

Date: 03/22/22

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Board of Governors Representative 03/22/22

Dear Council,

Hope you've all enjoyed the return to campus, and are settling into some sense of normalcy! I've lumped in my updates from the last month, since we didn't have a council meeting on the 8th:

Board Business

I had my Board Orientation a few weeks ago, which went quite well. I received all my briefing materials, and had a chance to meet the Vice Chair, Chair, President, and Secretaries. I also now have my ministerial order, so I am fully able to attend committee meetings and the board itself as a voting member!

I have had two committee meetings thus far, Board Governance Committee (BGC), and Board Reputation and Public Affairs Committee (BRPAC). It was a short agenda for BGC, and we recapped the GFC/Senate/Board Summit on Work-Integrated Learning, and discussed some government relations matters in closed session (private materials).

At BRPAC, there was a lengthy discussion on institutional reputation, in particular that the University of Calgary surpassed the University of Alberta in research funding for Fiscal Year 2020. This appears to be a blip, but seems to have woken the board up to some complacency in the institution. No hard actions were taken, but perhaps this serves as a bit of a wake up call for the Board.

Finally, as many of you may have seen, a new collective agreement between the UofA and AASUA has been drafted and ratified! This is very exciting, and means we have avoided potential labour action. I would like to thank everyone who I spoke with for their willingness to discuss this issue. Student governance was incredibly active, and well prepared given the circumstances, but I'm glad we didn't have to use that preparedness.

Provincial Budget

As promised, I did have the chance to review the Provincial Budget. Hopefully you all got the chance to see the posts on the @uasuexecutive instagram. The institutional cuts to the University of Alberta are as expected in the University's budget, at \$52 million. Some additional funds have been allocated for enrollment growth in particular fields, which the University is currently working to budget and propose for, as well as a crucial provincial funding match for CSJ. Additionally, this is hopefully the last year of these extremely damaging budget cuts, with tuition also settling back to match inflation. I know this has been an incredibly difficult time for our institution, but we seem to finally be approaching the light at the end of the tunnel.

Elections

As many of you have probably seen, SU elections have wrapped up. I'd like to congratulate Alex Dorscheid for winning the BoG Rep seat, and am excited to see his accomplishments in his term, which begins on May 1st!

Other than that, I was pleased to meet with Jesse from the Medical Students' Association, and look forward to continuing consultation going forward. I wish you all the best in your continued return to campus, and good luck to all running in elections of all sorts!

Sincerely,



Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative
Adrian Wattamaniuk