

Date: 05/18/21

To: Students' Union Council

Re: President's Report 05/18/21

Dear Council,

It feels like it has only been two days since our last meeting-- the last week has flown by. The Executive team has been working tirelessly to both transition into our roles and learn the ropes, and deal with the running stream of issues to deal with as they come. We're still making time to get outside and enjoy the sunshine, though, and you should as well! This week I went on a few bike rides, and am very proud to have now explored every ravine in the Edmonton river valley. I am off to find new places to check out, so let me know if you have recommended cycling destinations!

A Week in the Job

If you've ever wondered what a week in the role of the UASU President is like, here's my calendar for the last week-- it's always lively and interesting! Keep in mind there is roughly a 1-1 ratio between time spent in most of our meetings and time spent preparing for them and following up on action items, which doesn't show up in the calendar. The first two weeks can often be especially busy as we go through a wide variety of transition tasks, including meeting managers, introductions with university administrators, and more.

Meeting with Mayor Iveson

VP Fotang and I, along with our partners from MacEwan and NAIT, met with Mayor Don Iveson on Wednesday. It was a great opportunity to discuss how we can make transit safe, reliable, and convenient, how to increase the supply of affordable housing around campus, and much more. I find folks can sometimes forget how important the municipal government is in our lives-- creating the spaces students live in makes a huge difference in our quality of life. We discussed a recent report by the



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City on security measures on transit, which you can find [here](#).

VP Fotang and I also discussed how students can best engage in the democratic process in the next municipal election, and in city government in general. We have a variety of plans, and we hope to increase our municipal presence considerably.

Asian Heritage Month

I am pleased to let you all know that the UASU will be celebrating May as Asian Heritage Month. Stay tuned for content on our social media in the coming two weeks celebrating and honouring the resilience, excellence, and contribution of Asian communities on our campus.

CAUS Changeover and Transition

VP Fotang and I also attended the CAUS Changeover conference over the weekend. At Changeover we do advocacy and media training, learn about the provincial policy issues affecting students, and select the year's CAUS Executive team. I am very pleased that this year's Chair will be Rachel Timmermans of Mount Royal University, and the Vice Chair will be Matthew Yanish of MacEwan. I've worked closely with Rachel and have complete confidence in her work. As the now-former Chair, I will be working in the coming weeks to transition Rachel smoothly into the role, seamlessly keeping progress on a variety of our projects going.

We are also continuing our planning process for the year, through working on the Executive Goals and assessing potential risks. This does look like it will be an unusual and challenging year, and we will be having many discussions later this summer about how to navigate the challenges ahead. Your insights will be vital in helping the Executive make this year a success under difficult circumstances.

Cheers,



University of Alberta Students' Union President
Rowan Ley

