

June 7th, 2012

**To:** Students' Council

**Re:** Report to Council

Hey Council,

It's been a busy two weeks! As usual, I suppose you could say. Some of the highlights from the past few weeks include the Council Retreat last weekend, a Board University Relations Committee Meeting, a Board meeting to discuss the Annual Financial Statements, and the organization of an SU delegation to this year's Pride Parade. Also of note, Ashlyn, Colten and I attended our board orientation, and we were appointed as well. I'll discuss these items in further length below.

#### **Council Retreat**

Last Friday, a number of members of council including myself packed up to go on retreat. I'm sure the executives will talk about it as well, so I won't go too much into it here. Needless to say, it was a lot of fun, but also very informative. I learned a great deal, and am looking forward to utilizing what I learned in Council and various committees. I also learned that some members of council are very proficient at rap-battles.

#### **University Relations Committee Meeting**

Also last Friday, I attended my first University Relations Committee meeting. The University employs a lot of different staff to keep good relations with the provincial government and other stakeholders. The University keeps information about how it connects with every single provincial constituency in Alberta – which I found very impressive. They even had booklets for each one, which they passed around as examples. I was able to keep the booklets for Calgary and Edmonton, and the depth of detail in information is exceptional. The University does an excellent job gathering information about the province, the government, and key stakeholder groups.

#### **Board meeting to Discuss Annual Financial Statements**

Last Monday, I attended a board meeting for the discussion of last year's budget which is to be submitted to

the provincial government. The University is doing well in some respects, but not so well in others. Of concern is the poor funding from the government – 2% increase in funding per year over the next number of years. This will no doubt lead to further cuts and strains on the University. Also of concern in the report was that the percentage of overall revenue that was coming from students had increased from 11.7% in 2008 to 15.8% in 2012. Over the year I will advocate for all the stakeholders of the university to share the burden equally – instead of one stakeholder group paying for a bigger share of the pie.

### **SU Delegation to Pride Parade**

Shortly after arriving home from the Council Retreat, I began to wonder whether the SU was going to send an official delegation to march in the Pride Parade. I found out that it wasn't, and I felt we were missing a valuable opportunity to take action on some of the elements within our Strategic Plan at little to no cost to the organization. Accordingly, following approval from the executive committee, I took initiative to register the SU in the Parade, and invited a number of members of council to march along with me with the SU banner. I will have an update on how the march went in my oral report.

### **Appointment**

After some gentle reminding, it seems that the new Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education has finally had the chance to appoint Ashlyn, Colten, and I. I was beginning to become increasingly concerned that we student representatives would not be able to vote for our third consecutive Board meeting, so I took initiative to first tweet the Minister requesting he appoint us, and then call the Ministry itself the following day. That very same day I received electronic notification that the Minister had signed the necessary Ministerial Order. I should be receiving a paper copy sometime next week. Lesson learned: the squeaky wheel gets the grease!

I also attended an audit committee meeting, and a policy committee meeting as a proxy for Councillor Ruth. I'll touch a little on those meetings in my oral report.

Other than that, as always, feel free to contact me if you need anything!

In Solidarity,

**Brent Kelly**

Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative 2012-2013 | [University of Alberta Students' Union](#)

