

Date: May 29 2019

To: Students' Union Council

Re: President 2019/20 Report #3

Dear Council,

I am writing in Gatineau from the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Foundations Conference. So far, this conference has been fantastic. I can't wait to share my experiences, but the highlights include doing a cultural competency training, a blanket exercise, advocacy training, seeing data from an Abacus Survey CASA put out, and spending time with student leaders from coast to coast.

1. Executive Committee

- The team was travelling all across the WORLD doing some fantastic work for the UASU.
- VP Agarwal was one of a few students at the World Universities Network in Dublin!
- VP Statt and Larsen were attending the Annual General Stakeholder Meeting with Student Care in Montreal.
- VP Brown, our External Advocacy Advisor Robert Nelson and I were in Ottawa for CASA and VP Brown was elected as Chair again! He is the first two-timer Chair, and it was a proud moment casting my vote for him as the primary delegate for CASA.



2. Internal University

- **Board of Governors**
 - **Special Meeting of BoG**
 - I called into this meeting from Ottawa, highlights include:
 - Management's Annual Audited Financial Statements (Draft) and we reviewed Financial Statement Discussion and Analysis (Draft).
 - As of December 2018 the deferred maintenance liability stood at \$311 million and is estimated to increase to approximately \$888 million over the next five years. This is where the \$1 Billion dollar comes from.
 - They collected ~\$12 million more tuition in 2019 than budgeted for, and overall had a \$22 million dollar surplus.
 - **Board Finance Property Committee (BFPC)**
 - Both the GSA President and I phoned into this meeting as well. Here are some highlights:

Akanksha Bhatnagar, President

2-900 SUB | 780 492 4241 | president@su.ualberta.ca

- Maskwa House remains an institutional priority, though the U of A recognizes that it does not align with current government capital funding priorities. A feasibility study has been completed, indicating potential donor support of \$10 million for programming if capital funding is secured.
- Approved the International Student Tuition Model
- BFPC will now have authority to approve residence rental increases up to 5%, and meal plan increases up to CPI+1%, 'effective upon BoG approval. These will not be voted on at BOG anymore.
- **General Faculties Council (GFC)**
 - I did have to miss GFC because I was at CASA, however VP Agarwal held the fort down. Discussions regarding freedom of expression, the clean air strategy and the integrated asset management were paramount.

3. External Advocacy

- **Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)**
 - As I've mentioned, VP Brown and I were at the CASA Foundations Conference.
- **Council of University of Alberta Students (CAUS)**
 - All of CAUS is at CASA, but we did briefly talk about timelines regarding a response to the letter that ARRC sent CAUS a few months back. Response should be coming soon.

4. Internal Students' Union

- We have our Mid-Year Managers Meeting. At this meeting, our staff are going to participating in a blanket exercise, our GM is going to give his State of the Union, and the Executive will present a version of their goals.

5. External Community

- I will be representing the Board of Governors at the Convocation for Business on June 6th. I am presenting the honorary degree to Caroline Anne Jenner.

Thank you for reading my long 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