

Nov 2, 2012

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

Hi Council. I hope your midterms and October 31 holiday adventures went well.

I have been busy, both at work and personally, as I have been attending a number of events and have been making a considerable amount of progress on a number of my goals.

Nov. 1 marked the first day of the second half of our terms in office and for the VP Operations and I, the 75% mark in our service to the SU. In some ways I feel that this time has been short and in some ways I feel that I have been here forever. Hopefully we can maximize our contribution to this great organization in the last 25% that we have left, the home stretch so to speak.

Here is my two-week update.

Deputy Minister Dinner @ CCIS

I had a wonderful evening at the DM Celebration of Water Research dinner at CCIS on Oct. 23 (the reason I was not at our last Council meeting). The dinner was a hotspot for public officials, BoG members, highly esteemed researchers, teachers, and students, and University administration. I had a heyday lobbying everyone and their grandmother (literally some of the people I lobby are grandmothers) on Post Secondary issues. I had a number of great conversations with BoG members and was really interested to hear their perspectives on a number of student issues. I feel that we have a great opportunity to leverage change, as there seems to be a growing interest within the community to support and invest in students and young people.

All-Canadian Athlete Breakfast

The VPSL and I attended the All-Canadian Athlete Breakfast, which was an awards ceremony and breakfast hosted to celebrate all of our varsity athletes that achieved an 80%+ average last year (B-average). I would like to further congratulate Pandas Volleyball All-Star Setter Jaki Ellis and Golden Bears' World Champion Curler Brendan Bottcher for receiving the top female and male student athlete awards respectively. I think that it is fantastic to see the amazing contributions and efforts that our student athletes put into their sporting activities while still managing to be successful in their academics. Despite being held at 7:00am the breakfast was wonderful.

SERC – First Meeting

We had our first meeting of SERC and covered general introductions and brainstormed some topics of interest that we would like to address through the committee this year. It was very clear to me that we have a great amount of experience within our membership and a lot of passion to research and create proposals to influence significant change. We did a quick run-through of the Terms of Reference and had a roundtable discussion about our expectations of the committee, its members, and our role within the SU and University community. Everyone had a number of great ideas and I am excited to see what

kinds of successes we can achieve this year. At our next meeting we will be electing a Chair and creating a workplan for the year.

Council Retreat

I had a great time at Council Retreat and the post-retreat RATT get-together. I was especially fond of the amazing Safe Spaces training session presented to us by ISMSS. Big thanks to Kelsey and her CAC team for organizing the retreat!

Sustainability Awareness Week Launch

On Monday the VPSL and I had a great time hanging out in the cold serving food at the SAW Kickoff event in Quad. Despite the temperature (which was not even that bad) we had a lot of fun riding the Music is a Weapon bikes, playing with the photo booth, hanging out with the Office of Sustainability staff, and serving delicious food to students. I really enjoy interacting with the general student populace, which is something that I have had less time to do as President than I did during my term as VPSL.

Meetings with Doug Dawson – Break in Residence Contract and Residence Services Expense Report Discussions

The VPSL, DRPA, Doug Dawson, and I had two great meetings on Monday. The first meeting we discussed how we will accommodate students with the new Break in Contract rules (ask me a question if you want more detail, it is too complicated to write down) and the second we received a breakdown and explanation of the Residence Services operating budget.

CAUS Lobby Day at the Legislature

On Wednesday we had a full day at the Legislature and nailed down meetings with several members from the Wildrose and Liberal Caucuses. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our session with the Alberta NDP due to their busy schedule but we will surely meet in the future. The highlight of the day: we had a lengthy meeting with the Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education and were happy to see his keen interest in our asks and portfolio. I am sure that the VPX will report more thoroughly on these meetings. We also had the pleasure of being introduced at the meeting of the Legislature and getting to watch question period. I will say, our Council meetings can get rowdy, but we are much politer than our counterparts in the Legislature.

Campus 2 Campus Introductory Meeting

The VPSL and I were introduced to Kanen Tang from the Campus 2 Campus advocacy group. Campus 2 Campus is a new advocacy group from the School of Public Health that is lobbying for improved bicycle infrastructure in Edmonton and is specifically pushing for a dedicated bike lane linking North Campus and Campus St. Jean. The group is very interested in promoting commuter safety, especially after the tragic incident involving UofA student Isaak Kornelson this summer. The VPSL and I are attending their meeting/press release happening later today.

COFA Senior Board

I attended our first meeting of the COFA Senior Board, which is chaired by the VPA. The Senior Board brings together a number of FA Executives and allows them to facilitate discussion on a number of key issues that they all face. I was very pleased with the quality of people in the room and I believe that the Board could become very effective with a few structural and operational changes.

Victor CUI Speech and WISEST Lectureship

Last night I attended two outstanding lectures. First, I travelled to the FIJI house to listen to an outstanding guest lecture from one of our Epsilon Alpha Alumni Victor Cui who is a past SU VP Internal (VPSI) and is now an extremely successful entrepreneur and owns and operates the ONE fighting championship in Asia (similar to the UFC). Mr. Cui is extremely talented and passionate and I learned a lot from his talk. I had the privilege of speaking to him for about twenty minutes after his talk and received a lot of great advice on how to transfer the skills that I have acquired working with the SU to the workplace and my career in the future.

Second, I attended the WISEST (Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology) 30th Anniversary and Lectureship. There were a number of outstanding speakers and very influential women speaking of the importance of diversity and accommodation to diversity in the workplace. I learned a lot by viewing the "History of WISEST" exhibit held in the CCIS PCL Lounge. Also, the food was amazing!

Summary

Time is zooming by and I am getting a lot done. Unfortunately, I am starting to get pretty tired. Hopefully I can get a good rest this weekend and be back at it.

Ways to get involved:

- Sign up for a Campus Cup team! There is still time!
- 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!
- 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.
- Come to Advotraining this weekend! Ask Dustin or Petros for details.

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.