

Date: 31/11/21**To:** Students' Union Council**Re:** President Report 30/11/21

Dear Council,

I hope you are all doing well in this cold and icy weather and that you are gearing up for final exams! Myself, I am preparing to write a large term paper over the next week, so I completely empathize with the academic stress of this time of year. I am always here to support you, as is the rest of the executive team, if there is anything we can do. I do hope that you are all looking forward to our holiday party, which will be a great way to relax and spend some social time together before we go into the grind of exams!

Continued ETI advocacy

Much of my time in the last few weeks has been consumed by our continued advocacy against the University's exceptional tuition increase proposals. We will need to discuss this as a Council soon, as there are a number of serious issues that have come up in the second phase of consultations which I believe strengthen our case against the proposals. This week, our research team and I have prepared a letter and evidence package for Minister Nicolaides informing him of some of the more important aspects of the ETIs. We hope that he will do the right thing and turn the majority of the proposals down, but we remain prepared to take action regardless of his decision and continue our advocacy against these devastating increases.

Continuing the fight against campus sexual violence

VP Dixon has taken the lead in continuing our fight against campus sexual violence, and our press for improved reporting mechanisms, restorative justice practices, and more. I am sure most of you have seen our open letter, cosigned by every SRA and NASA, which is the basis for our advocacy moving forward. The ten points in the letter have been discussed with Administration, and while there are still significant challenges, I believe we are on the verge of a serious breakthrough in campus sexual violence advocacy-- one that has been years in the making.

Residential School Deaths Memorial

The Executive team was grateful for the opportunity to participate in Aboriginal Students' Council and Council Administration Committee's memorial for Indigenous children who died while at residential schools. The display in quad is a visceral reminder of the crimes committed by the Canadian government, and is an important reminder for students to not forget their role in reconciliation. Engaging in these kinds of acts is important to us as a team and an organization-- not just on September 30th, but throughout the year and the rest of our lives. Thank you to Cllrs. Villosio and Beaulieu-Mercredi for their hard work in organizing the event, and to every councillor who took the time to join us.

Trans Day of Remembrance and advocacy for Trans students

Rowan Ley, Vice President External

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The Executive team was honoured to participate in the Trans Day of Remembrance vigil organized by Cllr. Morris. Our team and organization were grateful for the opportunity to honour those who have lost their lives to transphobic violence, and to recommit to our advocacy goals to support Trans and non-binary students on our campus.

In that advocacy, I am pleased that we have discussed with the Registrar's Office and Student Legal Services a new initiative which will allow students to change their legal name and name on university documents free of cost on campus. I look forward to sharing further details on Tuesday. VPs Dixon and Monteiro will have further information about our progress on advocacy for Trans students within their portfolios.

Have a wonderful weekend folks, and as always please feel free to get in touch any time!



University of Alberta Students' Union President
Rowan Ley