

Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative Report

Meeting of May 1st

Greetings Council,

First of all, let me say that I am very excited to officially begin my term in office on International Workers' Day. Similar to Labour Day here in Canada, May 1st is an international day that recognizes the importance of labour and social justice movements the world over. I hope you will take some time today to consider what you are doing to advance social justice in your community and around the world.

On March 15th I attended my first meeting of the Board of Governors in an unofficial capacity as governor-elect. Colten, Ashlyn and I were warmly welcomed by the Board, and it was great to observe the proceedings of the Board following that. That was the second meeting of the Board I had attended, and I am becoming more comfortable in that environment. It is more formal, but just as interesting and engaging as the Council environment. On May 11th, I will have the opportunity to attend a meeting for the first time in an official capacity – assuming the new Minister of Advanced Education has time to appoint myself, Colten, and Ashlyn to our positions on the board! The government may take some time sorting out its post-election business before it can get around to appointing us. If we aren't appointed by then, I'm told we will be able to speak on motions and participate, but not vote. Either way, I look forward to being there! I'll be attending the Board meeting on the 11th via phone, as I will be away on much-needed vacation time with my family, and unable to attend in person.

Colten and I have decided which Board committees we will be sitting on: he'll be sitting on the Finance and Property Committee and the Learning and Discovery Committee, and I'll be sitting on the University Relations Committee and the Safety, Health, and Environment Committee. If you'd like more information about what the committees do, you can check them out here: <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/BoardofGovernors.aspx>. Alternatively, feel free to just ask me or Colten about them! I'm looking forward to attending my first committee meetings in May.

My transition has gone extremely well, and I am feeling ready to begin my official role on the Board. Raph – the outgoing BoG Rep – has given me an excellent transition binder which I have been eagerly reading. Amanda Henry – the Student Governance Advisor – has also given me some excellent literature to review regarding university governance and the BoG Rep's place in all that. I've also met with a number of different individuals who have sat on the Board, including outgoing President Rory Tighe, and outgoing GSA President Roy Coulthard, to get their advice on how I can be most effective in my capacity on the Board. I will be meeting with further individuals still – other previous BoG Reps – in the coming weeks to get their advice as well. Colten, Ashlyn, and I also recently had our first meeting with the new Board Chair Doug Goss. I'm really looking forward to working with him (and others) on the Board to ensure the University of Alberta remains a great institution for the uplifting of the whole people.

I've already begun work on fulfilling my campaign goals. I'm in the process of seeking recruits for my "Notrious BoG" committee. For those of you who don't remember the details from my campaign, I'm planning on setting up an advisory/volunteer committee, somewhat similar to last year's VPA's "Acadream Team". The mandate of the committee will be consultation and teamwork. I need a group of committed volunteers who can assist me with

brainstorming and bouncing ideas. I'll also need help as many of the things I plan on doing throughout my term will require some help – protests and townhalls are more easily organized in groups! If you or anyone you know might be interested on sitting on the committee, please let me know. I'm also setting up meetings with various faculty and other Board members to discuss the actions that need to be taken to ensure that people who are involved in unethical activities do not receive an honorary degree from this institution ever again. I will also be working on creating a new BoG twitter, one that will match the style of the VP twitter accounts, so please keep an eye out for that in the next little while.

Finally, I will be unable to attend the Council meeting on May 1st in person, as I am scheduled for a vacation with my family. As I'm writing this I am searching for a proxy, but many other members of council are also away for the summer, so it is proving difficult to find one at this time. If I am unable to find one, I will attempt to skype-in to the meeting, but this may not be possible as the location where I am staying may not have internet access amenable to that purpose. If that is the case, I apologize for my absence, but I will be back for the next meeting. Either way, my phone will not be on for the duration of the vacation, which will go until May 12th, so if you need to urgently contact me, please email me at bakelly@ualberta.ca. I will be checking that email semi-regularly.

Other than that, I am very much looking forward to working with all of you this upcoming year!

In Solidarity,
Brent Kelly