

May 31st, 2013

To: Students' Council

From: Petros Kusmu, President 2013-2014

Re: Report to Students' Council (for June 4th, Meeting)

Hello Council!

The travelling has ended... Well for now at least. Since my last report, I have been at two different retreats (one for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations and the other, Students' Council Retreat/Govcamp). While it has been a blast travelling all over the place (and spending a tremendous amount of time with the Vice-President External Adam Woods), I am unbelievably excited to slow things down and have some time to do other work. Something that last year's Vice-President Operations & Finance – Andy Cheema – told me is that I shouldn't mistaken "activity for progress". This month had a tremendous amount of activity. But how about progress? I'd say it has been okay. But I'm excited for what the rest of the month has in store since I'll have a lot more a steady schedule.

With that being said, here's a really brief summary of the past two weeks. (Prepare yourself for a plethora of acronyms. Bonus prize to whoever can count it out and memorize them all. Actually.)

I. Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) Executive Director (ED) Hiring

CAUS is hiring a new ED and I'm on the selection committee. So far we've only had one meeting but there has been a tremendous amount of applicants for the job. This will take up sometime in the coming weeks.

II. Board of Governors (BoG) and University Governance Meetings

I had my first Board Discovery Learning Committee (BDLC), Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC), and Tuition and Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC-MBAC) this week. The main thing on the agenda was going over the institution's Comprehensive Institutional Plan (CIP) – i.e. the institutions plan for the year (which includes their budget). A big play for the SU is the fact that we made sure the institution word the Common Student Space, Sustainability, and Services (CoSSS) Fee as "non-permanent" – which is language they removed from the CIP originally despite it always being called "non-permanent" in the past. (Vice-President Academic Dustin Chelen deserves a tremendous amount of props for the work he did here.) Furthermore, we continued to demand for more information surrounding the letters the Deans were sent regarding their faculty-specific cuts but we got zero traction on it. Dustin, Adam, and I will continue to hammer this issue in unison with the other associations on campus – Graduate Students' Association (GSA), Academic Staff Association at the University of Alberta (AASUA), Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA), and the Post-Doctoral Fellow Association (PDFA). Additionally, the association coalition has had chats on ways we can advocate the government to reinvest in post-secondary education (PSE) in its next budget. This may involve a revival of the "I LOVE AB PSE" campaign from the approximately a decade ago. I'll continue to keep you folks posted on this.

On another note, Arts Councillor Bashir Mohamed had sent the Acting Provost, Martin Ferguson-Pell, an email regarding the budget and deans letters. While Councillor Mohamed didn't receive a meeting with the Acting Provost, he was extremely willing to present to Council on the budget. (So start preparing some good questions for him in the meantime!) Furthermore, I'll be meeting with him next

week to talk about the budget in greater length.

III. CASA and Meeting with Enterprise and Advanced Education (EAE) Civil Servants

VPX Woods can brief Council in greater length about CASA's National Transition since that pertains to his portfolio. Furthermore, VPX Woods and I also spent a whole day with civil servants from EAE on various issues – from the Student Finance Board (SFB) being restructured to having the opportunity to present to the Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfers (ACAT). Since this, again, falls under the purview of the VPX, I imagine he'll brief Council in greater length about it.

IV. Students' Council Retreat/Govcamp

It was a blast. Too much fun was had. A lot was learnt. A lot of friendships were made. And werewolves ate up a lot of individuals (long-story). Thanks for those who came out! (And for those who couldn't make it, don't worry – we'll have a smaller Council Retreat version in fall.) A huge amount of thanks goes out to our wonderful Speaker, Craig Turner, and the Student Governance Advisor, Kathryn.

That's it for now folks! 'Till next time!

Signing off,



Petros Kusmu

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