

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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

**From:** Navneet Khinda

**Re:** Report to Students' Council, for January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting

Here's a shocker – in just about SEVEN weeks, the next Executive Elections will have concluded and I'll be starting a transition to our 2016-2017 SU team.

That's a scary thought and an exciting one. If anyone is interested in either a) running for an exec position or b) re-running to be on Council and you'd like to chat, my door is open! Please get in touch and we can work something out.

Given that timeline, I must say that I'm also feeling a bit of pressure. Actually, a lot of pressure. There are many things on my plate that I need to get done and a lot that I *want* to get done. Stay tuned for a goals update coming to Council in the next few weeks. For now, here's my report:

**1. Antifreeze**

- a. I didn't participate in Antifreeze too much this year (though I wish I had!!) but it looked like a blast! I had a lot of fun taking uncomfortable pictures with various teams since I was item #1 on the scavenger hunt list.

**2. Communications Group meeting**

- a. Discussed the January newsletter, advocacy priorities for the rest of the year, and potentially creating an SU Snapchat filter (idea courtesy of VP Hanwell).

**3. CAUS Teleconference**

- a. This was a more informal teleconference as a check-in after the holidays. We discussed our mental health document (letter going to the province), how we work with ASEC (and their upcoming mental health summit), we discussed our tuition document (our response to government regarding the tuition and fees review), and we spoke a bit about our document on student financial aid.

**4. Meeting with Residence Services**

- a. VP Kwan and I met with Sarah Wolgemuth (Assistant Dean of Students, Residence Life) and Laura Huxley (Residence Area Coordinator). We focused our meeting on two things – the residence fee proposal VP Kwan is working on and updates regarding Lister.

**5. Lister update**

- a. Things are moving ahead! Thanks to the excellent work of the committees and Ms. Rebecca Taylor from Discover Governance, the preliminary set of the new association's constitution and strategic plan are complete! We've sent these out to Residence Services for their feedback and we will be sending a more robust package to the Dean of Students. Ultimately, we hope our work satisfies the administration enough such that they will recognize the new association.

**6. Preparations to bring in a speaker**

- a. After months of thinking about this, and thinking that it wasn't possible, I am now working with the Dean of Students Office and The Landing to bring in a speaker related to sexuality and consent. I can't say who just yet, but stay tuned for more information! Once we get a contract signed I'll let you know.

**7. CAC meeting**

- a. I attended CAC to provide my feedback on the recent changes to our standing orders. There are some pretty neat changes! One of them is the addition of a section called "Open Forum". This will happen right before "Question Period". Open Forum is intended for all registered guests of Council as well as media to ask questions of Council. The aim is to make Council meetings more accessible for observers. There was a great discussion about how to incorporate guest questions and this was a solution largely championed by Councillor DeJong. Well done CAC!

**8. Breakfast with Institute for Corporate Directors**

- a. At 7am on January 13<sup>th</sup>, I joined the ICD for a talk by Richard Dicerni, Deputy Minister for the Executive Council. It was a talk geared towards members of Agencies, Boards, and Crown Corporations. I learned a little bit and had the opportunity to interact with U of A Board members and members of the civil service.

**9. Academic Planning Committee (APC)**

- a. APC on January 13<sup>th</sup> was fairly bland. The Comprehensive Institutional Plan will be coming forward to APC some time in February
- b. There was a proposed change to existing Admission Requirements for high school applicants. Aboriginal Studies 30 and Social Studies 30-1 can now count towards admission. As well, from now on only 5 credit courses will be considered toward admission. These changes passed unanimously and will be reflected in the 2016-17 calendar and take effect in the 2017-18 academic year.

**10. Meeting re: Augustana calendar changes**

- a. VP Rahman and I met with Stephanie Gruhlke (Augustana Student Association President) and Dr. Mundel to discuss Augustana's change to a 3/11 term system and the addition of a First Year Seminar. This seems like a very exciting change – feel free to ask VP Rahman or myself more about this!

**11. Exec Retreat**

- a. On Friday we had a short retreat (or a long exec meeting) where we discussed some issues in greater detail and prepared for the months coming up.

**12. CSJ Festival Hivernal**

- a. Congratulations to Campus St. Jean and l'AUFJSJ for another great event! They hosted Le Fesitval Hivernal which brought together about 100 students, musicians, and community representatives. I had a really nice time and had some of the best frozen maple syrup yet! The Hon. Randy Boissonnalt also attended and spent some time with students.

**13. Other**

- a. There are a few ongoing issues that I've been working on with the executive. As time goes by, I'll be able to speak to them more, depending on where they are at.
- b. I had coffee with another Board of Governors member, Mr. Rob Parks. It was a delightful conversation!

**14. Upcoming on Monday**

- a. Meeting about the Access Fund
- b. Meeting to discuss financial aid policies
- c. Going to class ☹

As always, my door is wide open for whatever it is you want to chat about.

Cheers,  
Nav



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