

September 19, 2017

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Students' Council

Hello Council,

I hope everyone had a great time celebrating the first week back in classes with Week of Welcome! The executive and I have had a busy first week weeks of September. Below will outline the work I have been up to since my last report.

University Business

Alumni Council Orientation

As a new member of the Alumni Council I had the pleasure of attending their orientation meeting. At the meeting we discussed how members can make the most of their time on council as well as do good work for the UAlberta community.

GFC Exec Presentation

I attended the General Faculties Council Executive Committee to present on the SU executives goals for the coming year. The presentation was very well received and I answer some questions about the Myer Horowitz Theatre renovations as well as our advocacy on deferred maintenance.

Meeting with President Turpin

Unfortunately, President Turpin was not able to make it to Presidents' Address at Orientation. The following week he invited me to meet with him to apologize for his absence as well as discuss the coming year. At the U of A we are very lucky to have a relatively collegial relationship with University administration and I was happy to talk about big issues coming up next year. Those include the reorganization of some university committees as well as discussion on how to maintain University operations in our fiscal climate.

Dean of Students' Meeting

VP Ushakov and I had our monthly meeting with the Dean of Students. At the meeting we discussed the future of many services the Office of the Dean of Students oversees as well as the on-going situation regarding the incident at DKE (a fraternity).

Academic Planning Committee (APC)

I attended the first APC meeting of the fall semester last week. In the meeting we had an orientation to APC as well as discussed important items such as changes to the admission of aboriginal students to U of A and a faculty name change.

The Registrars Office is proposing changes to the way aboriginal students are admitted to University in regards to spots that are specifically held for aboriginal students. The primary change is they are moving away from ancestry being the determining factor of “proving” indigeneity and moving towards identity and connection to community.

The Faculty of Physical Recreation and Education is also proposing changing their name to the “Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation”. The administrative cost of the change will be about \$250,000 but the opportunity cost of not changing it, due to the outdated nature of the name, would be far more, according to the Dean.

VP Scott also presented on the white-paper (analysis) done by former President Rahman’s regarding teaching tenure streams for professors. VP Scott did a great job presenting the paper and there was a robust discussion at the committee in response.

External Business

Meeting with Federal Ministers

VP Scott, VP Larsen, and I attended a meeting with University stakeholders, students, and government officials. Most notably, MP Randy Boissonnault, MP Andy Filmore, and Minister Amarjeet Sohi were present. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss democratic participation among students and provide suggestions on how to better engage students in citizenship, including voting.

Mental Health Announcement

VP Larsen, VP Ushakov, VP Paches, and I attended the mental health funding announcement from the Government of Alberta. The Minister of Advanced Education announced an investment of \$3 million over 3 years for mental health services at the University of Alberta. Although the University of Alberta is the largest post-secondary institution in the province, the investment received is equivalent to only \$27.50 per student, one of the lowest per-student distributions in the province. You can read more about this announcement in VP Larsen’s report.

#IBelieveYou Campaign

VP Larsen, VP Ushakov, VP Paches, and I also attended the #IBelieveYou campaign launch. This campaign supports survivors of sexual violence and helps educate people on

how to respond to disclosures. This is a particularly important message to support on campus. Learn more about the campaign here <http://ibelieveyou.info>.

CAUS Teleconference

VP Larsen and I had a Council of Alberta University Students' teleconference meeting. In the meeting we discussed the mental health funding announcements, integrating a treaty land recognition in our meetings, as well as the CAUS 30th anniversary celebration. Exciting news! The CAUS 30th anniversary will be hosted in our beautiful SUB atrium. This is a great event to celebrate the work CAUS has done over the last three decades.

Other Exciting Endeavors

CSJ BBQ

As per tradition, the UASU executive was pleased to go to Campus Saint Jean to help prepare and serve a BBQ for their students! It was a great opportunity to chat with CSJ students and their Faculty Association, AUFSJ.

SUB Block Party and SU Alumni Mixer

To conclude Week of Welcome, the Students' Union hosted the SUB Block Party as well as an SU Executive Alumni mixer. Both events were great successes! I particularly enjoyed the alumni event as I had a great time talking with executive members who previously held our positions.

Dinner Meetings

The UASU executive and I have had many work dinners in the past week. We had dinner with the science faculty association (ISSS) at Deweys, the CSJ faculty association (AUFSJ) at Dixie Lees, and with the Chancellor of the Senate at his residence. All dinners were pleasant and productive opportunities to build personal connections and discuss our goals for the coming year.

GovWeek

Next week is GovWeek! I hope to see many councilors serve as ambassadors to student governance in celebration of the fantastic week VP Scott has worked to put on. I will be hosting a keynote session on Monday September 18th at Noon in the Alumni Room that I hope many of you will attend! In my session I will be giving key tips for effective

campaigning and student advocacy, as well as a breakdown of how the Students' Union works. More information about GovWeek can be found at www.govweek.ca.

Closing Remarks

My Fall semester office hours will be Thursdays from 12:00PM-1:00PM in SUB 2-900! Feel free to drop by if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything.

Thank you for reading my report and happy to answer any questions you may have.

Marina Banister
UASU President