

Undergraduate Board of Governors' Representative Report

Meeting of May 13th

Greetings Council,

Last Friday, I had the opportunity to partake in my first official Board of Governors meeting.

Firstly, in this meeting we received updates from the President of the university on her trip in Germany and Israel. Of note was the increase in foreign interest directed towards the U of A. Israel discovering valuable natural resources such as gas and oil, have pinpointed interest in receiving expert consultation and formation from the U of A on how to appropriate develop and maintain these resources. The President also discussed her response to the Report to the Premier's Council for Economic Strategy. She mentioned how some of the university's research themes played well within the priorities of this plan, particularly in regards to water, global energy, and agriculture. It is critical that the institutions of Campus Alberta play a big part in shaping Alberta's future. She also mentioned the receipt of a gift from Allan Markin of 20 million dollars. This gift will be used to expand a program aimed at reversing negative health trends amongst Albertan children. As stated in the ExpressNews on the University's website:

"By September 2011, the Alberta Project Promoting active Living & healthy Eating in Schools (APPLE Schools) will run in 41 Alberta schools. This includes urban, rural, and First Nations, Metis and Inuit schools."

The President also discussed the results of the federal election. From the university's perspective, a majority offers a better stability. Working with (potentially) the same ministers helps build on the relationships the university had already built on. Also, the university has a good relationship

with the prime minister, and he is tentatively having a meeting with President Samarasekera in the fall. On the other hand, the conservative party's standpoint on expense control and fixing the deficit will have some negative toll. The program review that is soon to come, could lead to 5-10% in cuts. Additionally, the priorities set by the party do not align with our direction in regards to research.

During our meeting we covered certain items that have an impact on students: the approval the SU's fee increase by CPI, The GSA's fee increase, and updated the death of a member policy to be more encompassing of other internal, external policies, and procedures.

We had the chance to discuss the Report to the Community that happened on May 9th, the visit to Augustana on April 26th from the University Relations committee, and the Student Communicator's initiative.

Rory and I received our official appointments to the board committees. I will be sitting on the University Relations Committee and the Safety, Health and Environment Committee. Rory will be sitting on the Learning and Discovery Committee and the Finance and Property Committee.

Lastly, we reappointed Phyllis Clark to another term of five years as the Vice-President (Finance and Operations).

I walked into this meeting not necessarily knowing the extent to which I could influence the board. After the welcoming remarks from different individuals and discussion, I'm really looking forward to this year and have high hopes for the progress that the Board and the University can make. In regards to communication with students, I have setup my BoG twitter account. You can

follow me @UASU_BOG. Also, in the upcoming days, I will be working on my first BoG Vlog. I am currently looking for feedback on how to make this as effective as possible.

I welcome any one of you to contact me if you have any questions, comments, feedback, or concerns. Unfortunately, for the summer I am working full time, and will not have defined office hours. You are more than welcomed to fire me an email (bog@su.ualberta), or call me on my personal line (780-245-0227).

Cordially,

Raphael Lepage Fortin

Below you will find links to the documents mentioned:

NewsExpress Allan Markin gift:

<http://www.expressnews.ualberta.ca/en/NewsArticles/2011/05/20milliongiftsupportshealthylivinghabitsinAlbertaschools.aspx>

Report to the Premier's Council for Economic Strategy

http://alberta.ca/acn/201105/RPCES_ShapingABFuture_Report_web2.pdf

Report to the Community

<http://www.report.ualberta.ca/en.aspx>

President's response to the report:

<http://www.president.ualberta.ca/MessageFromThePresident/2011/05/ThePresidentsResponsetotheReporttothePremiersCouncilforEconomicStrategy.aspx>

May 13th Agenda:

<http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/BoardofGovernors/Board/BoardAgendaListingsPublicSession/media/University%20of%20Alberta/Administration/Office%20of%20the%20Vice-Provost/Governance/Documents/GO03/BOA/10-11/MY-13/Agenda/FINAL-Public-Session.pdf>