Train teachers or have a course teaching the basics.
	8	Charging stations, tech friendly classroom.		Encouraging good use of devices.
	9	Laptops not being plugged in.	Students can't take part in classroom activities.	Have enforcement at the end of each class and check.
	10	Inappropriate use of cameras without permission.	Damages reputation and job/university standing.	Have a student assembly with a talk (like last year's technology assembly).

## MOST PERTINENT ISSUES TO THE STUDENT OF LVR AS OF DEC 2015



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