

**To:** Students' Council

**Re:** Report to Council

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Hey Council,

Before I proceed with my report, I would like to acknowledge that our university and our Students' Union are on Indigenous land. Specifically: Cree, Saulteaux, Metis, Blackfoot, and Nakota Sioux.

They are faculty, staff, students, family, and friends, and they are still here. I acknowledge that we meet on treaty 6 territory. That treaty governs the relationship between first-nations and non-first nations citizens. I am thankful for this opportunity for us to meet on this land today. This statement will be included at the front of my report to council until either the time that my term ends, or Council moves to make a similar statement available for public viewing.

Happy New Year! Hope you've all had lots of time to rest and recuperate. I went back to Calgary over the holidays and spent plenty of time with my family. Sometimes it's easy to get caught up in exams and papers, forgetting the things that really matter: friends and family. That said, I'm very much looking forward to the winter semester.

There was a meeting of the Board of Governors before the holiday season began, and I'd like to take some time to discuss it here. There were a number of important votes at the last meeting which need mentioning.

### **Board of Governors Meeting**

Tuition and rent increases were voted upon at the meeting. It was disappointing that only Colten and I voted against the cost increases. I was especially concerned when the GSA President, Ashlyn Bernier, failed to speak or vote against the motion for increased costs to students. As I see it, any

increase in the cost to attend this institution is a corresponding decrease in the accessibility of education at our University. It is a shame that we are making our University less accessible to the public.

The additional burden that increases in cost places on students is felt not only now but for many years. Students are increasingly graduating with ever-larger mountains of debt. Further, as education becomes less accessible, smaller and more elite groups will be able to afford attendance. We are selling short the future of not only ourselves, but our province. Returns on education are so high that we are losing the potential for growth when we fail to fund our education intuitions adequately. And, in a province of such great resource wealth, this wrongheaded direction is all the more vexatious.

I certainly hope that the Board of Governors will muster the courage to show some real leadership in this province. The solution to this University's problems is not decrease accessibility. The solution is to demand adequate funding from the government.

In Solidarity,

**Brent Kelly**

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