

June 12th, 2014

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

From: William Lau, President 2014-2015

Re: Report to Students' Council (for June 17th, Meeting)

Dear Council,

The past couple weeks have been extremely exciting with students graduating left, right and centre. Although I decided to spend the time in the office and in meetings rather than on the stage of the Jubilee, the excitement was still visible from every corner of campus, from SUB to HUB. A quick thanks to Nicole as well for helping me schedule one-on-one meetings with you folks. The meetings have been great so far and it's been a blessing to find common goals with each of you and be able to share our resources to help you realize your full potential in your role as a Students' Union Councilor. Without further delay, here are the latest updates in each of the following topic areas:

External Advocacy

Federal Advocacy (CASA) with VP Khinda

CASA has had a board retreat recently and has divided up the roles of their board of directors. More importantly, our Policy & Strategy setting meeting will be coming up in early July in Nova Scotia to set the priorities for the year.

Provincial Advocacy (CAUS) with VP Khinda

The Quarterly meeting with the Minister of Innovation & Advanced Education (Premier Hancock) was extremely valuable. We were presented the measurable outcomes of the Campus Alberta System and are glad to hear that many of the outcomes align well with the goals that students have. A question was asked to the Premier about international student tuition rates, and Premier Hancock spoke strongly in favour of predictability and the possibility of regulating the IDF through a grandfather clause so that tuition increases would not affect current students. The largest immediate project for CAUS will be programming around the leadership races and making post-secondary education a priority for leadership candidates.

Municipal Advocacy with VP Khinda

There has been no movement with municipal advocacy since the previous meeting with NAIT, MacEwan, and Mayor Iveson. However, we will be following up with them soon to join our voices in asking the province to resolve the issue around Residential Property Taxes.

*Internal Advocacy**Lister Hall Students' Association with VP Diaz and VP Hodgson*

With the LHSA as a key building block of the Lister Hall Residence, the SU and the university administration is dedicated to ensuring their success in Fall 2014 to build a strong residence community to optimize the student experience of first year students. We have consulted the association's executives on what they need to have a successful year, and are working with senior administration to build a supportive environment for our student leaders in residence.

Athletics and Recreation with VP Diaz

The key focus this year with the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation will be the promotion of free Golden Bears & Pandas games. We have decided to first focus internally with our SUs Communications Strategy, and the promotion of the free games is in the pipeline for the piloting of the strategy.

International Students with VP Diaz

The strongest direct link with International Student Services this year will be in regards to the Peer (mentorship) program, as there is a high appetite to engage more domestic students in the program. How we do this is still unknown, and any suggestions would be appreciated! The strongest indirect link would of course be the International Students' Association, as they continue to plan programming and strengthen their Council over the next few months.

Fall Reading Week with VP Diaz

The list of representatives sitting on the FRW Programming Task Force was recently completed. I will be completing a list of questions to send out as "prework" before our first meeting.

Leadership Initiative with VP Orydzuk

I have determined that the strongest support I can give to the Leadership Initiative will be to increase Honorable Kim Campbell's awareness of the amazing work that is currently being done on our campus. I will be compiling a list of initiatives to introduce to her, encouraging partnerships between the initiative and existing structures.

Student Participation Protocol with VP Diaz and VP Orydzuk

Before we present our draft handbook to Council, the various stakeholders will need to have an extensive conversation about how the handbook should be used. We will strive to meet the needs in our written agreement by the given deadline (June 30th).

Student Health with VP Diaz

VP Diaz, Councilor Kwan and myself visited Calgary to attend a Wellness Summit that aimed to gather stakeholders across Alberta to create a Provincial Strategy for Student Mental Health. We will debrief on the summit later this week. Here are some of the key take-aways for me:

- Mental health is an issue that impacts the 5 in 5.
- We must be critical of our current service delivery model and explore innovative methods of engaging and supporting students.
- By the time a student accesses a service, it is too late.
- Although many students may identify as non-religious or non-spiritual, there are aspects of spirituality like self-reflection that are critical to one's mental health.

Academic Planning Committee with VP Orydzuk

The major topic of discussion at our last APC meeting was the institution's appetite to adopt Responsibility Centre Management (RCM), which would mean that units (ie faculties) would be responsible for managing their direct revenue and expenses rather than central administration. Although research shows many benefits, it will definitely have an impact on the undergraduate experience. What this impact will be though is yet to be determined.

Students' Union Internal Projects*Executive Goal Setting*

Goal-setting is well underway, and comprehensive goals should be ready to be presented to Council by mid-July.

Students' Council

Throughout my one-on-ones, I have seen the importance to have a clear orientation for first-year councilors so that they understand the responsibilities and scope of their new role. Discover Governance will be working on creating professional development opportunities for student representatives, and I hope you all think about what the SU could do to better your experience!

Strategic Plan

This is planned for Fall 2014.

Student Life Central

An initial meeting with services staff is scheduled for next week.

Board of Governors

For anyone interested in learning about our Board and its functions, please come out to observe our June 20th meeting in SAB 2-31 at 8:00AM. I have been meeting one-on-one with public board members and have various approaches to ensuring that my role on the board is effective and respectful. I am exploring the chance of inviting the Board Chair here to Council for a presentation so we can have a clearer idea of the Board's vision for the University.

All the best,

William Lau

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