

May 31, 2011

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

Hello Council,

Below are the highlights since my last report. Please feel free to ask questions about any points of interest.

Budget and Finance Committee

May 25th marked the first summer trimester meeting of BFC. The meeting was structured as a “budget seminar” – the operating budget, budget principles and budget processes were discussed. I look forward to working with the group as budget conversations evolve over the coming months.

Facilities Development Committee – Subcommittee on Learning Spaces

Reporting to the FDC (a GFC committee), the FDC SLS is a body tasked with evaluating existing processes in the design of learning spaces on campus and producing recommendations for change. The Subcommittee is nearing the end of its work and plans to have a report finalized in the near future. I attended the May 30th meeting and will be attending the next meeting on June 7th.

Gateway Board of Directors

On May 26th I attended the start-up meeting of the Board as an ex officio member, where I was appointed to the Board Finance Committee. Reports and housekeeping items comprised much of the agenda for this meeting. The Board is a talented and pleasant group of individuals, with whom I look forward to collaborating.

Grant Allocation Committee

GAC met for the first time on May 19th. The committee's discussion was focused around its mandate, the Access Fund, Dedicated Fee Units and the upcoming Awards expansion. At our next meeting, we will hear presentations from SFAIC about the Access Fund and Awards. The Vice President (Student Life) and I will sit on the Access Fund Selection Committee when it convenes later this week.

Lower Level Changes

With the Peer Support Centre move now confirmed, the Vice President (Student Life) and I have been involved in discussions surrounding the service's new and existing space. The Campus Food Bank relocation is also moving forward. The planning process is just beginning, and I am excited to be involved in this project. The imminent vacuum in the Lower Level is a catalyst for us to create a long-term vision for the building. To learn more about the steps this would entail, the General Manager and I met with a project manager and are looking at options for moving forward.

Paw Centre

The design meetings have resumed and the Vice President (Student Life) and I have been attending these. Topics addressed have included the climbing wall, site plan and parking. We spent this morning in a meeting about the climbing wall and the concourse. We have also met with a student group to discuss programming options and requirements for the teaching kitchen, and will be bringing the results of this consultation to the relevant design meeting.

World University Service of Canada – Student Refugee Program

The WUSC SRP Board is essentially responsible for overseeing the program's DFU monies, which are used to subsidize the education of four refugee students at the U of A. A Councillor and I will serve on the Board alongside other members; there is a motion on the Late Additions for this appointment. The Board will need to meet at least once over the summer.

Cheers,
Andy