

March 9th, 2017

To: Students' Council 2016 – 17

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

Re: Students' Union Council Report #22

Hi Council,

Elections have taken campus by storm, as we've seen many students come out to forums, ask questions, and become involved in the democratic process here. I hope the trend continues for the upcoming Council elections, because of the important work you all do. I'm submitting this report before the results of the Executive and Board elections are announced, but congratulations and thank you to everyone who participated as a candidate, volunteer, or engaged voter.

VP Sandare and I will be away for this Council meeting, as we have a CASA AGM in sunny Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

Here is an update on my activities since we last met:

1. Student Groups

VP Ghossein, GM Dumouchel and I presented our feedback to the Dean of Students office on the draft Student Groups policy suite. We are working with the Dean of Students to provide more clarity for the type of risks they consider when recognizing student groups on campus, as well as ensuring that decision review panels are as neutral as possible, possibly through an appeals committee.

2. Lister and PLH Meal Plan

The Lister meal plan, which is a variant on the old declining balance program, has been approved by BFPC and will be coming to Board for final approval this coming Friday. The declining balance aspect of the plan gives students sufficient flexibility in my opinion, and I'm hopeful we're able to extend the operating hours later relative to the old program.

The Peter Lougheed Hall meal plan, which was an anytime dining model, was approved by BFPC. I voted against the proposal, as there hadn't been sufficient consultation with students and not enough flexibility was provided. I also am very concerned that the occupancy rates for the PLH will be lower than the projected 95%, creating even larger pressure on the already strained university budget.

3. CASA

I attended my first Board meeting for CASA, which had a very packed agenda. Key items approved here were the plenary agendas for our AGM next week, as well as a partnership with UEQ (Union Étudiante du Québec). This would give CASA the ability to represent Quebec students, while giving UEQ more legitimacy on federal advocacy for Quebec students.

4. Academic Governance

I attended the Committee on the Learning Environment on behalf of VP Banister, and gave an update on the activities of the teaching stream subcommittee. A report is ready for GFC CLE approval, and then will hopefully be presented to GFC Exec with a recommendation that the research obtained here is acted upon.

I also attended GFC Exec on behalf of VP Banister, where we approved the draft agenda for the upcoming GFC meeting.

I also attended the Academic Planning Committee's meeting, which received a few reports from other bodies on campus. We are awaiting the results of the provincial budget on March 16th, as well as the federal budget March 22nd.

5. Non-Academic Governance

I attended a meeting of the Residence Advisory Committee where a discussion point was developing consequences for students who opt-out of their residence association fee payments. I also attended a meeting of the Student Accessibility Services Advisory committee, where accessible washrooms was a prominent topic. Lastly, the VP Research search committee met to discuss the search process.

6. CAUS

A subgroup of CAUS met to discuss our contingency plans in case of a shortfall in mental health funding, that I attended on behalf of VP Sandare. We're currently writing letters to the Ministers of Health, Advanced Education and Finance about the importance of this funding in advance of the budget being released.

7. Interviews

I was present for the funding announcement by Minister Sohi for the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, supporting 14 research projects here at the University of Alberta. The Gateway asked for comment on some graffiti that has been spotted around campus, as this isn't the first time we have seen graffiti here. Finally, a visiting student from Germany involved with her campus SU interviewed me on the SU's role with the government and university, to take notes back to her colleagues.

8. Presence and Relevancy

I had a great time speaking at the High School Model United Nations organized by some talented U of A students. I also was invited to speak to students in the Emerging Leaders Program alongside a few other leaders in the Edmonton community.

9. U-Pass

Running the U-Pass campaign has been a pleasure, thanks to the lovely poster design by Nelson Cao and website design by Sai Vemula. Most the feedback I've received is on improving the length and frequency of service at Sherwood Park, as well as expanding the conditions for opting out based on



your residence's proximity to campus. I believe both these items can be addressed by future executives and the City of Edmonton in advance of the next referendum, and hopefully implemented.

(I mean, VP Paches has a great track record of getting good deals with the City of Edmonton...)

Looking forward to the next meeting. All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'FR' with a stylized flourish.

Fahim Rahman

President

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