

Nov 15, 2012

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

---

Hi Council.

Happy halfway through Movember. My face is very itchy. I have been advised to inform you (information relayed from the GSA President) that it is very bad idea to touch/lick your moustache. Moustaches are often a haven for harmful bacteria. For those without moustaches, please refrain from touching those that belong to others... it is for your own good.

The past two weeks have been fun (many exciting events) and a bit slower (less committee meetings than usual) but things are still quite busy.

Over the past week I have had the opportunity to attend a number of fun and interesting events including the Golden Bears Volleyball game against the University of Regina Rams (Our team is ranked #1 in the country and we won one of the sets 25-6). I also attended the Post Secret event with Frank Warren at the Myer Horowitz Theatre, jumped in a pool of freezing water in the middle of quad with the VPX and VPA for the BSA's Chillin' for Charity event to raise money for the United Way, attended the UAlberta Festival of Ideas lecture featuring best-selling author and Harvard professor Dr. Stephen Pinker (*The Better Angels of Our Nature – Why Violence has Declined*), and laid a wreath with the VPSL on behalf of the SU at the Remembrance Day ceremony held in the Butterdome last weekend.

Tonight I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Undergraduate Research Symposium Gala in the Dinwoodie Lounge. I would like to send my congratulations to the VPA, Gurpaul Bara (URS Coordinator) and the rest of the Programming and Venues team for hosting an outstanding event. Their dedication to the symposium was truly amazing. I hope that you all had an opportunity to check out the poster displays in CCIS as well.

This week I have another set of exciting events and activities to look forward to. Tonight we are driving to Calgary for a CAUS meeting and Saturday afternoon the VPX, DRPA and I will be flying to Ottawa for CASA's Advocacy Week. We will be in Ottawa for the entire week lobbying MP's on student issues.

I am also looking forward to attending the Heroes for Health conference/competition this Saturday. Heroes for Health is a challenge in which student groups showcase a number of health related projects that they have been working on. The top two project teams will receive grants of \$5000 to put towards their projects. It is always inspiring to see the great work that our students are doing in and out of school.

## **Alumni Council**

We had two presentations/discussions at our last Alumni Council meeting. The presentations were on a. increasing the brand value of the Alumni Association and b. the Centenary Volunteer Challenge. To celebrate the Alumni Association's centenary, we are hoping to have our volunteers fulfill 2013 volunteer experiences by 2013. We also watched a new video that is meant to attract potential donors from our Alumni. The video featured a number of UofA students, administrators, and Board members. Unfortunately, I'm not sure if the video is public yet but I will be sure to send out the link once it is.

## **School of Public Health Accreditation Press Conference**

I attended the press conference celebrating the official accreditation of the School of Public Health. Our school is the first accredited School of Public Health in Canada, the second outside of the US, and one of only 50 in the world. There were speeches from the Acting Provost Martin Ferguson-Pell, Interim Dean Lory Laing, and the Minister of Health Fred Horne. I had the opportunity to speak with a number of public health students including one of our past VPSL's and SU staff members Justin Kehoe.

## **Health and Dental Plan Meeting**

We had a meeting with Kristin Foster from Studentcare to go over the claims data for last year and this year. We also had an orientation for the new committee members. It seems that we will have a very stable year for the plan and that trend data has started to even out now (year to year).

## **PAW Design Review**

I attended a PAW design review session with the General Manager and the VP Operations and Finance. The review was very high level and investigated a number of the technical aspects of the building design. We discussed some issues that I have never even thought of such as potential problems that could arise from the snow falling off of the sloped roof on the climbing centre.

## **PAW Steering Committee**

On Monday we attended a PAW Steering Committee meeting and talked about a number of topics including construction deadlines, furniture, messaging, and the bike library. We will be meeting soon to do a final design review for the student specific areas in the building. We were also informed that the University has cameras set up to watch the construction of the PAW Centre and that they are planning to make a time-lapse movie. The targeted completion date for PAW is September 2014.

## **SERC**

We had a very quick SERC meeting because only a few people were able to make it. We discussed how to select a chair via a confidential e-mail ballot and gave the committee members their first piece of homework – reading the SU policy manual and Bylaw.

## **Unified Approach to Campus Health Meeting**

I had the pleasure of attending a coalition meeting with all of the main student and staff stakeholders in campus health and wellness. The purpose of the meeting was to collect buy-in for a campus wide health promotion initiative. The Health and Wellness Team are leading the project. The idea is still young in development but I will keep you updated with their progress. I think that it sounds really exciting and I continue to be extremely impressed with the work that our student health and wellness groups are accomplishing.

## **ASC**

Today I sat in for the VPA at the Academic Standards Committee. We reviewed an omnibus motion for a large set of changes (one of which included an increase of required credits for the education after degree program of \*12). We also gave committee approval for a new science program in Radiation Therapy though I criticized the fact that they plan to collect non-refundable deposits for admission. I also inquired about their no re-examination policy and pointed out an error that they will be fixing (no re-examination was meant for clinical exams only but they had it labeled for all exams). We also reviewed a change that the University will now reference ESL (English as a second language) as EAP (English for academic purposes). Lastly we approved new protocol for how to handle examination disruptions.

## **APC**

The APC agenda was quite tame though it included the first vote on tuition and market modifier approvals for the year. During the comments from the Chair we were updated on the changes to the proposed changes for the Faculty of Grad Studies and Research (FGSR), the Udacity online learning agreement, and were reminded to attend the Presidents' Town Hall and nominate people for the community connection awards. The GSA President asked a number of questions on how students can ask questions and submit feedback regarding the FGSR changes. We also approved the elimination of the "virtual school" program for the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and discussed a change to the APC terms of reference giving APC the power to approve diploma programs.

For the tuition vote we received a presentation from Phyllis Clark (UAlberta VP Finance and Administration) – similar to the one we received at Council. I provided my criticism and asked a number of questions but the motion still passed with only one abstention and my vote in opposition. Tuition and Market Modifiers will be increasing by CPI (2.15%) next year. Professor Ed Blackburn mentioned that UBC has put a limit on the per year increase to international student tuition of 2%/year and asked if we would be interested in following suit. The responder's were unclear in their answer to his question but it seemed that it was an avenue they were not willing to pursue any time soon.

## **SACIE**

I missed the majority of the Standing Advisory Committee on International Engagement meeting as I was tied up in another meeting but it seems that I did not miss a whole lot. The meeting covered a number of subcommittee update reports and the members discussed topics such as externship programs, new internship/study abroad opportunities in different countries, out of country alumni relations events,

international delegations that have come to the UofA, members of our community who have gone on international delegations and the education abroad poster symposium that was held a few weeks ago. We also reviewed the SACIE Annual Report. We were also updated on some new positions opening up at University of Alberta International (UAI) and received updated international student enrollment numbers.

## **Summary**

I have another fun but busy week coming up in Ottawa and am looking forward to working with all of the student leaders at CASA. Please shoot me e-mails or texts if you have any questions while I am gone.

## **Ways to get involved:**

- Start thinking about running for an executive position and let us know if you are so we can provide you with support. Also, please let us know if you know anyone whom you think would be good for exec!
- I was thinking about hosting a job-shadow day for people interested in running for executive portfolios so let me know what you think of this idea.
- Attend the Golden Bears and Pandas Legacy basketball games this Friday, Nov 16. 6:00pm and 8:00pm at the Saville Community Centre (South Campus) Entry is free with a valid ONEcard and there will be an opportunity to win your tuition for the term.

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](mailto:president@su.ualberta.ca).