

September 29th, 2016

To: Students' Council 2016 – 17

From: Fahim Rahman, Students' Union President 2016 – 17

Re: Students' Union Council Report #11

Hi Council,

The events don't seem to stop! Gov Week wrapped up not too long ago and was a hit with many students. We also had a largely successful turban tying event with many Sikh students on campus in response to some hateful messaging seen on campus last week.

Here is an update on my duties:

1. Turban Tying Event

Arundeeep Singh Sandu reached out to me last week after seeing the hateful posters on campus, and asked about doing a turban tying event on campus. We initially wanted to do it in Quad, but when we saw the paperwork that needed to be done we moved quickly to SUBstage.

The event was a huge success, and couldn't have been done without the Sikh Students' Association, World Sikh Organization and help from plenty of SU staff. I'm hopeful the Sikh Students' Association has found a great starting path to be a successful group on campus.

2. Gov Week

GovWeek has wrapped up, and definitely got the word out to students about how they can get involved with the Students' Union, University governance and beyond. I particularly enjoyed connecting with the other CAUS members who attended Thursday and Friday's events, as well as speaking with MLAs Cortes-Vargas, Shepherd, Dr. Turner, Minister Schimdt and MPs Cooper and Diotte.

3. Sexual Assault Policies & Gender-Based Violence Support

VP Ghossein and I attended the Edmonton launch of the #IBelieveYou campaign, which VP Ghossein spoke at. We also organized a session where we filmed some statements from students talking about why they feel there is a need for the #IBelieveYou campaign in the first place.

The two of us also spoke in a suite at the Eskimos game on the need to tackle gender-based violence in Edmonton. Ms. Colleen Pirie organized the event and it was great to have partners in the Edmonton Eskimos and Huskies on this issue.

4. Tuition & MNIFs

I attended the first meeting of the MNIF Oversight committee with VP Ghossein and VP Paches, where we discussed a new reporting structure for MNIFs. Ideally, this will give more clarity to students on where their fees are going towards in terms of services and programs run by the University.

VP Sandare and I were at the Tuition Budget Advisory Committee, where we asked about plans for domestic and international student tuition after this year. On domestic tuition, we are waiting for a mandate from the provincial government and have contingency plans for student consultation based on when the government announces the mandate.

For international students, the university is not regulated to restrict any increases. I am hopeful that tuition is merely increasing by inflation, as it is a predictable and affordable change, but couldn't get a sense of what was on the table from the Provost.

5. Residences

The Request for Proposals for the Residence Life Task Force has gone live, and VP Ghossein and I are awaiting applications to come to the university before we review them together.

The full executive also attended a consultation meeting on the meal plan, which VP Ghossein, VP Paches and myself had quite a few concerns with.

A month has passed since the Board's motion to collect fees for residence associations by September 1st has not fulfilled. This is a large red flag for myself as a member of the Board of Governors, because the University administration has failed to collect these fees by the September 1st deadline set out.

I'm also concerned because it is within the Post-Secondary Learning Act that the Students' Association governs "the maintain of the association by the levy of membership fees on its members". To me this clearly is being defied by the administration.

To date, we've met four times with the Dean of Students' office on this topic since flagging it on July 7th. We're just about a month past our deadline, and I have no reassurances that this will be done in any timely manner. I suspect more aggressive advocacy will be needed on this front.

6. Board of Governors & GFC

I attended a meeting of Board Finance & Property Committee, where we approved the revised Terms of Reference and Work Plan for the year, as well as a few other asset items. I also took some notes during the Tuition briefing update from TBAC. Board Learning & Discovery Committee also met last week, and covered quite similar items on the agenda.

Lastly, I presented our executive goals to both BLDC and GFC. A question on what the SU is doing in response to textbook costs came up at GFC.

7. Council Business

I attended Bylaw where I presented by feedback after reviewing Bylaws 3000 and 6100. There was only one change that wasn't approved on the basis of not being an editorial change.

8. Presence & Relevancy

There were quite a few events around campus the past two weeks, especially with Alumni Weekend. I spoke at both the University's Celebrate! event, recognizing the hard work students, staff and professors put into the academy. I also connected with some of the first year recipients of awards.

I introduced the award winners at the Alumni Awards Ceremony in the Jubilee, and handed out medals at the Cap n Gown ceremony for the alumni class of 1966.

Finally, the full executive had a great meeting with the core leadership of VP Facilities and Operations Andrew Sharman, who joined us on September 1st, 2016. We covered our respective goals for the year and gave each other some feedback too. We all attended the formal launch of the University's Strategic Plan, For the Public Good (FPG).

That's all from me folks! Looking forward to the next report,



Fahim Rahman
President

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