

Date: 02/09/2021

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Operations & Finance 2020/21 Report #19

Dear Council,

Happy to be seeing you again, even over Zoom! I hope you have all had a lovely two weeks. In my spare time, I've been knitting a sweater, and it's now done! It took me less than two weeks to finish (let's be honest, it's been my primary stress outlet). I've found it really nice to have something to do that doesn't involve looking at a screen, especially when it's too cold to spend a lot of time outside. If anyone else wants to try knitting, I really enjoyed the knitting kit I got from weareknitters.ca. (This report was not sponsored by any knitting companies or sheep farmers. But that's got me thinking of alternative revenue sources...)

Services Update

UASU Awards

The UASU Awards provide funding to students who excel in a number of areas. Finance Committee was provided with an annual report from the Awards team last week. The Committee approved the creation of the Saba and Sara Sadaat Memorial Award, as you will see below.

Awards 2020 by the Numbers

Individual Awards (UASU Involvement Awards, Centenary Awards, and Coca Cola Awards)

- 337 applications were received, 318 were considered
 - 3 applications were received in French
- 113 recipients across all categories
- \$96,700 in scholarships awarded

Student Group Awards

- 32 applications received
- \$4,000 in awards to groups awarded

SALUTE Awards

- 10 nominations received
- 2 SALUTEs presented

Saba and Sara Sadaat Memorial Award

Council approached President Agarwal in Fall 2020 to propose the creation of a memorial award to honour Saba Sadaat, a UAlberta student who passed away in the tragic Ukrainian International Airlines Flight 752 tragedy. The current Students' Union Award for Invaluable Contribution will be renamed in Saba's honour, with the following description (created with and accepted by Saba's family):

"Saba and Sara Sadaat Memorial Award:

Established to celebrate the life of Saba Sadaat, a student at the University of Alberta from 2016 to 2020, and her sister Sara (UAlberta 2019). Saba, Sara, and their mother Dr. Shekoufeh Choupannejad perished on board Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752 on January 8th, 2020.

Saba was an avid volunteer and passionate mentor to her peers and community members. She especially cared about creating connections with youth and children through organizations like Heart of the City Music Program on campus, Big Brothers Big Sisters Edmonton, and the Helping Hampers project. She was also a mentor for newcomer students in the Iranian community. Saba had a passion for research in medicine and women's reproductive health, and was working towards a Bachelor of Science with a minor in Psychology.

Sara had begun her journey towards achieving a doctorate degree in clinical psychology in the United States. She had set her sights on being an advocate for LGBTQ+ youth throughout her career.

This award recognizes students' outstanding contributions to initiatives or organizations in behind-the-scenes roles.

Conditions:

- Must include a reference letter from someone involved in an event or organization outlining the student's level of contribution to the initiative.
- Preference will be given to group members that do not hold executive or formal leadership positions.
- Preference will be given to students involved in advocacy work for marginalized groups.
- Preference will be given to students involved in organizations and initiatives related to medicine, especially in gynecology and reproductive health."

Business Update

Myer Horowitz Theatre Loan Request Receives First Approval

As Council knows, the Myer Horowitz Theatre renewal project will require debt financing from the Government, since the University holds title to the Students' Union Building, and the University can only borrow money from the Provincial Government. General Manager Marc Dumouchel has especially worked tirelessly and done an excellent job at writing out a detailed business case for the University's approval processes. On Thursday morning, the Presidential Oversight Committee on Operations (PEC-O) approved our request for the University's help in securing a low-interest loan. This means that we can move forward in seeking approval from the Board Finance and Property Committee, and then the Board of Governors, before it goes to the Provincial Government. It's quite the process, but we are excited that it's moving forward!

Much more has been happening than is in this report. So, as always, if you have any questions about the contents of this report, or just want to talk, feel free to reach out! Stay safe and healthy.

All the best,

Alana Krahn

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