

August 10th, 2012

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

Dear Council,

I hope that you have enjoyed the past three weeks of rain, sunshine, and festivals. It seems to me that August really is an exciting month for the city of Edmonton, as there seems to be a new festival or community event every second day.

The past three weeks have most certainly been the most stressful of my time in office dealing with the Lister situation. Through these tough times I have become hugely impressed with the work of my colleagues as they continue to step up and rise to the occasion to protect the student voice. We truly have a great team here at the SU and for that I am forever thankful.

Here is an update of the last three weeks.

Lister Changes

We have decided that the best way to communicate the recent set of events is through a presentation that you will be receiving at Council on Tuesday. To quickly summarize the events: we have employed a heavy public media strategy to receive feedback from the community on the issue and to keep the public informed of the SU/LHSA's side of the story. We have also had a number of meetings with the university administration in which we have hoped to resolve the issue but have thus far been unsuccessful. I am very worried about the future of Lister; it's rich culture and history, it's one-of-a-kind community environment, and the health and safety of our incoming and returning residents who may be moving in to a very dangerous environment (I will explain why in the presentation) come September.

Government Orientation

The VPA, VPX, DRPA, IO Adam Woods, and I attended government orientation hosted by the Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education at the Government House. We spent some time with the Ministry and our colleagues from ASEC and AGC and shared our PSE related goals for the year. We also had a few question and answer periods and a number of PSE themed brainstorming sessions. I had a great time at the orientation and learned a lot about the Ministry and their goals. It was also a great opportunity to meet many of our counterparts from around the province.

CAUS Meeting and Teleconference

CAUS has been very busy and we have been cranking out a number of documents including a Board Job Description, an Ordinary Residence Lobby Document – Elections Act, our submission to the Social Policy Framework, and our Government Budget Proposal. We have also been busy lobbying for change on municipal property taxes on residences and have been laying the groundwork for our Alberta Student

Conference in the winter semester. Also it has been discovered that the VPX is quite frightened by bees.

Residence Budget Advisory Committee - RBAC

At the last RBAC meeting, the VPSL, DRPA, and me debated on a large docket of issues with F&O including their new residence agreement terms for breaking a residence contract (which was also implemented without consultation), the new East Campus Housing Project, and HUB security. I also grilled the admin on the financial optics of the recent Lister changes.

Fall Reading Week - Update

I have begun contacting all of the Deans to discuss their thoughts on the Fall Reading Week proposal. So far we have received mixed reviews but most Deans have been generally supportive with few major concerns. I am a bit behind on this effort, as the Lister work has taken up literally all of my time in the past few weeks. I will also be contacting a few key Faculty Associations that may have the most feedback on the proposal because of their unique schedules.

City of Edmonton Waste Management Tour

I went on an Office of Sustainability sponsored tour of the Edmonton Waste Management Facility as part of the ecoREPs program. The facility is one of the top in the world and they have a significant amount of cutting edge technology to help reduce the impact of our waste on the environment. It was mentioned that the facility currently diverts nearly 60% of all incoming waste with the majority of it being turned into compost. In the near future they plan to increase the diversion rate to 90% as they are building a new facility that will be able to break down complex carbon materials into natural gas. The tour was very informative.

Meeting with the BSA

I went for dinner with the BSA President Jessa Aco last night to discuss our organizational goals for the year and to brainstorm ways that we can work together. It was mentioned by Jessa that the SU and BSA traditionally have not had the best relationship but that she is very committed to working with me to improve our relations. I was very impressed with the BSA's plans and they seem to have a very strong executive team! I look forward to working with them closely this year.

Goals Document

I realize that I have still yet to send out my finalized goals document to Council and that I am in violation of Bylaw 4000 because of this. I will have the document out to Council as soon as possible (hopefully tonight). I hope that you can accept my apology for my tardiness, as I literally have not had a second to work on it in the past three weeks as literally all of my time has been committed to working on the Lister issue. We are doing our best to resolve what has become a momentous issue for an enormous amount of our students and the Students' Union as a whole. I will always prioritize the community and health and safety of our students above all else.

Summary

Thank you all for your time and please be ready for a very important council meeting on Tuesday.
Have a great weekend!

If you have any further questions, suggestions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to follow-up with me, either in person at SUB 2-900, by phone at 780-492-4236, or by email at president@su.ualberta.ca.

Best,

-Colten Yamagishi