

February 27, 2018

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Students' Council

Hello Council,

I hope everyone had a nice reading week! Hard to believe there are only a few more months left in the year. Congratulations to all those currently running in the executive and board of governors elections.

University Business

Board Work

The Board of Governors and Academic Planning Committee members attended a comprehensive institutional plan (CIP) briefing run by university administration. It was very interesting because it spoke to how the university is going to be budgeting their money moving forward. There was a lot of debate on if the budget reflected the values of the university as outlined in For the Public Good. After this I also attended a Board Working Group meeting where we discussed how to make the board more effective. I continue to find these meetings very interesting and am committed to seeing the board work more effectively for students.

Signature Areas

I attended a signature areas meeting for the University. As some of you may know, the University is announcing several areas which it will highlight the areas our University is outstanding in. I'm not allowed to reveal too much yet, but I think the areas that have been selected are excellent.

APC

I attended an Academic Planning Committee meeting. The most important item on the agenda, in my opinion, was the vote on international students' tuition. As some of you may know, **the University is proposing to increase international students' tuition by 3.14%. The vote passed at APC with 7 in favor and 6 against. It was a very close vote with lots of debate.** It is important to note that the Students' Union and Graduate Students' Association were able to make a presentation on why we are not supportive of the cost increase before the vote, as well as there is a vacant seat for second undergraduate student on the committee.

Marina Banister, *President*

2-900 SUB • 780 492 4236 • marina.banister@su.ualberta.ca

Cannabis

I have been put on a committee that is looking at how to consult the university community about the future of cannabis on campus. I have proposed that the committee chairs come present to our students' council, so we will likely see that presentation in March. It appears that the committee is looking at doing a survey, town hall, as well as consulting GFC.

Upcoming Meetings

I will be chairing a meeting of GFC Student Caucus (GFC SC) while VP Scott is away on leave. I also have another Board Working Group this week. **It is very important to note that the Board Finance and Property Committee will be meeting next Tuesday where they will be voting on rent increases, the meal plan, and international students tuition.** I will be presenting at this meeting and these are very important decision. **Please stay tuned as you will hear more about this meeting on social media shortly.**

External Business

Municipal

VP Paches and I participated in the City of Edmonton's consultation on Vision 2050. This is primarily to discuss city councils new strategic plan. We spoke at length about graduate retention and affordable housing options.

Other Exciting Endeavors

Internal Business

The executive and our senior staff had a half-day in office retreat. It was great to touch base about all our projects before some of our executive team started their leave of absence for elections.

I had a Cultural Group Council meeting last week, which was very productive. We spoke about funding for the groups, advocacy training, transition support, as well as involvement in advocacy to regulate international students' tuition.

I want to inform Council that after hearing concerns about the lack of consistency with our podcasting schedule, we are moving to monthly podcasts instead of bi-weekly. We think reducing the frequency will help us have solid content and more consistent segments.

In the next month or so, I will be running a small awareness campaign on birth control options through the health and dental plan. It will primarily be focused around the option for students close to graduation obtaining IUDs.

Great news to report on the student rights project! The research is currently going through marketing and will be launched soon. This includes the landing page consolidating all current student rights.

Everything else!

I gave advocacy training to a student club, the Alberta Satellite group. It was very beneficial for the group and I enjoy facilitating workshops like that.

VP Ushakov and I met with executive members of the DKE fraternity to discuss their interactions with the Dean of Students' Office.

I have been meeting with lots of candidates to give advice on upcoming elections. Seems like students have a great slate of candidates to choose from!

VP Paches, the General Manager, and I have been getting together to think high level about the future strategy of the students' union. It has been a good use of time at the end of VP Paches and my term.

Closing Remarks

My Winter semester office hours will be Tuesdays from 12:00PM-1:00PM in SUB 2-900! Feel free to drop by if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything.

Thank you for reading my report and happy to answer any questions you may have.

Marina Banister
UASU President