

July 6, 2012

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

Hello Council,

Welcome to July (one of my favourite months of the year). I hope that the first half of your summer has been wonderful and that you are excited for all of the festivals, stampedes, and great weather that July traditionally brings.

Things are going well at the SU. People are happy, work is getting done, and new projects are being inspired. I would like to give a special shout-out to former VP Academic, Emerson Csorba's new online student newspaper/magazine thewandereronline.com. Make sure to check it out if you have not already. It has been causing quite a stir at the UofA. Also, check out the new TV's in L'Express (AWESOME).

My update should be quick as I have not been in the office a great deal since our last meeting due to the lovely long weekend.

Fall Reading Week

Kyle Marshall (University Governance & Advocacy Advisor) and I have been going pretty hard promoting and communicating the Fall Reading Week proposal to University Governance. In the past two weeks we have met with the Dean of Students and the Registrar, the Director of University Wellness Services, the Provost, and two of the head secretaries in University Governance. Things seem to be going quite well and we have developed a schedule for the FRW's governance routing as follows.

- **August 27 – GFC Exec (Discussion)**
- **September 12 – APC (Discussion)**
- **October 9 – GFC Exec (Recommendation)**
- **October 27 – GFC (Recommendation)**
- **November 19/20 – BLDC/BSHEC (Recommendation)**
- **December 14 – Board of Governors**

This is going to be a long and somewhat torturous governance tour but I am excited to put a ton of work in to make a huge change for students. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the proposal and please, please, please, encourage your friends (and yourselves) to run for a spot on the General Faculties Council in the September by-election so that you can help us get this proposal voted through in the Fall. The new proposal stays true to the former proposal minus the fact that engineering classes will not be included in the week.

U-Pass

We had an interesting meeting discussing the new U-Pass contract as well as the Spring/Summer U-Pass contract. Negotiations will begin as soon as ETS provides us with some additional numbers and information.

APC

At APC we approved a number of new Masters programs and the restructuring of the Dietetics undergraduate program in the Faculty of ALES. We also made a few minor changes to the calendar and had an update on the TUC working groups. As this was the last APC meeting of the annual governance cycle, the Provost made a long speech thanking members and also describing his plans travelling, teaching, and learning around the world for his one-year sabbatical.

Exec Retreat

Exec Retreat was held last Tuesday at the GM's apartment. We had a ton of topics to talk about and had solid discussion from 9am to 5pm. I think that the retreat went very well and that we have had a pretty outstanding first two months. One thing that I noticed is that the executive has had very little criticism come from Council thus far. This means that either you are going too easy on us, or (what I would prefer) that we are doing such a great job that you have had little to critique!

MLA Edmonton Riverview - Steve Young and the Senators

The VPX, DRPA, and I had a meeting with MLA Steve Young at RATT to talk about our priorities for the year and how we can work together to make PSE a focus point for his caucus this year. Mr. Young is also the Government Whip so he plays a very important role in the leadership and organization of the Progressive Conservative party. We chatted about our concerns with the University and the municipality and how the Provincial Government can answer our plights.

We also had a very successful meeting with two of the Federal Liberal Senators, Senator Claudette Tardif and Senator Grant Mitchell. Senator Tardif commented on two of our lobby points (Book importation taxes and Digital Locks on copyrighted materials) in the Senate.

Campus Sustainability Tour

The VPSL and I went on one of the Office of Sustainability's Campus Sustainability Tours. Though it was raining the tour was very enjoyable and informative. I learned a number of interesting facts. Did you know that the garbage cans in quad go 10 feet deep? Did you know that we have solar powered compressing garbage receptacles and parking ticket machines? Did you know that we have a geo-thermal and solar powered EcoHouse in ECV? Crazy hey. The Office is holding these tours all summer and I would encourage you to check them out. They are free and you can sign up here:

<http://www.sustainability.ualberta.ca/Projects/CampusSustainabilityTours.aspx>

Meeting with Frank

The VPSL and I met with the Dean of Students to talk about a number of issues in residence and the proposed changes to the resident contract that I mentioned last week. It looks as though we need to schedule a meeting with the University VP Facilities and Operations to discuss these issues soon as RBAC has been pushed back to the end of the month. We will keep you updated.

Minister of Health – Fred Horne

I helped out with a part of the Minister of Health's tour of our University Wellness Centre. The Minister came as a part of a Health and Wellness/Health Sciences tour of our campus and spoke about Premier Allison Redford's plans to move from a primary care health model to a family care model. I still don't completely understand what this means though it has been explained to me a number of times. We expressed the need for increased mental health resources on our campus and it seems that the Minister will be interested in partnering with us on this initiative.

SFAIC – Money Management Seminar

I took part in a SFAIC money management seminar where we took part in a number of activities to help us better understand budgeting and how to meet our financial goals. The theme of the seminar was that we planned what we would do if we won one million dollars and then planned a way to save for the same purchases/activities with our own real-life budgets. I had a lot of fun at the seminar and learned quite a bit about how bad I am at saving money.

Meeting with Elliot Rose – University of Windsor

I had a meeting with Elliot Rose (Executive Advisor at the University of Windsor Students' Alliance) to share best practices and discuss potential solutions to a number of problems that they are having at their campus. Many of their challenges closely reflected ours so I hope that I was able to offer some solid advice. I really enjoy meeting with peers and learning how we meet students' needs in similar and different ways all across the country.

Summary

This week has been pretty golden and we have a lot to look forward to such as an extended CAUS meeting with all of the UofA, UofC, and UofL (minus their President) execs in Calgary this weekend. We also have our first ever meeting with President Indira Samarasekera on Tuesday, which I am quite excited for.

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.

Best,

-Colten Yamagishi