



November 4th, 2014

To: University of Alberta Students' Union Students' Council 2014-2015

From: William Lau, President 2014-2015

Re: Report to Students' Council (for November 4th, Meeting)

Dear Council,

First and foremost, I miss you. Vice President Khinda and myself would like to send forward our regrets for missing the next two Council meetings. This week, we will be flying to Toronto to attend the 2nd Skills and Post-Secondary Education Summit 2014: Developing the Skills and PSE Strategy for Canada, hosted by The Conference Board of Canada. Of the multiple concurrent sessions, I plan to attend 1) Education and Training in the Digital Age, and 2) Best Practices in Skills Development and PSE. For the week of November 17th, we will be attending Lobby Week on Parliament Hill with CASA, our federal lobby group.

To note for today's presentations, please pay attention to Dr. Ian Reade's presentation on the Faculty of Phys Ed & Rec. The Campus Recreation Enhancement Fund and the Golden Bears & Pandas Legacy Fund are both funds paid by student fees that theoretically all students could apply for. The trick here though is that the funds must be applied for a year in advance, which does not necessarily fit the planning timeline of the average student group. The better you understand the logistics behind these funds, the better you will be able to educate your constituents and make the funds available.

Here's a quick list of updates on items I've been working on, and I welcome all questions via email:

- Presidential Search
 - The public announcement is expected by mid November
- Alumni Relations
 - Pilot project: creating an endowment to subsidize venue costs for student programming
 - Currently expanding core alumni team
 - Planning for Myer Horowitz renovations next year
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- Communications Strategy
 - We have identified three key target areas to address: 1) the personality/voice of the SU, 2) reach across our campus(es), and 3) steady flow of communications throughout the year
 - Project list:
 - Content Schedule
 - Process for emergent/urgent issues
 - Social Media Policy
 - Structure of Marketing & Communications
- Students' Union Grants
 - Student Services have lost funding this year from the Dean of Students' Office
 - Concerns outlined to Provost's office – awaiting next steps
- Market Modifiers
 - Proposals are now in the hands of the Ministry
 - Albertan universities have sent in letters to the Minister outlining each of our concerns
- Strategic Plan
 - Will be wrapping up the vision this week and starting overview of SU values
 - After values, current progress will be forwarded to staff and executives for feedback and to start the brainstorming around strategic goals
- Meeting with Vice Provost International
 - How do we “use” Diversity?
 - UAI is working with Centre for Teaching & Learning (CTL) to develop training materials for professors. Currently seeking funding from deans
 - SU: Encourage international students and student representatives to share stories about thirst for high-interaction classroom environment.
 - Transition to the Workforce
 - SU: Strengthen advocacy for extracurricular infrastructure to bridge the vast array of programs available
 - Education Abroad
 - How do we increase uptake?
 - SU: Make this the theme of the next newsletter survey to collect data
 - SU: Expand Infolink into the new UAI space in Telus

- Senior Manager's Updates
 - Waste station in the SUB food court has been redone (now with a plate station)
 - Undergrind sales have gone up 70% from last month
 - Programming at the Landing has been extremely successful thus far
 - SUTV is bringing in \$6000 this month from ad revenue
- University Good News
 - The U of A now has the most Academic All Canadians (academic athletes) in Canada!
 - University's endowment has now surpassed \$1B
 - We have reached the Gold Standard for Sustainability (2 place in Canada)

Like I mentioned earlier, great job at the previous Council meeting. The questions were great and the presenters all left Council with a positive impression.

William Lau

[President](#) 2014-2015 | [University of Alberta Students' Union \(UASU\)](#)

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