

September 22nd, 2012

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

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Hello Council,

Before I begin my report I would like to speak to the passing of one of our country's most inspiring leaders and one of our most respected alumni at the University of Alberta and the Students' Union, former Premier Peter Lougheed.

As many of you may know, Premier Lougheed had a strong history of leadership and involvement during his time at the University of Alberta. He was successful in all areas and spoke to the importance of being well rounded. Being involved as a Gateway Editor, a Delta Upsilon member, a Golden Bears and Eskimos football player, and the Students' Union President, one can assume that Mr. Lougheed did not have much spare time during his University days. After graduation he became a strong advocate for innovation and human rights and led our province and our country to become an ideal place to live for generations of Canadians.

One only has to look back at Peter Lougheed's legacy to find inspiration for our own work. Remember that we are now standing in the same shoes that Mr. Lougheed was in many years ago. I encourage you to follow his lead and strive forward to lead innovation not only in the classroom here at the UofA but in the greater community and beyond. We have lost a great Alumni, a great leader, and a great friend, but let us never forget that he is here with us supporting us in every decision, every project, and every great thing that we do to support our students.

Here is my update: on the past two weeks:

### **Alumni Weekend**

Alumni Weekend was amazing! I had the amazing opportunity to meet with a number of honorary alumni and award winners including some past Students' Union executives and council members. I had the honour of speaking at the Alumni Awards at the Winspear Theatre and the Alumni Dinner and Dance at the Shaw Conference Centre. It is amazing to see the incredible successes that our alumni have achieved. I hope you all had a chance to check out the Tuck Shop in Quad (delicious cinnamon buns) and the amazing events that were held all weekend.

### **U-Pass Advisory Committee**

I attended the U-Pass Advisory Committee downtown with the VPSL and the DRPA. There is quite the debate going on surrounding the U-Pass pricing for the next three years of the contract but I am sure that the VPSL will report on this in greater detail. One highlight of the U-Pass meetings is going to "Chicken for Lunch" after which is one of the most delicious fast-food restaurants in Edmonton – located in the basement of Scotia Place.

## **SU Student Rep Open House**

I attended the SU Open House for elected representatives and had the opportunity to chat with a number of student leaders from across campus. Congrats to the VPA for doing such a great job hosting this event. I hope we can host more events like this throughout the year.

## **Quebec NDP MP Q&A**

I had the amazing opportunity to attend a group discussion with a number of students and two NDP MP's from Quebec. The MP's received a number of very difficult questions during the discussion and I was very impressed with their ability to respond with thoughtful and colourful answers. The two MP's are very young (around my age) and are doing an excellent job creating conversations around the country and sparking student interest in politics.

## **North Powerplant Tour**

We toured the Powerplant space with the GSA to think of options for our future use of the space. The Powerplant is much bigger than it looks and I am very excited to see what our future executives do with the space once we get it back in a few years!

## **ECV Housing Project**

I went to an ECV housing project meeting for the VPSL. We discussed funding for the exercise facilities, building models, safety and security and a number of other exciting topics. I think that the new housing units will be a great place to live. I was also in the ECV/Garneau area yesterday and was surprised to see how much demolition they have done in the last week. A lot of the old houses in this area have been torn down to make room for the new residence.

## **Bears Football Game**

I attended the Bears home opener (free Legacy Game) with a number of friends. The game was very close and I was excited to see my friend Curtis Dell (new starting quarterback) complete some pretty huge passes. It looks like the Bears have some new talent and skilled returning players that should make this season a good one to watch.

## **Planning Degree Program Launch**

The VPX, VP OpsFi and I attended the program launch for the new University of Alberta degree in Planning (kind of a mix between architecture and urban development?). The program looks very interesting and we were able to talk to a number of current students who have just started the program. They seem to be enjoying it! We also ran into a number of elected officials including the leader of the Alberta Liberals Dr. Raj Sherman and a number of city councilors including former SU DRPA Don Iveson. Mr. Iveson had a number of great stories about his time at the SU and gave us some useful advice on our U-Pass negotiations.

## **Academic Standards Committee**

I attended ASC in place of the VPA. I asked some questions regarding the new certificate handbook that is meant to help provide direction to the creation of new academic certificate programs. We also received an update on the Welcome Centre/Student Connect project.

### **HUB Mall Incident Interview**

The VPSL, GSA VPSL, and I attended an interview session with the former EPS Chief of Police who is doing an investigation regarding the HUB Mall shootings incident and the emergency notification program. We answered a number of questions regarding what we would like to see done in the future and how we think the response team could have improved their operations during this incident.

### **Academic Planning Committee**

APC did not have the most exciting agenda but we saw a presentation on the results of the School of Public Health Unit Review. The SoPH will most likely be receiving full accreditation for their graduate programs in the near future and has seen a significant amount of growth in the past number of years under the leadership of Dean Lory Laing. We also received an update on the preliminary forecast for this year's university budget.

### **Standing Advisory Committee on International Engagement (SACIE)**

The highlights of the SACIE meeting included a new goal to increase the number of students attending a study abroad program from approximately 15-20% by 2015. I think that this is quite a positive goal but that it may be very difficult for the university to achieve. The VPSL stressed the need for international program funding to increase to match this push for increased participation.

### **Student Group Services (SGS) Leadership Summit**

The exec attended the SGS Leadership Summit and answered a number of questions submitted by student group members. We had a lot of fun and I probably talked too much but I think the event went very well overall. Also, I must say, the meal catered by L'Express was incredible!

### **Lister Update**

We have re-entered discussions with the administration regarding the Lister issue. We had a very positive meeting on Monday and I think that things are finally starting to go well. Both parties have a vested interest in finding a mutually acceptable solution as soon as possible.

### **Board Learning and Discovery Committee**

I had my first BLDC meeting yesterday. The agenda was quite long but there were not many points of contention. We received updates on the Unit Review of the Registrar's Office and approved the elimination of 3-year degree programs at Augustana.

### **Student Alumni Council**

I had a meeting this morning with Chloe Chalmers, Michael Janz, and Kristin Kotelko from the Alumni Council and the Alumni Association to discuss the creation of a student alumni council committee. I will provide you with more information as discussions continue but please let me know if you are interested in getting involved.

### **Heroes for Health Parade**

This afternoon I had a lot of fun giving out free apples to students to promote the Heroes for Health challenge being run by the Health and Wellness Team. For more information check it out here: <http://www.studenthealth.ualberta.ca/en/Heroes%20for%20Health.aspx>

### **BSA Lipdub**

On Sunday I took part in the Business Students' Association Lipdub. I had a lot of fun and am excited to see the final product. Big congratulations to Councillor Le, President Jessa Aco, and the rest of their BSA team for doing such a great job.

### **Summary**

Sorry this report is late again! Things have been crazy. Please ask questions.

Cheers,

**If you have any further questions, suggestions, or concerns**, please do not hesitate to follow-up with me, either in person at SUB 2-900, by phone at 780-492-4236, or by email at [president@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:president@su.ualberta.ca).