

Date: 16/11/2021

To: Students' Union Council

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

Dear Council,

I hope you've all been keeping well and healthy as we move along November. I think by now it's no secret that Christmas is my favourite time of year. So, in celebration of the Christmas season, I'll be sharing one of my favourite Christmas songs in every report until Dec 25th - think of it as a countdown! First up, we have none other than "All I want for Christmas is You" by Mariah Carey. What else did you expect? It's a staple during the Holiday season. Let me know what some of your favorite Christmas songs are 🎄

Black History Month

As we slowly approach the end of this semester, a lot of my time recently has been spent planning and finalizing our Black History Months efforts. There's a few things left to finalize, and a few things may change a bit, but here's a breakdown of some of the things that will be taking place:

Speaker Series

As part of our initiatives for BHM, we are releasing four videos each week in February, with each video discussing a different topic. The topics are Dark Academia and Invisible Racism, Black Beauty and Beauty Standards, Black Masculinity, and a conversation with Jo-Anne Henry, the daughter of Violet King Henry, about the Black student experience. I have speakers confirmed for each topic, and we'll begin filming in a few weeks! I'll share more details soon.

Spotlight Campaign

When I started thinking about the initiatives that we could spearhead for BHM, I knew that I wanted to showcase individuals that have contributed to the Black community on campus. With the help of our research department, we were able to find individuals starting from

1931 that have contributed to the Students' Union and campus community. Yeah, 1931 - you read that right. We'll be highlighting each individual on the Wall of Gold during the entire month of February and paralleling that on our social media.

Violet King Award For Black Student Leadership and Community Engagement

I am so excited to announce that we will be creating a Students' Union award that will recognize the efforts of Black student leaders and folks involved in our campus community. The award is named after Violet King Henry. Violet King Henry was a student at the University of Alberta in 1948-53. Out of 142 students, Violet was one of only three women in the Faculty of Law; she was the only woman in her graduating class. Violet went on to a legendary career as Canada's first Black woman lawyer and the first Black lawyer admitted to the Alberta Bar.

During her time at the University of Alberta, Violet was heavily involved in the campus community. She believed in amplifying the voices of marginalized students and creating spaces and opportunities for students to share their voices. Violet served as the University of Alberta Students' Union (UASU) Vice President when Peter Lougheed was UASU President. She played a major role in opening and administrating the old Students' Union Building, now known as University Hall, and organizing the back-to-school events that became Week of Welcome. Violet is the first known Black UASU Executive.

To remember her legacy, each year, the Students' Union will award The Violet King Award for Black Student Leadership and Involvement to one undergraduate student who identifies as Black and has demonstrated involvement and leadership in the campus community while at the University of Alberta. The Students' Union will award one thousand dollars (\$1000) to one successful applicant.

I've come up with the criteria of the award that I will be taking to Finance committee for ratification. Once ratified, the award will be announced to students in February.

I've been thinking about the ways that I engage Black students in these conversations. I've come up with a few ideas but nothing is finalized yet. If you have any ideas, please let me know!! I would love to hear any ideas that you may have.

Lastly, as part of the referenda process, I wanted to inform you all that WUSC and APIRG will be going to referendum this year.

Emily Kimani, Vice President Operations and Finance

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If you have any questions about our BHM initiatives or any other questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'EK', enclosed within a light gray rectangular box.

Emily