

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**To:** University of Alberta Students' Union Students' Council 2015-2016

**From:** Navneet Khinda, POTSU 2015-2016

**Re:** Report to Students' Council (for May 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting)

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Dear Council,

Welcome to my first written report! First, my apologies for submitting this late – I was feeling a little under the weather and forgot to submit it in time (we're only human!)

Having said that, it's been a whirlwind two weeks in office! My reports to you will serve as a snapshot of my activities between Council meetings and I'll go in depth into issues that I think are useful to Council. However, you may always ask me questions on any topic and you can always request more information if necessary.

### **Executive Summary**

1. Exec Retreat
2. Get Out the Vote (GOTV) + Election Results
3. Board of Governors (BoG) Dinner + Meeting
4. Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) Changeover Retreat
5. Transition Meetings
6. General Faculties Council (GFC) Academic Planning Committee (APC)
7. Preparation for Canadian Alliance of Student Association (CASA) Conference
8. GovCamp this weekend + Goals Presentation



### **1. Executive Retreat**

Our Executive retreat was from April 27<sup>th</sup> to May 3<sup>rd</sup>. I covered most of it during my oral report at the last Council meeting – basically, this is a very intense week where we have sessions all day going over the history of the SU, our portfolios, various issues, as well as some time for bonding. Our strength as an Executive is due in part to how well we know each other and can work together, no matter the circumstance!

### **2. GOTV + Election Results**

We spent May 5<sup>th</sup> calling students to remind them to vote – a huge thank you to all our volunteers that made this happen! After that, we had our first Council meeting, and then proceeded to RATT to watch the election results roll in.

“Wow” is how I react to the results of May 5<sup>th</sup>. Welcome to a new era in Alberta politics – no longer are we working within the confines of a Progressive Conservative dynasty. While this is very exciting, we understand that this poses opportunities as well as challenges for our advocacy. There’s more on this topic under the “CAUS” section.

### **3. Board of Governors**

On May 7<sup>th</sup>, I attended my first dinner with the Board of Governors – it was a very engaging evening! The members of the Board are very interesting and accomplished people and I look forward to learning a lot from them.

On Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, I attended my first Board Meeting as a Governor. Some notable items for Council are the approval of the GSA and SU fees for the 2015-16 academic year. I was also officially appointed to two committees – the Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC) as well as the Board University Relations Committee (BURC). Azhar Khan, the undergraduate BoG representative has a seat on Board Learning and Discovery Committee (BLDC) as well as Board Safety, Health and Environment Committee (BSHEC).

Another important update from the Board, is that with unanimous support from the advisory committee, the BoG has approved the appointment of Steven Dew to the position of provost and vice-president (academic), effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. Similarly, Heather McCaw has been appointed as the new vice-president advancement, effective September 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **4. CAUS Changeover**

Immediately after the Board meeting concluded, I left to pick up my rental car and I drove to Canmore, Alberta – the location of our Changeover Retreat for CAUS. Here, the incoming and outgoing executives from all five of our member associations get together. We discuss the year past, the political environment, and we start the process of goal setting for the year to come. You can read more about the strategy/goals piece in VP Hanwell’s report! There is also new leadership! I have transitioned my role as Chair of CAUS on to the VP External at the University of Calgary Students’ Union – Romy Garrido. Her vice chair is Brittany Pitruniak, President at the Students’ Association of MacEwan University.

**5. Transition Meetings**

I've been having sporadic meetings here and there with outgoing President, William Lau, and outgoing VP Operations, Cory Hodgson.

**6. APC Meeting**

I attended APC on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Nothing too important to Students' Council. There was a name change approved for a program as well as discussion around two joint programs.

**7. CASA Foundations Conference**

VP Hanwell and I will be attending the CASA Foundations Conference in Ottawa from Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> to Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Foundations Conference is extremely valuable since we get presentations and keynotes from post-secondary education experts; we discuss CASA business; and we choose the new leadership for 2015-2016. This includes a new CASA Chair, six additional Board members, and we nominate members to CASA Committees (similar to our Council structure).

CASA is composed of 21 student associations across the nation, representing over 280,000 students coast-to-coast.

**8. GovCamp + Exec Goals**

For those of you attending GovCamp this weekend, you'll get a chance to hear about the Exec's preliminary plans for our goals this year. It'll be a fun weekend overall!

Just a heads up that I won't be at this Council meeting. Please send me any questions you may have at [president@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:president@su.ualberta.ca) and I'll do my best to reply by Tuesday!

Cheers,

**Navneet Khinda**

President 2015-2016

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