

July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

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

**From:** William Lau, President 2014-2015

**Re:** Report to Students' Council (for July 8<sup>th</sup>, Meeting)

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Hey friends,

The past few weeks have been thoroughly enjoyable – I have to say the fireworks, long weekend, and beautiful weather has definitely contributed to it. Nonetheless, our team has still been spending countless hours in the office working in the best interest of the undergraduate students at the University of Alberta.

### *External Advocacy*

#### *Federal Advocacy (CASA) with VP Khinda*

- Sorry for our absence, we will be in Nova Scotia at the CASA Policy & Strategy Conference, setting our priorities for the upcoming academic year.

#### *Provincial Advocacy (CAUS) with VP Khinda*

- I missed our meeting in Lethbridge last week because I decided to stay in town for an internal SU Management Meeting where the SU executives discussed our goals with staff.
- Recent press release reminding the government of their recent elections promises, given the news of their newfound surplus: <http://caus.net/media/>

#### *Municipal Advocacy with VP Khinda*

- We are following up with our municipal partners join our voices in asking the province to resolve the issue around Residential Property Taxes.

### *Internal Advocacy*

#### *Board of Governors with Governor Hansra*

- A land trust has been established by the Board (unanimously) to generate revenue.
- Board Chair Doug Goss will be presenting on August 5<sup>th</sup> on the role of the Board as well as the Board's vision for our institution.

#### *Presidential Search Advisory Committee with VP Orydzuk*

- Shortlisting of candidates is due for September 2014.
- Group applications were turned down respectfully and correspondence with groups was mutually positive.

#### *Lister Hall Students' Association with VP Diaz and VP Hodgson*

- The group's appeal has been delayed until the Fall semester.
- Most urgent issue is to ensure that their elections are held and that there are room allocations for their elected representatives.

#### *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.
- Conversations will be ongoing to promote the September 4<sup>th</sup> Golden bears vs Vikings Hockey Game.

#### *International Students with VP Diaz*

- Through an exit survey, the top three issues that international students prioritized were:
  - Career Transitions
    - University of Alberta International (UAI) now has a working group to enhance internships and co-op programs.
  - Housing & Residences
    - VP Diaz will followup to join advocacy efforts.
  - Integration with Domestic Students
    - Ongoing discussions about supporting the Peer (Mentorship) Program.

#### *Fall Reading Week with VP Diaz*

- The first task force meeting is currently being scheduled. A doodle and a google doc was sent out to the representatives.

*Leadership Initiative with VP Orydzuk*

- The SU has recently been tasked with two challenges:
  - How can we broaden the scope of the leadership initiative to impact 10,000 undergraduate students?
  - How can we connect existing “leadership”-type programming with the leadership initiative?
- A mini-retreat has been scheduled to plan a strategy to propose solutions for these two challenges.

*Student Participation Protocol with VP Diaz and VP Orydzuk*

- The handbook is in its final stages as we pass it around for final edits.
- A presentation to Council is in the pipeline.

*Student Health with VP Diaz*

- My key action item is to send out a joint “Call to Action” with both the GSA President and the University President to arouse the campus community in creating a Vibrant Campus Strategy.
- We currently have the opportunity to be a partner in a national research project studying service delivery for youth with mental health issues. More information at [www.tramcan.ca](http://www.tramcan.ca)

*Academic Planning Committee with VP Orydzuk*

- A Cardiovascular Translational Science Institute will be established.
- A Freestanding For-Credit Post-Master’s Certificate in Business Fundamentals will be proposed to Board Learning and Discovery Committee.
- A Freestanding For-Credit Post-Master’s Certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship will be proposed to Board Learning and Discovery Committee.
- A Master of Accounting (MAcc) degree will be proposed to Board Learning and Discovery Committee.
- The Master of Arts (MA) in Women’s and Gender Studies will now be called MA in Gender and Social Justice Studies.

### *Students' Union Internal Projects*

#### *Executive Goal Setting*

- Management was excited to be a part of the executive goal setting process.
- Goals have been set, and the final document is being compiled.

#### *Students' Council*

- If you could not only have support to understand the operations of Council, but support in your day-to-day activities as a Student Councilor, what might you want/need?

#### *Strategic Plan*

- This is planned for Fall 2014.
- Currently planning the process with General Manager Dumouchel.

#### *Student Life Central*

- All is under control in the hands of staff!
- One recent addition to the list of opportunities to promote is Crowdfunding (USEED)

All the best,

**William Lau**

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