

**Date:** June 27 2019

**To:** Students' Union Council

**Re:** President 2019/20 Report #5

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Dear Council,

It's been a rainy few days, so today RATT on the Patio was indoors. I feel like I write so many of my reports at RATT on the Patio, but really, the vibes are just so good! I will be at Council around 35 minutes late next meeting, as I was invited to attend the opening of [Made by Marcus](#), a Calgary started ice cream shop opening on Whyte Avenue! Read below for a few key updates and I will be there question period for any questions.

### **1. Executive Committee**

- We are getting some great traction on our Executive Goals document. Thank you to those who gave us some great feedback, we have taken it all of it and are looking forward to our year together.
- VP Brown and I attended Student Leaders Orientation, hosted by the Ministry of Advanced Education. We had a question period with the Minister of Advanced Education Demetrios Nicolaides where we discussed things like mental health funding, open educational resources, deferred maintenance, and international student tuition.
- VP Agarwal and I attended the Open Educational Resource Summit at Norquest College, and it was great to reconnect with provincial advocates of open education.

### **2. Internal University**

- **Presidential Search Committee Board of Governors**
  - VP Larsen and I had our introductory meeting and it was good to be able to familiarize ourselves with committee members. An aspect discussed heavily, was our approach to equity, diversity and inclusivity efforts, which I was very happy to see be a focus.

### **3. External Advocacy**

- **MLA Meetings**
  - VP Brown, External Advocacy Advisor Robert Nelson and I will be attending three advocacy meetings over the next bit with MLA Marlin Schmidt (Environment Critic), MLA David Eegan (Advanced Education Critic), MLA Lori Sigurdson (Seniors and Housing Critic).
  - Our asks are around: Accessibility and Affordability, Institutional Funding and Deferred Maintenance, Diversified and Innovative Learning Materials, Student Wellness and Mental Health and Student Employment.

**4. Internal Students' Union**

- The Executive Team and our External Advocacy Advisory did Media Training with Catherine Keill. It was really informative, and I am looking forward to truly implementing her ideas.
- Stride, the Elections Office and the Office of the President are all partering to create a series of 'Election 101 Workshops'. They were run by former President Marina Banister and it's something I would like to see initialized, so stay tuned folks!!

**5. External University**

- I will be attending the opening of Made by Marcus as mentioned above.
- I did a Radio-Canada TV interview regarding international student tuition impacts.
- VP Agarwal and I had a meeting with the Gateway regarding their diversity and inclusion focus groups and it was such a great and productive session.

Thank you for reading my report and I look forward to any questions you may have either via email or during question period. My office hours this semester will be by appointment, so please feel free to send me an email.

Cheers,



University of Alberta Students' Union President  
**Akanksha Bhatnagar**