

SC 16-08.06

Office of the **PRESIDENT**

August 18th, 2016

To: Students' Council 2016 – 17

From: Fahim Rahman, Students' Union President 2016 – 17

Re: Students' Union Council Report #8

Hi Council,

This is our last meeting before September begins, and I hope you've all had a chance to rest up and prepare for Week of Welcome. The pace has definitely been picking up in SUB 2-900.

Here is an update on my duties:

1. SU Exec

The executive had our **second retreat of the year**, where we checked in with progress on our goals, discussed some of the unexpected issues that have come up this year and checked in with our workload.

We also attended the **Students' Union Development Summit** in Vancouver, which was enlightening for myself. I learned a lot about the issues that other SUs are facing across Canada, and also am now more grateful that Student Unions and Associations are entrenched in provincial legislation.

Lastly, we attended a **going away dinner for** our previous Executive Coordinator, **Robyn Fenske**. She will be teaching by Grand Prairie in September, and we wished her the best in her endeavors. Her **successor, Kristen Stoik** has been settling into the office now.

2. Gov Week

I'm starting to prepare for **my session at Gov Week**, titled The Ugly Truth about Existential Issues Facing the SU. It will be one of about 70 sessions, which VP Banister is arranging into a schedule. Try to attend as many sessions as you can, as they'll be very insightful into the work students in governance do on campus!

3. Myer Horowitz Theatre Renovations

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VP Paches has been working hard on a campaign launch for the Myer Horowitz **Theatre renovations** with the Fundraising Planning committee. We have the Board Chair and Chancellor confirmed to attend with Minister Sigurdson.

4. Residences & Student Rights

The **Dean of Students met with the full SU executive**, and we discussed our goals for the upcoming year. He was interested in developing a Charter of Student Rights, but has concerns over how long a project like this will take.

VP Ghossein and I also met with the **Residence Life Task Force**, which is figuring out how to review residence from the perspectives of students and staff with a third-party.

It won't quite be a completely independent investigation as last year's SU Executive called for, but so long as the parameters for review are appropriately broad we should gain clarity on how some of the **systemic issues in residence have arisen** the past few years.

5. CAUS & CASA

CAUS had a teleconference meeting where we finalized our priorities document for the year. Mental health advocacy was also discussed at this meeting.

VP Sandare has been setting up **lobby meetings with MLAs**, and I tuned into the most recent one with Dr. Bob Turner. He was quite empathetic to our points, so we're hoping for success come our CAUS Advocacy week in November.

CASA had our first Policy committee meeting since Policy and Strategy, and I'm very happy with how members have already reviewed the policies that will soon be outdated. We'll have a few revisions to our policies and three new ones introduced this year I'm expecting.

6. Internal Projects

The executive attended a **Core Managers meeting** where we discussed how evaluations went this year. We also participated in a video shoot for Orientation that will be shown to all first year students.

At SUDS, we also connected with SU Alumni and VP Academic 2012 – 14 **Dustin Chelen**, who was a significant mentor for myself before I even began student governance.

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6. Presence & Relevancy

I had an interview with UBC's Ubyyssey, their student newspaper on **student association executive salaries**. I'll share the article once it is published with Council.

The full executive also attended two dinners, one with the **Engineering Students' Society** and one with **the Chancellor and his husband**.

That's all from me, and I look forward to the next report.



Fahim Rahman

President

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2-900 SUB | (780) 492-4643 | [@UASUpresident](#)