

Date: 02/22/22**To:** Students' Union Council**Re:** President Report 02/22/22

Dear Council,

I want to start by thanking each and every one of you who took the time to join us at our march to the Legislature today— and most of all, those of you who went the extra mile and supported us by doing 100+ class talks. I am very proud of the turnout and of the message it sent about our community. As Councilors, your support is absolutely critical in being able to mobilize our community, and we are grateful for your work.

No More Cuts March and Rally

I am pleased to say that we estimate 350 students, faculty, and staff attended our No More Cuts rally held in collaboration with the Graduate Students' Association, Academic Staff Association, and Non-Academic Staff Association. Given that classes are online and few people are on campus, this is a great turnout— I worked at the legislature for three years and very few protests even crack 100. This makes me confident that with a return to campus, bigger and better things are possible. Of course the media plays a critical role in helping us spread our message, and I am pleased to say that CBC, Global TV, CTV, CityTV, and the Gateway were all in attendance. Thanks to them our message will reach hundreds of thousands of people across Alberta.

While no single protest will change a budget or save Alberta's post-secondary system, today was a big step in the right direction. I also owe a special thanks to a very good boy, Hank, for joining us! He graciously agreed to take a photo with me.

**Rowan Ley, President**2-900 SUB | 780 492 4241 | president@su.ualberta.ca

Online/Hybrid Learning Quality


VP Monteiro and I have been continuing to work on addressing the shortfalls in learning quality this semester. The main challenge we have identified, aside from insufficient support for instructors, is a lack of clear direction from central administration on issues like hybrid delivery, accommodations for students who have to isolate, etc. We are working with the University to get this addressed, and we hope substantial changes will be made to this situation in the coming days.

We are also pleased to see two wins that respond to our demands. The University has hired Alan Ball as a Provost's Fellow to overhaul accessibility services, the failures of which due to under-resourcing were a major issue in our survey. While this is not a short-term solution to accessibility services issues, it is a very promising step for long-term fixes. Additionally, the U of A announced two days after our demands came out that it would return fully in-person on the 28th, in response to our demand regarding clarity on plans for the rest of the semester. This was well before the announcement at other post-secondary institutions in Alberta, which provided a level of stability and certainty here that was unavailable elsewhere. That being said, we understand that this is not ideal for all students, and our commitment to ensuring the best hybrid options possible is meant to mitigate that.

COVID Safety on Campus

We were disappointed to see the University's decision to eliminate the CampusReady vaccine requirement, and particularly disappointed by the inappropriate pressure from the province that led to it. But the maintenance of the mask mandate is much more important to us, as regardless of the status of CampusReady, almost all students are either vaccinated or verified as exempt. While the elimination of CampusReady is not ideal, our focus will be on maintaining the mask mandate and ensuring access to high-quality masks for the remainder of the semester.

Have a wonderful reading week, and get the rest you deserve!



University of Alberta Students' Union President
Rowan Ley