

**Date:** 02/22/22

**To:** Students' Union Council

**Re:** Board of Governors Representative 02/22/22

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Dear Council,

Not too much to report for the last couple of weeks, but I'm foreseeing a busy rest of the term, so here's what I've been up to, and what's up next. I (finally) have my Board orientation session with the Chair and President coming up next week, followed in quick succession with my first round of committee meetings. My Ministerial Order hasn't come through yet, so there is a chance I will be sitting in on these meetings as an observer, but either way I will find a way to have student perspectives heard.

### **No More Cuts Rally**

It was an honour to participate in and speak at the rally against the upcoming provincial budget last Thursday. Turnout was great, and media coverage was excellent as well. I also had the chance to informally chat with AASUA and the GSA, and am looking forward to continuing those conversations. Shoutout to VP Dixon and Ari Campbell, as well as all of you, for your contributions and support of the event.

### **Upcoming Provincial Budget**

As many of you know, the provincial budget is expected to drop on Friday, February 24th. While we do generally know what we can expect for the post-secondary sector, the magnitude of the provincial surplus, and comparisons with our fellow institutions are yet to be determined. These factors will help drive and determine advocacy going forward, so I look forward to reporting on that to you all at the next council.

### **Consultation**

I have been continuing my SRA consultation work. I met last week with the International Students' Association, where we established an advocacy strategy for needs-based funding to international students, as opposed to the merit-based awards which have been used by the university to lure in more international students. We also discussed the impact of a strike on international students to help guide my advocacy.

This upcoming week I'm meeting with Isaiah from the Nursing Students' Association, and Jesse from the Medical Students' Association.

### **Board of Governors Representative Election**

With the election season fast approaching, I did want to take the opportunity to inform you all that I will not be seeking election in the upcoming BoG race. Unfortunately my program would make it nearly impossible to live up to the standards of the role. On the bright side, this does mean that I will not be taking a Leave of Absence, and am looking forward to chatting with anyone who might be interested in the role! If you or anyone you know might be interested, feel free to shoot me an email or a whatsapp message (780-953-7083) and I would love to chat.

Lastly, these are particularly challenging times for all of us. Hopefully reading week is a chance for all of you to relax a bit, but I know there are a lot of stressful things going on. With all that said, make sure to reach out to each other, reach out when you need support, and take time for yourself!

Sincerely,



Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative  
**Adrian Wattamaniuk**