

February 5th, 2013

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

Hello Council,

The last two weeks have been fun, though I have been sick almost the entire time.

I was able to attend a number of fun events including the SU Comedy Night, the Health Science Student Association's Healthwave event, the Pharmacy Fundraiser Talent Show, and the PanHellenic Council's Songfest event.

ARFAC – Athletics and Recreation Fee Advisory Committee

We had our first ARFAC meeting with a number of stakeholders from Athletics and the University community. The meeting was very productive and provided me with a better understanding of how the fee is used.

Edmonton Student Executive Lunch

We had lunch with the student executives from Grant Macewan and NAIT. We discussed a number of topics such as Municipal Property Taxes on Residences, the Ignite Conference, the LRT/Transit, and provided updates from all of our organizations.

Board Learning and Discovery Committee

The last BLDC meeting was quite uneventful. We approved revisions to the UAPPOL Centres and Institutes Policy and approved the proposal for the non-departmentalized status for the School of Public Health. We also saw the presentations on the Annual Reports from the Appeals and Compliance Coordinator and the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. Overall I thought that the reports could have been more detailed but I had no significant concerns.

Coalition Meeting

We attended a coalition meeting with members from AASUA and NASA. We discussed a number of topics regarding the future of the University and PSE in Alberta, our relationships with the University administration, and our concerns with the non-GFC decision making process being used by the University. We also talked about trends in Provincial level politics and how they will affect us. I am very happy to have these meetings as they always provide me with deeper insight into the directions being taken by our stakeholder partners.

Dima's Retirement Party

I attended a retirement party for Dima Utgoff (former Director of Residence Services). I ran into a number of university officials and had some useful chats. Dima has been a long-time friend to the SU.

Campus Tour with CK Design

I attended a tour around campus with Ben Louis (University Architect), Ellen Schoeck (GSA General Manager) and a number of staff from CK Design (an Edmonton Design Firm). The tour was meant to give CK Design a better idea of the style of architecture and design that we have on campus. We also discussed two future projects that will soon be up for redesign; the Powerplant and the Lister Cafeteria.

Alumni Council

At Alumni Council we reviewed the financial statements, took a look at the newly proposed brand for the Alumni Association (which is fantastic), discussed the Associate Alumni program (ask me if you have questions), and saw the first draft of the University of Alberta's What's Next brand campaign (which I think is awful). Here is a test... I want to see who reads my Council reports so the first three people to yell the word Watermelon during my Oral Report will get a bag of candy. Hopefully this works as an incentive.

SERC

At our last meeting of SERC we continued with business as usual. We discussed the zero-waste policy, the new sustainability policy, continued our colonization at the UofA discussion, and talked about gender issues within the SU Exec and Council. All of these projects are being worked on outside of our meetings as well.

Fall Reading Week

Kyle Marshall (UGAA) and I have been spending a lot of time recently moving forward with the Fall Reading Week proposal. We have cleaned up our most recent draft of the proposal and have been meeting with Deans, administrators, etc. to prepare and build buy-in for our presentation at Deans' Council. We will hopefully be moving into governance by the end of the month to begin the approval cycle for the proposal.

CAPS Job Fair

I volunteered at the SU Booth at the CAPS Job Fair to help promote our student positions that are available for the upcoming year. I had a lot of fun and enjoyed talking to interested students. There was also free popcorn!

USchool Volunteering

I had an awesome time volunteering with the UofA Senate's USchool program. USchool invites elementary school and middle school students from underprivileged neighbourhoods to come to the University for a week to explore all of the amazing things that post-secondary education has to offer. I had the opportunity to help out with "photo day" in which the students had an opportunity to learn about photography and take pictures on the UofA campus. I highly recommend trying it out!

Meeting with MLA Steve Young

The VPX and I had a short meeting with MLA Steve Young to talk about the Ignite Conference and to encourage him to get his fellow MLA's to come out. We also updated him on the Lister situation and he mentioned that the South Campus Community group is having troubles with the University again due to concerns about consultation.

Meeting with AUFSJ

The Exec travelled to Campus St. Jean to meet with the AUFSJ (Campus Student Association). We talked about a number of their concerns including the usefulness of the PAW Centre for CSJ students, some issues with the Campus Association Transfer Payment, and the handbook. We also updated them on our projects (Fall Reading Week, SUB Reno, etc.) and learned about all of the things that are happening at CSJ. I thought that the meeting went over very well and was useful for me to understand more about the needs of our students at CSJ.

Exec Retreat

We had an Exec Retreat this weekend at Marc's place. We talked about a number of issues (that would probably bore you to death) but we primarily discussed the election and transition.

Powerplant

We recently got a sneak peak at the University Architect's plans for the North Powerplant. They look nice but we will have to provide a large amount of feedback to ensure that the design meets our needs. We met with the GSA today to discuss the future of the project and will be meeting with the University Architect again on Thursday.

Ways to get involved:

- Help candidates prepare for the upcoming elections and recruit people to run for Council and GFC
- Follow the Governor's shining example and setup a table to talk to Students in SUB
- Attend Golden Bears and Pandas games (the VPSL usually has a list of upcoming games in his report)
- Choose to run the U-Pass Yes referendum side (so I don't have to!)
- Come meet Marc Garneau (Liberal Federal Leadership Candidate) tomorrow
- Come out to student group events this weekend (LHSA Dodgefest, EMI Love Auction, FIJI Spread the Net Volleyball Tournament, Gateway 10 Year's of Autonomy Party)

Cheers,

If you have any further questions, suggestions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to follow-up with me, either in person at SUB 2-900, by phone at 780-492-4236, or by email at president@su.ualberta.ca.