

September 9th, 2014

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

From: William Lau, President 2014-2015

Re: Report to Students' Council (for September 9th, Meeting)

Dear Council,

Wow. Not "Week of Welcome", but actually - wow.

The past couple weeks have been so extremely energizing yet so... draining. Since students have been arriving on campus, things have been going extremely well. From Basecamp (1st year residence orientation) and Transitions (international student orientation) to New Student Orientation and Week of Welcome, every interaction, speech, and activity has been pure bliss.

One item I'm extremely proud of is the unprecedented turnout at Week of Welcome events. The Movie Night on Wednesday filled the Horowitz, and the Comedy Night afterwards filled Dinwoodie Lounge. I'll use photos to share a few highlights throughout my report :)

I don't know which action triggered our students to be so hyperengaged this year, but hopefully they sustain the energy and carry the momentum throughout the year. If any of you visit our services in the lower level or our staff in SUB 2-900, please do reach out and show your appreciation to our programming staff and services staff that made it all happen.



*Retention from day 1 to day 2 of orientation was amazingly high this year; Presidents' Address on day 2 of orientation filled the entire Jubilee Auditorium, and tears were flowing...

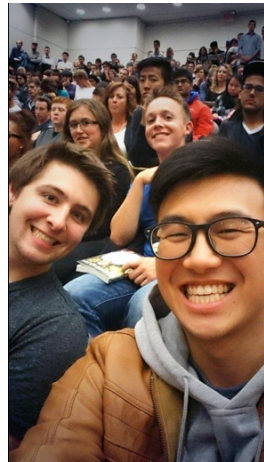
In the midst of all the joy has been the uncertainty around market modifiers. Our team has tasked Vice President Hodgson with moving forward a process to help clarify our Policies and Bylaws in hopes to give Faculty Associations clearer guidance as to what "council approval" may require. Following up on our fear presented at the previous Council meeting, the Faculty of Law isn't the only faculty submitting a proposal for market modifiers, and it is more important now than ever to ensure that our Students' Unions processes are clearly outlined. On the bright side, the Ministry has communicated to the University that proposals will be accepted until mid October, which will hopefully allow Faculty Associations to pursue due diligence in presenting to Council and seeking our approval. I am also asking for permission to present to Deans' Council to outline to the deans what the Students' Union's stance is on market modifiers and how to work with us together through the process.

Some might think that the excitement is winding down, but the entire month of September is packed. Come September 15th, our entire exec team will be running a campaign across campus to encourage students to join us in doing great things. We will be out doing class talks and one-on-ones now that we know what our jobs entail, and encourage other students to start planning for their university life and perhaps even considering running for office. At the end of this week, on the **19th, it will be Green & Gold Day**, where we are all encouraged to wear our Green & Gold and meet out in Quad at noon for a group photo. This day is also complemented by a T-shirt and hoodie sale in the bookstore. I hear there is also a sock fight (like a snowball fight) in Quad as well...The weekend of the **20th also marks Alumni Weekend**, where I would encourage you all to come out at 9:30AM to meet with past SU alumni that took part in previous SUB renovations. Later that night, there will be a part in Quad where the band **The Wet Secrets will be performing**. Please mark these dates in your calendar ;)



*Our Provost was kind enough to take the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge and also invited me to join him :)

Another highlight over the past couple weeks was the ALS ice bucket challenge with our dear Provost, Dr. Carl Amrhein. As he accepted my nomination, he agreed to not only complement his ice bucket challenge with a donation, but also offered to double the donation if I was to accept his counter-challenge. In response to his counter-challenge, I asked that he simply mirror the donation and contribute to Student Group Grants rather than double his donation to ALS. This experience, doubled with my time on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee has lead me to think about my role as SU President, and whether there is merit or potential in having me play a larger role in revenue generation for our organization, like many University Presidents are now expected to do for their institutions. Anyways, this was a good start, and allowed us to acquire a donation equivalent to a modest start-up grant. We followed up this challenge by nominating our VPs - the Students' Union Vice-Presidents, and the University of Alberta Vice-Provosts. They will be completing the challenge this **Friday at 3:30pm outside the Admin Building.**



*Speaker Brett Wilson filled a CCIS lecture hall, with students sitting in the aisle steps, waiting outside, and even sitting on the floor in the front of the lecture hall.

So if you can't tell, I really have been having a lot of fun. It's not all fun though. As the months roll on, business is still taking place. One process we are now kicking off is the Students' Union **Strategic Planning Committee**. We will be nominating two Councilors this meeting to join me at the table. We have also gotten a start to planning programming for Fall Reading Week 2015.

Cheers 🍷

William Lau

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