

Date: 05/12/2018
To: Students' Union Council
Re: President 2018/19 Report

Dear Council,

I will be in Mexico when you receive this report! I am actually on my first real international vacation in almost 5 years and I am excited to spend some time with my partner before work gets busy again next semester. If you've any questions, in regards to this report or the Executive Committee Goals Update, please email me and I will respond on December 17th.

Tuition and Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC)

VP Ripka and I attended TBAC on December 4th and VP Bhatnagar attended as a proxy the week prior. The initial consultations of tuition costs were presented formally to the Students' Union; In the 2019/2020 academic year and following budget proceedings into March, international student tuition is calculated to rise by 2.77% while domestic tuition and mandatory non-instructional fees will remain frozen (per government mandate). Target numbers from last year indicated a rise of 3.5% for international tuition. International student tuition at the UofA will remain below the U15 average. Upon questioning, the cost increase matches the inflation costs of the university. We will continue to follow up on a number of questions, including what a cohort system for international student tuition will look like at the UofA and what financial support will be made available in the future. These initial reports are subject to change as Bill 19 receives royal assent and regulations, including international student tuition, are released in the new year. Overall, these are initial consultations and predictions provided by the University and the discussion and decisions therein will come to the Board of Governors in the new year.

Board Finance and Property Committee (BFPC)

I was unable to attend BFPC as I was in Ottawa, however, the committee did approve new parking rates, in particular, new fines for the UofA. All fines across the UofA will now match fines distributed by the City of Edmonton, ranging from \$50 - \$100. These rates will come into effect following the Board of Governors meeting on December 14th.

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations Advocacy Week

VP Brown and I spent last week in Ottawa for CASA Advocacy Week. VP Brown as Chair was in a number of remarkable meetings, I was thrilled to provide a lot of feedback as a returning delegate, and in particular was excited to be CASA representative at a number of stakeholder meetings, including the Canadian Centre for Substance Abuse. I did have a spell of bad luck, as

a few of my meetings were cancelled last minute; one Senator I was scheduled to meet with actually dropped a knife on their foot and had to go to the hospital (wishing them a full recovery).

Board Ad-Hoc Group on Membership and Mandates (BAGMM)

BAGMM has completed its work on the terms of reference for all committees of the board and they should be adopted at the December 11th Board of Governors meeting. Although not yet official, I have been asked to sit on the the new Board Governance Committee. I look forward to continuing work on updating the principles of membership, limitations on authority (which will include discussions about how things like rental rates, meal plans, and ancillary costs are approved), and skills matrix of board committees. Following Bill 19, the Students' Union will be playing a much closer role in approving mandatory non-instructional fees and exceptional tuition costs, things that also believe will be coming to this group in the near future.

Council of Post-Secondary Presidents of Alberta

For the first time, the Council of Post-Secondary Presidents of Alberta has developed a position paper for the 2019 provincial elections. It is a document that all 26 institutions in the province have signed and includes 3 main components; Increasing the capacity to educate Albertans, reducing financial barriers for the most vulnerable learners, and maximizing the impact of research, innovation, and skills development. Of particular interest is the position that Alberta provides the lowest loans to grant ration of any province in Alberta (Canada also ranks 14th out of 16 OCED comparators) and needs to do more. I will be following up with the Presidents office on what this might mean closer to the elections and how the UofA will be pursuing these opportunities, including if there may be an opportunity for joint statements.

To Note:

- PAW Centre Strategic Operating Committee met on Dec. 3rd and went over the improvements coming changerooms, including all-gender washrooms.
- On Dec. 4th filmed a brief scene for the ambassador's program. I should be in some random UofA advertisement as event guest!
- The Council of Alberta University Students met Nov. 28th and discussed priorities following Bill 19. As a number of our advocacy priorities have been completed, we will be shifting towards developing election priorities for the new year.

Cheers,
UASU President
Reed Larsen