

March 27, 2018

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Students' Council

Hello Council,

It has been a busy and tumultuous time at the University of Alberta. Please see a report of my work below.

University

Alumni Council

I attended a full day alumni council retreat. I received several updates on a new fundraising campaign the alumni council is starting. I expressed that the student experience needs to be prioritized or alumni will not be inclined to donate.

Cannabis

The University cannabis working group hosted a town hall which had good attendance. There is also a survey online that students can fill out to voice their opinion with cannabis legalization on campus. Survey -> <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/cannabis-working-group>

Board of Governors

At the Friday March 16, University of Alberta Board of Governors meeting, cost increases to students were approved. Despite vocal student advocacy and opposition, a mandatory meal plan, 4% increase to rent, and 3.14% increase to international students' tuition were passed. Students and the rest of the campus community are understandably upset that they were not listened to. The Students' Union advocacy on these issues is ongoing. Learn more about the cost increases and advocacy here -> <https://theflame.su.ualberta.ca/en/>

Presidents' Forum

President Turpin is having a forum tomorrow to review the 2018-19 budget approved at the Board of Governors on March 16, outline the impact of the federal and provincial budgets on the U of A, and provide an update on ongoing initiatives in For the Public Good, including signature areas development and selection. Please attend if you have any questions or concerns about campus issues. RSVP here -> https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScSO6Qki3xAVPyoy1Y2_B5epAi-F_y4XHMSJ91lizOvVgq0fA/viewform

External

CASA

Marina Banister, *President*

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

VP Larsen and I attended the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations Annual General Meeting conference in Fredericton, New Brunswick. I think it was one of the most productive CASA conferences of the year. I was especially happy to see “governance” be added as a pillar in the new strategic plan.

Media

Myself as well as the Vice-Presidents have been doing several media interviews about what is happening at the University of Alberta in regards to budget cuts and cost increases. You can see a recently updated list of interviews here ->

<https://su.ualberta.ca/about/news/>

Internal

The new incoming Vice-Presidents have been thrown into the deep end as they have started their transition at the same time as the unfolding budget situation at the University of Alberta. The outgoing executive is committed to a strong transition, however have been occupied with urgent matters in the past few weeks.

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