

Date: 04/18/2023

To: Students' Union Council

Re: President 2022/23 Report #25

Dear Council,

As we enter into the final weeks of the term, I have been reflecting on this year and what the executive team has been able to accomplish. Our university has undergone significant change, whether that be new administrators being hired, new academic structures in the university, or fiscal hardships that students have had to shoulder, and at every step of the way, students have been there to make sure our university was acting in the best interest of students. It hasn't been easy to be a student leader during these times, but I am so proud of my team and our ability to deliver on our vision to the Students' Union and UAlberta students.

With everything that happens in the life of a student (and student leader), I know that at times it can be difficult to keep up with everything that is going on in the university and wonder if your UASU has done anything to improve your student experience. I can say with great confidence that the UASU has done a significant amount this year, and I thought I would share **some** of the wins we have achieved this year through our advocacy.

- **\$13.5 million** allocated in the City of Edmonton budget towards [Transit Safety](#).
- **\$9.6 million** allocated toward needs-based aid for around 3570 UAlberta undergraduates, as the [Alberta Student Grant for Full-Time Students](#) rose from \$250/month to \$475/month.
- **Up to \$7.8 million** in savings through courses participating in the [Zero Textbook Cost Program](#). Students can also [find courses](#) that have ZTC on Beartracks!
- **\$2 million** over two years in savings for the Student Health and Dental Plan, with the addition of gender-affirming care at no cost.
- **\$1.6 million** allocated by the university to [mental health support](#). This includes an expansion of Counselling and Clinical Services to reduce wait times and provide more accessible and culturally competent support.
- **\$1 million** in savings by [removing the \\$40 Instalment Fee](#) for students who pay their tuition over two semesters.
- **\$200,000** in university funding to build a food pantry for the Campus Food Bank. We also expanded the food bank services, including the grocery bus, breakfast program and snack stations to Campus Saint-Jean.
- **\$15,000** donated by internal stakeholders towards improving the infrastructure of the period equity initiative.

- **Elimination of interest on Federal Student Loans** starting April 1, 2023.
- **2% cap on tuition increases** beginning in Fall 2024.
- **Implementing new Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Policies and Procedures** that will be a further step forward in survivor-centred and trauma-informed support for students.
- **Implementing new Student Conduct Policies and Procedures.**
- **Co-Creating the Student Experience Action Plan** with the university that is set to start implementation in Fall 2023.
- **Implementing Exploration Credits**, which students can use starting in Fall 2023.
- **Temporarily lifting work hour limits for international students** to gain more work experience and earn more money as tuition and cost of living rises.
- **Implementing an all-gender washroom pilot project** to locate and convert washrooms in buildings across campus to all-gender. University Commons will also have 49 all-gender washrooms! The SU is also working to secure money to put all-gender washrooms in Dewey's.
- **Green-lighting the creation of a syllabus tool** that we will use to create a **syllabus bank** for students to access their most up-to-date syllabi in a centralized place.
- **Creating a new student group oversight structure** with the University to be implemented by Fall 2024 so that we can put student life back in the hands of students.
- **Creating an experiential learning resource** for students who may face challenges during their experiential learning term.
- **Creating a Student Financial Aid Working Group** to re-evaluate the University's moderate standard of living threshold and needs-based aid promotion and disbursement processes.
- **Updating the Days of Significance** at the university to make it comprehensive and representative of the university community.
- **Developing a new Teaching, Learning and Evaluation Policy** that includes a new USRI (now called SPOT) format. The new framework will translate appropriate student feedback into mechanisms that will improve teaching meaningfully and share past student ratings.
- **Held our first-ever Student Addiction Awareness Campaign** to help inform the community about addiction and how we can create a community of care.
- **Celebrating International Day (I-Day)** for the first time in the Students' Union Building in partnership with the International Students' Association in French and English.
- Finding the International Students' Association a temporary office space.
- Successfully advocating for an indigenous gathering space at Campus Saint-Jean.

- **Restructuring Students' Council** to ensure that it can be an effective governance body where students can engage on issues important to them.
- **Held the Second Annual Residential School Memorial** in partnership with the Indigenous Students' Union to encourage critical reflection on the history of residential schools and their effects on Indigenous communities.
- **Held a Tuition Protest at the Board of Governors**, which engaged students across the university to rally against the fourth consecutive tuition increase.
- **Held Break the Record Dodgeball 2022**, which brought together thousands of members of the university community.

Among all these wins, we have also fostered stronger relationships with stakeholders in the sector to leave the UASU in a stronger position for the future.

I hope all of you leave this space knowing one thing: Student leadership has tremendous value. Over the past two years, I have seen the landscape of student leadership across the country. I can confidently say that we are given a level of meaningful engagement, participation and responsibility, and respect that seldom exists for other SUs or student leaders. That stems from the strength of our union and the calibre of student leaders we produce. The above list wouldn't be possible without student advocates always being at the table and providing a critical lens.

Thank you all for your engagement this year and for the honour and privilege of serving the undergraduate students at the University of Alberta.



Signing off,
The President

Abner Monteiro, President

2-900 SUB | 780 492 4241 | president@uasu.ca