

May 16th, 2013

To: Students' Council

From: Petros Kusmu, President 2013-2014

Re: Report to Students' Council (for May 21st, 2013 Meeting)

Hello Council!

Hope all has been good on your end. Since the start of my Presidency I've been playing catch-up with all of the emails and other miscellaneous tasks. As of yesterday, I feel like I finally have a good handle on things. But the constant travelling with the VP External and the Director of Research and Political Affairs puts me behind. With that being said, here's the rest of my report.

I. Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) Changeover

I spent the majority of my time since our last Council meeting at CAUS' retreat in Canmore. The outgoing and returning executive members from the U of A, U of C, and U of L prepared multiple presentations from how to lobby to what are the intricacies of Alberta's student aid system. Furthermore, we also selected next year's CAUS leadership and advocacy priorities. I'm proud to say that Adam Woods is next year's Vice-Chair (following in my footsteps!) and the great majority of his goals were identified as priorities for next year. In addition to all of this, CAUS will also be selecting a new Executive Director (ED), so we spent a large amount of time discussing how we'd go about doing this. Since I'll be returning to the organization and I'm based in Edmonton (i.e. CAUS' Headquarters), I'll be on the CAUS ED Hiring Committee. The importance of hiring an excellent ED cannot be overstated.

II. Board of Governors (BoG) Meeting on May 10th

My first BoG meeting was a rather interesting experience. Half of it was in "Open Session" (i.e. to the open public) and the other half was in "Closed Session" (i.e. in-camera). There were some interesting things that came up. For instance the BoG approved the Students' Union's fees for next year. The more interesting part of the meeting was hearing the President's report. Some interesting things to note:

- The U of A has been given a September 1st deadline to redraft the ~~Letter of Expectation~~ Memorandum of Understanding given by the provincial government;
- From my understanding, an "Alberta Council of Presidents" will now exist – meaning that the Presidents of all of the different post-secondary institutions (PSIs) will regularly meet with one another;
- The University's deadline for its Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) is June 3rd. They'll simply rewrite their chapter on the budget; and
- If the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA) is opened up next year, the University will bring its proposed changes to the "institution".

III. Lister Settlement

Councillor Mlynarski asked for some more information regarding the Lister Settlement in our last meeting. I've attached the SU's Press Release regarding the settlement below. Also, in spite of how positive this development is, it's important to realize that there is still a tremendous amount of work for us to do in order to fulfill the terms we outlined in our agreement.

Students' Union and University Administration Resolve Lister Hall Dispute

News Staff - Mon May 06, 2013

Joint statement from Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Martin Ferguson-Pell and Students' Union President Petros Kusmu:

The University of Alberta administration and the Students' Union executive have settled a dispute related to changes made to the student residence, Lister Hall, announced last July.

This is great news for the university, and we look forward to continuing to work together productively in the future.

The major points of the agreement include:


- a facilitated process to arrive at consensus with respect to the meaning and requirements of consultation;
- confirmation of the 2008 MOA between the Lister Hall Students' Association and Residence Services, with a commitment to update the MOA;
- students will be in the majority on the Residence Advisory Committee;
- the university will provide the Students' Union with current and historical data related to alcohol-related incidents in residences;
- the Students' Union will provide feedback on the existing alcohol policy;
- a student representative will serve as a member of the hiring committee for the position of Assistant Dean of Students, Residence Life;
- the university will seek staff, student and community input as part of the review of residence operations related to the changes announced in July 2012; and the university makes final decisions on whether the current alcohol policy as articulated in all University Residence House Rules (including Lister Hall – Residence Specific Rules) should be modified in any way, effective for September 2013. The university will consult with the SU regarding any such proposed modifications.

IV. “Potpourri for 2000”

In addition to catching up on my emails and other tasks last week, I attended the Standing Advisory Council on International Engagement's subcommittee meeting on what the U of A's role is in international development. Furthermore I also had an interview with the Wanderer and CJSR regarding my short time in office and transition from the VPX portfolio to the Presidential one. This week I'll be with the VPX and DRPA at the Canadian Alliance of Student Association's "Foundations" – its week-long transition where we will hire a new National Director (ND) and select a new board. (In case you don't know, I'm currently still a Director-at-Large for CASA's board, which means I've been a part of the ND shortlisting process.) This means I won't be able to make it to the upcoming Council meeting since I'll be departing Edmonton today (May 17th) and I'll be returning next Thursday. I'll try my best to Skype in.

Well that's it for now, folks! Once things settle down (i.e. early June), I hope to sit down and meet with all of you individually. Not only will this be a good time so we can get to know each other a little bit better, but I'd love to hear some of your own passions, ideas, feedback, and thoughts on ways we can move our union forward.

Signing off,



Petros Kusmu

President 2013-2014 | [University of Alberta Students' Union \(UASU\)](#)

Governor | [University of Alberta Board of Governors](#)

P: (780) 492-4236 | **F:** (780) 492-4643 | **E:** president@su.ualberta.ca

Address: 2-900 Students' Union Building (SUB); Edmonton, AB T6G 2J7

Twitter: [@UASUpresident](#)

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/petros-kusmu/34/b50/605>