

January 23, 2017

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Students' Council

Hello Council,

It's been a busy few weeks since our last meeting! Please find a summary of my work below.

University Business

SURO

The executive and I met with the team from the Registrar. We discussed the new enrollment information, demographic collection, as well as the MacLean's rankings! It was a very interesting meeting and enrollment is up across the board.

Alumni Council – Benefits Committee

I attended an alumni council benefits committee meeting last week. It was interesting and we are trying to find more ways to partner with alumni owned businesses to get discounts for U of A alumni. I am the only "millennial" on the committee and am able to bring an interesting perspective on how to engage with recent graduates.

APC

I attended an Academic Planning Committee meeting. We discussed updates to the Peter Lougheed Leadership College, the budget cuts, as well as changes to the Modern Languages and Cultural Students (MLCS) department. The University took a very odd governance approach to passing the MLCS motion at APC, as it had not yet been to the Academic Standards Committee, where it normally goes first. There was also interesting discussion on how no indigenous languages had been considered in the proposal, a criticism of the proposal which I agree with.

Upcoming Meetings

In the next few days I will have a Board Working Group, which discusses how to make the board the most effective it can be. I also have meetings with the Provost and Dean of Students. It is a turbulent time in the University with the budget cuts, but we are making sure students are being as minimally affected as possible during this process.

Marina Banister, *President*

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External Business

Municipal

VP Larsen and I are continuing to meet with the newly elected and returning city councilors. We have recently met with Councillor Hendersen, Councillor Esslinger, and Councillor Paquette. All of them had an interest in what students are doing in the field of innovation. We also spoke extensively about housing options in the surrounding area and how to make sure University has better child care.

Minister Schmidt/AntiFreeze

Advanced Education Minister, Marlin Schmidt, attended an Antifreeze event the other day. It was very fun and a great way for him to see the U of A spirit! Overall, Antifreeze was a huge success and we had a record amount of teams register.

Other Exciting Endeavors

Internal Business

Since it is the start of a new semester, we have had lots of internal meetings amongst our staff to discuss what we want the future to look like. This includes an upcoming full-day managers meeting where we discuss with our senior staff the current situation at the Students' Union as well as how to improve.

Everything else!

VP Scott hosted a very successful student governance mixer in Dewey's. I believe over 60 people come! Thank you to all of the councilors who came out.

Closing Remarks

My Winter semester office hours will be Tuesdays from 12:00PM-1:00PM in SUB 2-900! Feel free to drop by if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything.

Thank you for reading my report and happy to answer any questions you may have.

Marina Banister
UASU President

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