

Date: 08/04/2022

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Operations and Finance 2022/23 Report #7

Dear Council,

I hope you all had a good long weekend!

Residential School Memorial

If you were on campus last Fall term and frequently passed Main Quad, you would have probably seen some glimpses of the Residential School Memorial. In November 2021, 7509 flags were planted in Main Quad to represent every single child lost to Residential Schools, and that number has only risen since then. I wanted to host this memorial once again this year, as it really sparked a lot of conversations around our campus community and brought further awareness to this atrocity. In the past couple of weeks, I met with Chelsea, our FNMI specialist and the Indigenous Students' Union about having another memorial for this year. Everyone is on the same page on the importance of doing this once again, and we've created the Residential School Memorial Planning Committee that both Joannie and I will sit on along with other members of ISU in order to have this event ready for September. Here's a photo of the flags on Main Quad and one of our lawn signs.



Art Committee

Art Committee met for the very first time last week to set up our goals for the year and discuss the things we'd like to accomplish! We also spent the rest of the meeting looking at the art we currently have within the UASU Art Collection and picked out the pieces that will be going up in the living room of SUB, which will hopefully be up in time for the refresh and grand opening of the area!

CFB Tour

Thanks to Joannie, the whole exec team got a chance to meet with Erin O'neil, the Executive Director of the Campus Food Bank. We received a tour of the inside of their newly renovated space! There's a lot of work and behind the scenes that happens in order to keep this integral part of campus up and running, and I encourage you, if you are able, to volunteer with them!

International Students' Association Office

The ISA office is another project that has been on the forefront of my mind lately. I've met with Dhir, the president of the ISA, on their intended uses for the space and what their future plans are with the office. We are still continually following up with Space Optimization and just waiting to hear back from them on securing a permanent space for the ISA that will meet all of their needs.

Presented at Policy

Last week, the whole exec team presented to Policy committee our advocacy goals and timelines for the year. We referenced specific policies that we will all be working on within the scope of our portfolios, and how we plan to accomplish our goals. Out of all of the other Execs, my portfolio is the most internal looking, so in terms of my goals, one of my primary focuses was on the Indigenous Students policy!

CoFA Finance and Administration Meeting

CoFA Finance and Admin had another meeting last week. We had about 6 different SRAs attend, and we amended the Terms of Reference of the working group to include the chair of Audit Committee as a non-voting interim member. We also got the chance to get a presentation on sponsorships, to give the Vice-President Finances an idea of how to potentially deal with and attain some for their groups and events. I'd like to thank Craig, our Director of Business Operations for presenting that day and Todd, our Business Development Specialist, for creating the presentation!

Councillor Mentorship Program

I also had a meeting yesterday with Milan regarding the Councillor Mentorship Program! We discussed future plans for the mentorship this year, and talked about the ways in which the program can be improved and the areas in which I can support him and the rest of CAC on! This was a large project of mine last year and I am incredibly glad it is going to be continued this year and in good hands!

EDI Steering Committee

The Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Steering Committee met for the first time in my term today! In our super quick introduction meeting, we went over the work the committee did last year and further steps for working on tackling the recommendations made by Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Task Force (EDIT) last year. Though EDIT's recommendations were more outward-facing and focused on the campus community as a whole, this committee is more internally-facing and is primarily focused on ways the organization as a whole can work on EDI.

Finance Committee

Finance committee has also been taking up a lot of my time lately, especially with our plan of completely redoing our fee policy this year. Our next meeting is tomorrow and we will be talking about the types and categories of fees that the SU charges. I've been creating prep documents around each topic we plan to cover, so if you're interested in bylaw changes or anything to do with fee policy, stop by our bi-weekly Friday meetings!

Counterparts

BSA VPF

I met with Emma, the Vice President Finance of the Business Students' Association. We went over our goals for the year and things we'd like to see from the Council of Faculty Associations Finance and Administration Working Group. They also have a FAMF renewal coming up this year!

Other than that, I got to spend my long weekend with my family! We went to Red Deer and Sylvan Lake! We ended up renting a kayak and a paddle board, and I haven't done either in a really long time, so it was super fun! Though there was a tornado warning in the area and luckily left when we did, or else we could've got hit by that really bad hailstorm! With that, I hope you all are staying safe and if you have any questions or want to grab a coffee, don't hesitate to reach out!

Best,



Julia Villosa

Vice President Operations and Finance

University of Alberta Students' Union