

Date: 12/15/2020

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Operations & Finance 2020/21 Report #16

Dear Council,

Happy last Council meeting before Winter vacation!!! Even though this will be a sad Christmas for me without my family (I am waiting until January to hopefully be able to go see my parents if things calm down), I think we all need the break no matter how it looks.

I have to say, I am very proud of the hard work that you have put into all that you do, whether Council, your courses, or other activities through which you better our communities. This has been an exhausting semester, and I am consistently inspired by the work that I see yourselves and my colleagues at the SU do every day that goes above and beyond the expected: we are holding on, and we are climbing, all while battling the stress, exhaustion, and sickness in our world, homes, and selves. Enjoy this break, and take time to think of all we have to be hopeful and joyful in.

COVID Response in SU Spaces and Holiday Hours

Students' Union Building

It's no surprise that SUB is the single largest and most widely accessed service that the Students' Union offers, and we believe that its value has not changed these days for students who need it most. SUB has remained open during COVID in the face of closures of most other buildings on campus because we believe that it is an essential service to students who face difficult living situations, have lousy internet access, and need to access the Pharmacy, among other circumstances.

We are doing all that we can to keep SUB open for those students who need it most during finals season, and we are making changes to keep it safe and in adherence with Alberta Health Service's guidelines. Some of these guidelines are still being clarified, so by the time Council reads this report things may have changed.

Currently, these changes include:

- New and more prevalent signage for better communication of COVID requirements
- 15% of capacity maximum occupancy in the building
- Changes to mask and gathering compliance strategies to increase mask usage and prevent social "gatherings" (study groups)
- Closing off food court seating
 - This is to reflect the "take-out only" rules for restaurants
 - Vendors are allowed to stay open, but may choose to close if business is not doing well

Food and beverage consumption is an ongoing challenge. In the spirit of student wellness, we know that students who need to come to SUB to study or take an exam also need to drink water and eat food. However, we must continue to monitor AHS' interpretations of eating indoors in public spaces, especially if that food comes from a restaurant in that same space. We are considering our options, including some potential creative solutions like designated outdoor eating spaces for people to consume meals alone and safely. Currently, we have designated "dining" and "studying" spaces, but are not sure if this can continue under the new restrictions. This is a tricky situation, and we will keep Council posted if there are major changes to restrictions in SUB that will affect students' wellness or academic success.

The Students' Union Building will be closed for the holidays from 11pm on December 23rd until 7am on January 4th.

Dewey's

Dewey's will close for the holidays on Friday December 11th, reopening date to be determined.

Daily Grind

The Daily Grind will be closed from Thursday December 22nd at 5pm until 7:30am on January 11th.

This was a fairly brief informational report, so, as always, if you have any questions about the contents of this report, or simply want to talk, please feel free to reach out! Stay safe and healthy.

All the best,

Alana Krahn

University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President (Operations & Finance)