

September 10th, 2015

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

From: Navneet Khinda, POTSU 2015-2016

Re: Report to Students' Council (for September 15th, 2015)

Dear Council,

Two weeks into September and we're flying at breakneck speed. Since our last meeting, my time has been spent (1) preparing for Week of Welcome; (2) getting through Week of Welcome; (3) dealing with the aftermath. Here's a synopsis – please ask for details if you require them, during Council (or as a written question!)

1. Orientation + WOW

a. Speech writing

- i. *Spent a few days thinking about and writing my speech for Presidents' Address. It was an incredible experience and I was honored to have been able to do that.*

b. Tuition Freezies

- i. *I acquired 2000 freezies that we could hand out at our Students' Council table in WOW Village so as to explain the government's tuition freeze. It was a great ice-breaker (ha) when talking to students about the advocacy the SU does, including our on-going GOTV campaign.*

c. Basecamp

- i. *I was also lucky to be part of Residence Services Basecamp BBQ! My role was to introduce first year students living in residence to the Students' Union and how they can get involved. It was another great way for me to reach out to students.*

d. Bridges for ASSC

- i. *Bridges is the name of the Orientation hosted by the Aboriginal Student Services Centre. I brought along VPs Rahman and Bondarchuk to discuss what the SU offers students.*

e. Actual WOW

- i. *And then there were the actual Week of Welcome festivities to partake in. A stellar week and one of the smoothest run WOWs I've ever seen. Huge props to the SU staff that make this happen and to the University community for sharing in the fun.*

2. RBAC meeting (I attended in place of VP Kwan)

- a. *The University is considering moving to an "all you can eat" model of meal plan for Lister (and perhaps other) residences. We're currently in the last year of the 3-year meal plan.*

- b. *Ongoing discussions on the University's Residence Strategic Plan*

3. APC Aug 31 & Sep 9

- a. *APC had a "special meeting" on August 31st. It was used to update the motions regarding the \$50 fee students in the faculty of law (used to) pay for a placement officer. The wording needed to be changed so as to align with the outcomes of the Alberta Government's Bill 3. The fee remains rescinded.*

- b. September 9th: Proposal for a new program in BA Honors and Combined Honors Human Geography, Faculty of Arts – passed. Revisions to Animal Ethics Policy Suite passed (in UAPPOL). Update on University of Alberta budget.*
4. MNIF review meeting
 - a. GSA President Colin More and I met with two members of the administration to continue our conversations regarding our MNIF Oversight project. Things are looking positive!*
5. Other encounters of note:
 - a. Dinner with the Chancellor and his wife was fabulous.*
 - b. Dick Wilson, the interim Board Chair, and I had a fantastic coffee meeting to discuss SU goals and just to get to know each other.*
 - c. VP Rahman and I met with two members of the Student Legal Society to chat about potential projects.*
 - d. Dinner with the Medicine Students Association and the Native Studies Student Association*
 - e. Mapping out the timeline for GOTV with VP Hanwell*
6. Fun things that happened
 - a. 7th annual Mosquers Awards Night*
 - b. I went to class*
 - c. Shaw TV interview about back-to-school issues*
 - d. Vikings vs. Bears Hockey game in Camrose followed by a back-to-school party hosted by AUFJSJ.*
 - e. Block party in SUB! Amazing turnout! We are all really happy with how this went – thank you to the Councillors that attended*
 - f. President Turpin announced an excellent initiative; the U of A is offering 10 full ride scholarships to students displaced by the conflict in Syria.*
 - g. Gateway interviews with the executive team (what we do, funny questions, etc.)*
7. Coming up this weekend:
 - a. Board Orientation*
 - b. Golden Bears Football game vs. U of S Huskies*
 - c. Post-secondary relations breakfast with Edmonton City Concillor, Andrew Knack*
 - d. East Campus Village Block Party*
 - e. McKernan Community BBQ meet and greet*

Until next time,

Handwritten signature

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