

May 15th, 2014

To: University of Alberta Students' Union Students' Council 2014-2015

From: William Lau, President 2014-2015

Re: Report to Students' Council (for May 20th, Meeting)

Hello Council!

I hope all of you are enjoying the lovely Spring weather that has been long overdue. For those of you on campus throughout the day, feel free to stop by SUB 2-900 and ask me to take a break to play some Frisbee in quad.

Time always flies by, and it seems like the past two weeks have been carried with the wind. I experienced my first Board of Governors Meeting on May 9th, where we voted in favour of the Athletics and Recreation Fee brought forward by the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation as directed by last year's Council after extensive discussion. With its approval, promoting free varsity games will be something on our radar and our team will soon connect with the Department of Athletics to have this conversation. We also approved the 2014-2015 fees for both the Students' Union and the Graduate Students' Association. The Board of Governors meeting started with an elaborate 1.5 hour report from President Samarasekera on the progress of her team of Vice Presidents. Throughout the board meeting, the board's vision is constantly projected on the wall to ensure that discussion and decisions align with the board's goal to build the University of Alberta as one of the best post-secondary institutions. I strongly suggest all of you to attend a board meeting sometime in the future to see how they are run.

Immediately after the board meeting, I left to Ottawa to participate in transitions with our federal lobby group, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA). The four-day transition was a great way to converse with 21 other student unions/associations across Canada. Not only did VP Khinda and I learn about CASA as an organization, but also learned about the responsibilities of the federal government relevant to post-secondary education. From here, we also had a variety of speakers help us through advocacy strategies, media encounters, and writing policy. If you have an interest in any of these areas, I

would love to share my notes with you. The top three “wins” over the past year for CASA were multi-entry visas for international students, exempting vehicles in federal student loan calculations, and ensuring that research funded by the government would be available as “open resources”, aka free.

Our executive team has been putting a lot of effort into writing our goals this year, but we are interested in trying something totally different, which may require us to stretch our timeline. Rather than writing our goals document within the executive committee, we are making it a priority to consult our staff. Your first exposure to our goals will be at Govcamp this coming weekend, where we will present to you our principles and concerns. After that, the executive will present them to our Senior Managers for feedback, and work with them to write up “means” to meet out “ends”, or possible next steps. We hope that this will allow us to better use the SU’s resources in achieving executive goals, and also build on the relationship between the executives and the rest of our organization.

By the time you read this council report, I will be in Canmore participating in transitions with our provincial lobby group, the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), but will hopefully be back for the next Council meeting!

P.S. The next board meeting is on Friday, June 20th at 8AM! Let me know if you want to observe!

All the best,

William Lau

[President](#) 2014-2015 | [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: ca.linkedin.com/in/whlau