

**Date:** July 25 2019

**To:** Students' Union Council

**Re:** President 2019/20 Report #7

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Dear Council,

Our summer is quickly coming to a close as we approach the September rush! Looking forward to having students back on campus, it's always more vibrant that way! Read ahead for some updates.

### **1. Executive Committee**

- All of us have a really busy August coming up. I will be out from Aug 7th to the 16th for a CASA Get-out-the-Vote Conference in Calgary, for the Students' Union Development Summit (SUDS) in Vancouver and for a small family vacation.

### **2. Internal University**

- **Presidential Search Committee Dinner with Caldwell**
  - The Executive team and our General Manager had dinner with the company that will be aiding in our search for a new University President. Our night was filled with really fruitful conversations about what we would like to see in our new President.
- **Charter of Student Rights**
  - I've been setting up some early consultation meeting regarding this Charter. This document will fundamentally change the way students are treated on campus, so I really am looking forward to seeing this file move forward.

### **3. External Advocacy**

- **Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)**
  - Because of the Federal Election, the CASA conference schedule is different than other years. Therefore, CASA hosted an e-plenary to approve the work plans of the Board and to discuss other timely issues such as a location for the Policy Strategy Conference in the fall.
  - I have been elected as the Vice-Chair of CASA Governance Internal Review Committee and am looking forward to approving a work plan in the next few weeks.
- **Edmonton Student Alliance (ESA)**
  - We had our first meeting of the ESA where we elected a new Chair and Vice-Chair; Cole Baker from the Students' Association of MacEwan Students (SAMU) and Aleksandra Jaruga from the NAIT Students' Association respectively.

- **Council of Alberta University Student (CAUS)**

- The Executive will be attending the CAUS Counterparts Conference from July 31st - Aug 2nd. I will be the only Executive member part of CAUS not as I had a prior family commitment and CAUS was unwilling to change the dates.

#### **4. External Community**

- **Meetings**

- EAA Robert Nelson and I attended a BBQ hosted by MP Matt Jeneroux and Andrew Sheer.
- Our external 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 Daily Grind will be closed until August 12th as it is going through a renovation. In our Executive goals document, we outlined the need for our businesses to develop alongside student needs and so we are excited to share this new brand with you.
- Stride, the Elections Office and the Office of the President are all partnering to create a series of 'Election 101 Workshops'. If you have any tips/suggestions, please feel free to let me know! These will soft-launch for right before the by-elections.

#### **5. External University**

- VP Larsen, VP Statt and I had a consultation meeting with the Edmonton Economic Development Cooperation to discuss what our ideal economy could look like in 30 years! It was really interesting and topics that emerged were work-integrated learning, interdisciplinary and dynamic degrees/credentials, retention of student talent in Edmonton and more.

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 will be by appointment, so please feel free to send me an email.

Cheers,



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