June 26th, 2015

To: University of Alberta's Students' Council 2015/2016

From: Azhar R. Khan

Re: Board of Governor Undergraduate Representative Report (For June 30 Meeting)

Outline:

1) Board of Governors Dinner (June 18)

2) Board of Governors General Meeting (June 19)

3) What I Have Been Up To

4) My Board Goals for the Upcoming Year

1.) Board Dinner

I ate food. It was delicious. Really delicious.

2.) Board Meeting

The hot topic for the Board had to do with the details of Bill 3. The details of this bill are already mentioned in President Khinda's Report as well as VP Hanwell's Report. I felt there was a mixed feeling on the Board about the Bill. Many members were cautiously optimistic while others were worried that overall funding in the long term for the University would result in a net loss. The government was only willing to cover the additional funding required to deal with inflation for the first two years and not afterwards. This is compounded by the fact that there is a strong chance that the minimum wage increase will also eat up funding as it would cause a domino effect of increased wages for University employees.

The Law Faculty Membership Fee (FMF) was rescinded. I was surprised there was no discussion pre-empted by the Board about why we were removing this fee if the market modifier (or some government equivalent funding) was not yet realized. I feared there may have been some accusations of foul play on the part of students for pushing through the removal of this fee before things were more certain. Thankfully these fears were unsubstantiated.

There was also concern as to low aboriginal enrollment numbers at the UofA. The general consensus was that this was a matter best left to the incoming President Turpin who did incredibly well in aboriginal enrollment numbers at UVic and had a history of taking many

initiatives on that front.

3.) What I Have Been Up To

I have been continuing my one-on-one meetings with various key Board members. To date I've met with five and have several others scheduled for the coming month. There has been some level of difficulty in scheduling meetings as many members are in-and-out of vacation around this time. During these meetings I have asked about what they had thought about the routine BoG Undergraduate Reports given at each general meeting which was initiated by my predecessor. I've been told there are already a significant number of readings and the BoG report gets easily lost in the whirlwind and rarely spoken about. From this feedback I will be discontinuing the BoG reports but I will add additional commentary on the Student Union Report if needed (and I expect I will be).

I have been making meetings with the Student Associations that would have been affected by market modifier. I feel there is some confusion on their part about what is going on. This is compounded by the fact that the Gateway article is slightly misleading about the NDP government covering the market modifier fee. The future President Turpin will have a lump sum of money and deciding how that lump sum of money should be distributed. There is no guarantee on who the money will be distributed to or by how much.

4.) My Board Goals for the Upcoming Year

I will elaborate further at the meeting but in general they are:

a) To have the Student Union work in conjunction with Administration in determining the metrics and research for what is "student experience".

b) To have the Board Subcommittee of Safety, Health, and Environment take more initiatives. So far my experience with this subcommittee is that there is just general overview of relevant reports to us. I want to push to have a Student Wellness component to the Board as well as additional members to the subcommittee that would be relevant to this initiative.

c) To Have the Board of Subcommittee of Learning and Discovery take more initiatives. There have been concerns in the General Board Meetings of dropping enrolment of international students. I want to work the Board Chair to possibly work on this problem at this subcommittee.