

November 29th, 2015

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

From: Navneet Khinda, POTSU 2015-2016

Re: Report to Students' Council (for December 1st, 2015)

Good afternoon all,

This will be our last meeting before the New Year! And...I will have a little something for all of you on Tuesday ☺

Here's a recap of how I spent my time:

1. **CASA Policy & Strategy Conference in Halifax**
2. **Institutional Strategic Planning Retreat**
3. **Board of Governors Dinner**
4. **Board Finance and Property Committee**
5. **Dinner with AUFSJ**
6. **Upcoming meetings**
 - a. **Dean of Students**
 - b. **Registrar's Office**

1. Most of my time was spent in Halifax at the CASA conference hosted by Saint Mary's University. While it was very draining, it was also really rewarding! We had numerous sessions over the five days and they culminated in the membership choosing the four themes we will focus our lobbying on in the upcoming months. These themes are (1) financial aid and repayment assistance; (2) employment and entrepreneurship; (3) equity-seeking groups; and (4) research. Our next CASA conference will be a "SuperCon" which combines both Lobby Week and our AGM.

2. As soon as I landed in Edmonton after Halifax, I headed to the **institutional strategic planning retreat** hosted by President Turpin and his team. It brought together Board Governors, Senators, GFC members (including the student reps)! It's one of the collaborative measures used by the President to ensure buy-in towards the forthcoming strategic plan. In this sense, the process is more important, or just as important, as the outcome of the retreat.

3. I also attended a Board of Governors dinner the evening of the retreat. Suffice it to say, it was a crazy busy day!!!

4. On Tuesday I attended a meeting of the Board Finance and Property Committee. Of note are a few things. The committee formalized a motion setting the tuition rates 2015-16 in order to align with the Government's tuition freeze. International tuition is set to increase by 1.6% for 2016-2017. This motion will go to the Board in a few weeks; I voted against it due to our political policy on Tuition.

Another item was residence rental rates, which will have a base increase of 1.7%. A few residences will receive specific increases resulting from the installation of UWS as well as various premiums for having

been renovated, etc. Some residences will therefore have different base increases. For Aspen and Maple Houses, both two and four bedroom units have been furnished and will see an increase of \$210 and \$164 respectively.

In regards to the meal plan, I was able to push this decision back. The All You Care to Eat meal plan option *will not* be brought forward for the upcoming year. I am waiting to have another meeting to see what's next.

5. We had a casual sit-down with the lovely execs from Faculté St. Jean!

6. On Monday morning, I have a meeting with the Dean of Students and on Tuesday we meet with the Registrar.

Have a jolly December!!!



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