

July 26th, 2013

To: Students' Council

From: Petros Kusmu, President 2013-2014

Re: Report to Students' Council (for July 30th, Meeting)

Hello Council!

It's been a while since my last report, so here it is!

I. General Faculties Council (GFC) Governance Review

As the Councillors on GFC know, President Samarasekera wants to pursue a large governance “audit” (i.e. review) of GFC. The Students' Union (SU) was adamant in ensuring student representation from undergraduates and graduate students exist on this two-person committee handpicked by the President. President Samarasekera eventually agreed to permit an undergraduate and graduate student on this committee. But the caveat that Vice-President Chelen later discovered was that despite Students' Council – the official voice of students according to the Post-Secondary Learning Act – selecting a member to sit on this task force, the President would handpick their undergraduate and graduate representative. With that being said, they agreed to consider a slate of undergraduate students that we recommended to them.

II. Community Standards Review Committee (CSRC)

So Vice-President Lau and I have spent a lot of time working with the CSRC – a committee that reviews the policies surrounding students living in residence. A point of large contention between the University and ourselves is the fact that we believe there is little accountability surrounding students being evicted. Right now Lau and I are planning of working with members of the CSRC to ensure that there is greater accountability and transparency when it comes to what's evictable. Furthermore, Lau and I are interested in implementing an appeals process within the university's Community Standards policy.

III. The Augustana Students' Association (ASA)

The SU Executive and the ASA Executive had the opportunity to meet with one another earlier this month to introduce ourselves and our goals for the year to one another. One of the reoccurring themes was finding ways to bridge the physical gap between students on the Augustana campus and main campus. The SU Executive promised to try to swing by Augustana sometime in the Fall.

IV. New Staff at the Advocacy Department

Kyle Marshall, the SU Advocacy Departments' University Governance and Academic Advisor (UGAA), will be leaving his post after spending a wonderful 2+ years with the SU. He's going to be greatly missed. Luckily his replacement, Surma Das, is an unbelievably sweet person who has a tremendous skill set. We're looking forward to a fresh face on the team this year! VP Lau, VP Chelen, and I have spent a lot of time this month to hire a new UGAA.

V. Ignite Alberta

Last year, as Vice-President External, I spent a tremendous amount of time on a provincial-wide, student engagement plan entitled *Ignite*. Phase I, the conference that took place last year in February, is complete and now Phase II is pending – provincial-wide student consultation on what the future of post-secondary education (PSE) should look like in this province. As President, I've continued to work on this project

and assist the new members on Ignite's Steering Committee move forward. Currently, the Ignite Steering Committee as a Request for Proposal (RFP) up online to hire an agency to assist us in this large endeavor for Phase II. Furthermore, I'll be presenting Ignite's Phase I finding's, alongside other student leaders, to the Deputy Premier next week at his first Quarterly Meeting with student leaders from across the province. (I've attached Ignite's Phase I findings to the Council report in case you're interested.)

VI. International Differential Fee (IDF)

Vice-President Woods, VP Chelen, and I attended the University's Tuition Budgetary Advsiroy Committee/Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee Budgetary Advisory Committee (simply known as TBAC-MBAC) meeting last week. There we received more information surrounding the tuition increase international students will face. The University administration told the SU and the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) that international students will simply see a tuition increase that is the equivilant of CPI not being frozen. Currently, CPI is frozen. This is to make up for the lost revenue from international students because apparently the provincial government only gave the University enough money to cover the cost of a tuition freeze to domestic students, not international students. There is still a lot of questions we have but we're looking forward to raising them at the meeting VP Woods and I will have with the Deputy Premier next week.

VII. Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee (MNIF) Report

The SU has been working on a detailed MNIF report for quite a while now. This report outlines our grave concerns with how MNIFs are implemented at the institution and highlights the unfairly implemented Common Students Space, Sustainability, and Services (CoSSS) fee. We plan on releasing this report in the nearby future.

VIII. Executive Retreat

The Executive Committee finally had its much overdo Executive Retreat where we went over various discussion items and reflected on our progress since being in office. One of the large conversations we had surrounded what we want the future of the North Power Plant (NPP) – the building Dewey's is in – to look like in the future. Currently, Vice-President Le is working on a visioning document to be complete by next week.

VIIII. The Gateway and the Executive Hang Out

The Gateway and the Executive Committee found some time this month to hangout with one another, talk about each other's work, give a tour of each other's offices, and do some overall relationship building. Furthermore, I met with the Gateway's Editor-in-Chief (Andrew Jeffry) and its Business manager (Ryan Bromsgrove) to discuss about the Gateway's plans for the upcoming year and some of the challenges they're facing.

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

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>

P.S. Since this page has a ton of empty space, here is a sweet picture from the Executive Committee with some snazzy ties we received from the Alumni Association.

Enjoy.

