

*Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative Report*

*Meeting of May 15<sup>th</sup>*

Greetings Council,

It's good to be back in Edmonton! I had a great vacation with my family, and I'm feeling well rested. I got back late last Thursday night, just in time to attend the Board of Governors meeting Friday morning. The meeting went very well, despite me being a little jet lagged. Once again, the meeting was a very welcoming environment, and I'm eager to attend my first committee meetings on May 29<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>. I'll discuss the meeting more in-depth later in my report. The first thing I'd like to discuss is some necessary work related to the institutional elements of the BoG Rep position.

**Institutional Elements of the BoG Rep Position**

One of the areas I feel needs some attention is with regards to the formalization of the institutional needs of the BoG Rep position within the SU. As far as I can tell, many of the institutional needs of the BoG Rep position are managed on an ad-hoc basis, during the time of transition between incoming and outgoing BoG Reps. I feel that the needs of the BoG Rep position aren't looked after best with the current system, and I will be meeting with the President next week to see how the SU can take some steps in the direction of formalization.

On a similar institutional note, I'll be meeting this week with Digital Media Coordinator Craig Turner to get my picture and bio sorted out for the SU website, and to

start-up the new BoG Rep twitter account. Coincidentally, Craig also previously served as BoG Rep, so I'll be meeting with him in that regard as well.

### **May 11<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors Meeting**

Some highlights from the May 11<sup>th</sup> BoG meeting included some committee appointments, approval of finances for a new East Campus Village housing project, and a presentation from the Vice-President Research on U of A research initiatives. If you're interested, you can check out what was on the open session agenda here:

<http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/BoardofGovernors/Board/BoardAgendaListingsPublicSessi/~media/University%20of%20Alberta/Administration/Office%20of%20the%20Vice-Provost/Governance/Documents/GO03/BOA/11-12/MY-11/Agenda/FINAL-Public-Session.pdf>

Myself, Ashlyn (GSA President), and Colten were appointed to our Board committees, and as I mentioned earlier I'll be having my first Health, Safety and Environment Committee meeting May 29<sup>th</sup>, and my first University Relations Committee June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Board also approved a new housing project. First it was necessary to get capital expenditure authorization for the project, then to approve a borrowing resolution to fully finance the project. Later in the meeting the Non-Academic Staff Association BoG representative, Tanya, indicated that the university non-academic staff community is still feeling the pinch from budget cuts. It was somewhat concerning to me that the Board is approving new capital expenditures when the community is still undergoing staff cuts – I'll be meeting with Tanya in the next little while to discuss this.

Lorne's presentation comprehensively outlined research funding at the U of A. He explained that the way that some research funding is acquired will be undergoing major changes in the next little while. I learned a lot about research funding from his presentation – but the more I learn, the more I realize I don't know!

Finally, I'll be meeting with other previous BoG Reps and SU Exec Alumni such as Michael Janz and Steven Dollansky over the next few weeks to get their perspectives on how to best go about standing up for social justice and student interests on the Board. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [bakelly@ualberta.ca](mailto:bakelly@ualberta.ca).

In Solidarity,

Brent Kelly