

Date: 14/12/2021

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Operations & Finance 2021/22 Report #18

Dear Council,

Hello everyone! Happy to be seeing everyone again. Can you believe that this is our last council meeting this semester!? Honestly, the semester truly flew by. I hope you're getting through all your final assignments and exams. For this week's Christmas song countdown, I present to you "White Christmas" by Michael Bublé ft. Shania Twain. This is by far my favorite Christmas song of all time, but it has this specific version. I would love to hear some of your favourite songs during this time of the year!

I've been busy trying to wrap up a few of my projects before the holiday break. First, however, I wanted to give you a quick round down on the platform points that I've accomplished, plus a few other things I worked on this semester.

U-Pass

The U-Pass program returned this fall. We switched from the traditional U-Pass sticker to the Arc card this year. Working with ETS was not the easiest at times, and there were a few bumps in the road from their end. However, we got there in the end, and we were able to go through with Arc card distribution in September. The majority of students have now picked up their Arc card, and things seem to be going relatively smoothly. As I've mentioned before, because SmartFare is such a new system, we're looking to get as much student feedback as possible.

Solar Greenhouse

In October, the solar greenhouse officially launched and opened its doors to the public at the Campus Community Gardens, which was super exciting! The Solar Greenhouse will steer us towards securing a sustainable future for the Students' Union and aligns with our values and strategic plan rooted in empowering students, building relationships, and, most of all, serving all students.

Emily Kimani, Vice President Operations and Finance

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Bulk Foods

We now have the list of items that we will be offering in our Bulk foods section. It's a mix of snack-like items and conventional items. There will be chocolate-covered almonds - get excited. We're working on two major things right now. One, securing the equipment that we need to store and weigh the items. Two, working out our marketing and communications strategy. Nothing is finalized yet, but we will be doing a soft launch campaign ahead of the actual launch in mid-January.

Black History Month

Things for Black History month are in full swing. I've spent a huge chunk of my time over these past few weeks trying to figure out together the last few details of our BHM initiatives. I started filming for the BHM series last week and will continue filming the rest of the series next week. I don't think I mentioned the name of the series, but I'll keep that as a surprise. *OooOo the suspense*

The Violet King award has been ratified by Finance committee, so things are moving well with that. I'm just adding a few last edits to the award description.

When I first mentioned our BHM initiatives, I mentioned that I was looking for a way to incorporate the voices and perspectives of Black students here on campus - I figured it out. I reached out to some Black students across campus and asked them a few questions like, What has your experience been like as a Black student in Academia? How much of your university experience do you think has been shaped by your identity? What is how Academia can evolve? How do you think we can move forward? We're going to be compiling their questions into a video that depicts some of the experiences of Black students on campus. More updates to come!

International Students' HUB

I mentioned a few councils ago that we had found an office space for the ISA, initially. Unfortunately, there was a miscommunication with the University and Space optimization, and that space is no longer available. However, we are still working on finding them and sourcing a space on campus, hopefully, within the next few months.

Period Equity

We put up another dispenser in SUB and two dispensers in Van Vliet. We're still hoping to put up a few more dispensers on campus by the end of next semester, but adequate funding is our biggest obstacle right now. We're currently working on securing a

sustainable funding source and running an awareness campaign to end the stigma around periods and educate folks. We have a few ideas, but we're still in the initial planning stages.

Mental Health

A goal of mine this year was to ensure that EmpowerMe was renewed so that students could still have access to this resource. EmpowerMe is now fully integrated into the SU Health and Dental plan with no extra cost to students. So, students will continue to have access to additional support through EmpowerMe.

From September, we began to promote our health and wellness services using Perks in interactive ways like surveys and quizzes to promote our mental health services to students and get the message out.

Those are a few things that I worked on this semester! If you have any questions about anything in this report or questions about projects that I didn't mention, please let me know.

Finally, I want to say a huge thank you to all of you for all the work that you've invested into Council this semester. From sitting on committees to working on your own goals, you've all done an amazing job. I hope you find some time to rest and relax during this holiday break.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS 🎄🧑

All the best,
Emily