

**Date:** 07/27/21**To:** Students' Union Council**Re:** President's Report 07/27/21

Dear Council,

I hope you're all feeling well as we move into our last month before our return to campus! I couldn't be more excited to see you all in Council Chambers again and feeling the energy of a full campus. On another personal note, I will also mention that it was my birthday on the 21st, and I set up a little fundraiser for the Campus Food Bank. If you are in a position to donate and would like to, the donation link will be active on my Facebook page until the 31st! With need at the Food Bank poised to spike amidst economic weakness and return to campus, it's meaningful to me that we can help support the important work they do.

**Council of Alberta University Students Counterparts conference**

As I'm writing this, the Executive team is in Lethbridge for one of our three annual Counterparts conferences with our fellow Executives from the University of Lethbridge Students' Union (ULSU), University of Calgary Students' Union (UCSU), Athabasca University Students' Union (AUSU), Students' Association of Mount Royal University (SAMRU), and Students' Association of MacEwan University (SAMU). These are the member organizations of our provincial advocacy group, the Council of Alberta University Students, of which VP Fotang and I are board members.



Counterparts is an important opportunity to connect with student leaders working on the same issues we are and share best practices. For example, we held a session on the first afternoon exploring the steps our student associations are taking to improve consultation and engagement practices with Indigenous students and major Indigenous advocacy priorities. While Counterparts is a lot of work, we do try to socialize a little. After work, we also had the opportunity to play a few rounds of disc golf!

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**Translation Grant Application**

Our grant application to the federal Department of Canadian Heritage to support translation of the bylaws, election packages, and outstanding political policies has been approved by Translation Committee at its first meeting. Our external relations team has submitted the application. We hope to hear back from the Department in the next month, though unfortunately it does seem like timelines may be somewhat longer than we had expected. We have also received a quote from a professional translator and are prepared to have the documents translated as soon as our grant is confirmed by the grant, which will hopefully happen in the early fall.

**Faculty Association Collaboration**

Vice-President Monteiro and I are meeting with the faculty associations affected by exceptional tuition increases. We believe it is important to work collaboratively with FAs to determine our next steps on the increases and proceed in a way that has the support of students in the program. We are currently working with faculty associations to identify shortcomings in the ETI proposals, and develop a set of standards for what meaningful consultation could look like in the future.

**Return to Campus**

In general, my work and the work of the Executive is focused on enabling a smooth return to campus after significant change in the community. We are focused on ramping up our events in the fall to a level more comparable to a normal year, and are working with our staff to find resources to support improved student life.

Speaking of student life, RATT on the Patio is back! On Thursdays until 6 PM, head out in front of the SUB atrium and enjoy some great food (I specifically recommend the fish tacos) and cheap drinks. The Exec often comes down after work, and we are always happy to hang out and enjoy the sun!

Cheers,



University of Alberta Students' Union President  
**Rowan Ley**