

Date: 04/13/2021

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Operations & Finance 2020/21 Report #23

Dear Council,

I can't believe it, but this is my final report. It has been an honour and a journey to serve as your Vice-President of Operations & Finance. I would like to use this opportunity to document an overview of some of the projects I have gotten to work on this year. So much of the work I have done this year was not started by me, and there is much that will be carried on. Time ran out for a few important projects, and the pandemic prevented others; but there is also a lot that I am proud to have worked on. So here is a non-exhaustive list of things that happened this year that touched my portfolio:

U-Pass

- An historic deal achieved at negotiations - for the first time ever, we have a four year price freeze at the current price.
- Despite the U-Pass being unavailable due to the pandemic, secured affordable alternatives for students living in the Edmonton area.
- U-Pass passed with 86% in favour at referendum, so we will have it back soon!

Businesses

- Our businesses slowed down because of COVID, with most students working from home.
- We had to make difficult decisions, such as closing Dewey's from January 2021 through September 2021.
- We took this as an opportunity to think strategically about our businesses post-pandemic, and are currently setting ourselves up for success.

Building

- SUB remained open throughout this year, and was one of few buildings on campus to do so. We wanted students to have a place where they could study, even if their home environment wasn't compatible.
- Our staff did an excellent job at increasing our already high standard of cleanliness in our building.

Sustainability & Capital Fund

- 13 students created thorough assessment tools for major sustainability capital projects, ensuring that SU capital projects will be valuable to students.
- By establishing the Green Fund, student applicants can receive funding to make their sustainability dreams come true on campus.
- We are making significant sustainability improvements to SUB, beginning with a renewal of the Myer Horowitz Theatre, which will include a new elevator, solar panels, better water and energy efficiency, and much more.

Free Menstrual Products

- Using some sponsorship money that we raised, we put up our first free menstrual products dispenser! Check it out in SUB, outside the basement bathrooms.
- This is part of our efforts to achieve equity on campus and to mitigate period poverty.

Health & Dental Plan

- Implemented the new Basic Plan for health and dental insurance, which is a cost-effective alternative to our Comprehensive Plan, to increase the affordability and options of the insurance that we offer.

UASU Perks

- Has grown to a community of thousands of users, and enabled the SU to gain student perspectives on a variety of issues

I cannot write this without saying that none of this could have happened without the incredible staff at the Students' Union. Marc, Craig, Eric, and everyone else who I don't want to embarrass by naming in a report. Exceptional people are what make the UASU exceptional. I will miss every single one of them, and I will always be indebted to them for their support.

There is also so much that was done this year by the rest of the executive team. The advocacy and service that they have done for students this year has been immense. I am exceptionally proud of David Draper, Katie Kidd, Rowan Ley, and Joel Agarwal for their unwillingness to back down in the face of mountains standing against them. I haven't been here for long, but I would guess that there has never been a time when we have had to do so much, for so long, with so little.

Thank you to each Students' Councillor for your engagement, for taking initiative and deciding that you would be the one to make the change you wanted to see. I hope you will keep learning, keep engaging, and keep in touch.

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)