

February 1st, 2016

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

From: Navneet Khinda

Re: Report to Students' Council, for February 2nd, 2016

Hello Council!

Read on for a synopsis of the last two weeks:

1. Meeting with SU Candidates

I'm not having a specific job-shadowing day, but I've been meeting with a lot of potential candidates for all the SU exec positions. I'm confident this will be an exciting election season!

2. Alumni Association

Meeting with Sean Price – The exec team met with Sean Price, who is returning to the Alumni Association as the Executive Director, and the Associate VP of Alumni Relations at the U of A. We're very excited to have him back!

Alumni Council Meeting – Alumni Council held their meeting on January 27th. New bylaws were passed and we received a presentation about the PLLC.

3. CAUS meeting in Calgary

On the weekend, we joined our CAUS colleagues in Calgary. Over two days, we discussed many items and you can ask either VP Hanwell or myself for more details. We spent a significant amount of time discussing how we'd like the student financial aid system to change as well as how our advocacy on tuition and fees should change. I will be working on some amendments to our Student Financial Aid paper.

4. GFC

The most interesting part of GFC was the discussion about potential changes to governance. VP Rahman and I emphasized the need for equitable participation and how it's important the GFC have substantial conversations.

5. Bylaw changes

Some of you may be aware of a proposal to change Bylaw 8100 to allow Faculty Associations greater flexibility to defy SU political policy. This was discussed at the last Bylaw committee meeting as well as Governance Review Task Force today. If it comes to Council, I look forward to a robust debate! For the record, I am largely opposed to such a change but I am open to fresh perspectives.

6. MNIF TOR progress

We are in the final stages of creating the Terms of Reference for the new MNIF Oversight committee. I am pleased with the work we have done. I will be bringing this as an item for discussion at our next Council meeting and later this week I may send you a document to get your feedback. There are certainly tradeoffs here, but I believe I can make the case to students as to why we should try this model.

7. SU-Registrar

At this meeting with senior staff at the Registrar's office, we discussed course load for open studies students and the Student Decisions Project the RO is part of. We also got updates on some of our asks:

- *Beartracks in French*: While they agree this is something that should be worked on, they don't have the capacity to have Beartracks available in French, at least not yet. The RO is considering updates to their software and this change is possible for the next iteration of Beartracks. Currently, they will work with Faculté St. Jean to ensure students can use Beartracks appropriately.
- *Addition of third gender on application form*: This is fantastic news! Right now, this option is only available on a paper application to the U of A. The next step is to incorporate that into Beartracks and then the university will work on getting rid of reliance on "gender" as a metric in their data collection. It's important to note that government still relies on collecting gender via Apply Alberta.
- *Scholarships in French*: I've been asking the administration to create the capability for students to apply to scholarships in French. They can easily make this change on the application side, but the adjudication side will provide greater challenges in terms of personnel and their skill set. There is no progress on this at this point I imagine the RO will need to work with CSJ on this.
- *Location indicator*: Good news! RO noted that they can make a change to course listings such that all courses offered at CSJ will say "CSJ", similar to the location indicator for courses at Augustana. This will prevent students from enrolling in the wrong courses!

8. Residences

Graduate Residence – VP Kwan and I met with a former executive of the graduate residence association to gain some insight into current issues.

RAC – The Residence Advisory Committee meeting was tense, to say the least. VP Kwan and I were there along with numerous execs representing various Residence Associations. The take-away from this meeting is that Residence Services made a unilateral decision to stop collecting Residence Association fees as of May 2016. We are very upset by this decision and we believe this will have serious and negative repercussions. I will be following up on this file with senior administration.

Lister updates – the committee work has been progressing very smoothly. At this point, we have consulted Residence Services and I will be meeting with Dean of Students, Robin Everall soon to

deliver a final package. I would like to have elections for the new residence association before April, but we'll see how far we get.

9. Meeting with Turpin

I met with President Turpin for a brief chat. I updated him on some of our key files, including residence.

10. Gateway interview

We all had interviews with the Gateway this week regarding progress on our goals. I'm very proud of how far our executive team has come this year and all the good work we've done!

11. Random

I want to do something for PI Day! Ideas??

That's all for now! See you soon,

Nav



Navneet Khinda

President 2015-2016

[University of Alberta Students' Union](#)

780.492.4241 | president@su.ualberta.ca

2-900 Students' Union Building

Twitter: [@UASUPresident](#)

LinkedIn: [navneetkhinda](#)