

Date: 05/05/22**To:** Students' Union Council**Re:** President Report 05/05/22

Dear Council,

I am pleased to give one final update on exploration credits. Our proposal passed at GFC 93-1, a great success for students. Over the summer, the Registrar's Office will be working to train advisors on Exploration Credits so they are prepared to explain it to students in the Fall, and the university is sorting out final details around exactly how you select the option. This is a great success to student advocacy, and for me personally, I am very pleased that Abner and I can leave this legacy behind when we graduate. This is an idea I've been thinking about since second year, and I am glad to have seen it through all the way. My focus now is moving towards smoothly wrapping up my year and passing the baton over to Abner's team, who I know will be very successful in their own right.

Transition and Retreat Planning

Between now and May 1st my main focus is on planning and enabling a strong transition to VP Monteiro. Preparing a transition document and plan for our incoming/outgoing retreat is time-consuming, but critically important.

Day of Action on the 28th

We executed our planned Day of Action protest against provincial cuts on Monday the 28th, and while the weather was terrible, I am pleased with the results. We had two MLAs in attendance, secured strong coverage on both CBC and CTV evening news and potentially in the Globe and Mail, and had an excellent opportunity to highlight the stories of students in a more personal and relatable way. I would like to share a few key quotes. Discussing exceptional tuition increases in Engineering, ESS President Adrian Wattamaniuk said "there are a lot of students who are being pushed out of a career that they could have been exceptional in — a lot of people from a diversity of backgrounds who could have been exceptional engineers".

Tyler Beaulac, a Métis law student, commented that "[exceptional tuition increases] are making access to the legal system itself and to a legal education more difficult for marginalized communities to meet". The theme throughout many of these stories is that exceptional tuition increases and cuts are driving diversity and talent out of our province.

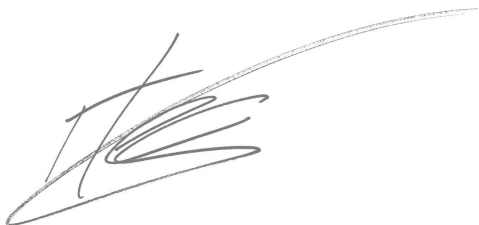
This is an important time for us to emphasize the importance of PSE policy to migration from Alberta. We are seeing record youth emigration from Alberta despite our lower housing prices and higher wages, showing that something is deeply wrong in our province. I would encourage you all to [read the full report](#) to better understand how brain drain is affecting Alberta's future, and how our work in post-secondary advocacy can be part of the solution.

Board of Governors

I attended my last meeting of the Board of Governors last week after two years serving as a governor. This meeting included the approval of tuition rates and the University budget. All student representatives and Andrei Tabirca, NASA representative, voted against the tuition proposal. The proposals and budget did pass regardless.

We also approved the University's proposed Investment Management Agreement with the province, including our performance-based funding metrics, for the next three years. The other student representatives and I supported this motion because the new IMA is not that concerning for students— all of the formerly problematic elements of performance-based funding have basically been watered down into irrelevance. There are now only three metrics; enrollment (easy for us to do), percentage of graduates in related jobs two years after graduation (already 97%), and percentage of programs offering work-integrated learning opportunities (there are no meaningful standards for what constitutes work-integrated learning). The performance-based funding metrics are now essentially not a threat to students or the University's funding. Post-secondary consulting expert [Alex Usher's tweets](#) say it all on this matter.

Abner and I are also working on making the Council transition as smooth and convenient as possible. Please contact us if we can be of any support in the transition to your successor. As always, we are here if you have any questions.
Sincerely,



University of Alberta Students' Union President
Rowan Ley