

Date: 04/13/2023

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Operations and Finance 2022/23 Report #22

Dear Council,

I can't believe this is my last report for the year! As a way to end of the year, here's a list of the things I was proud of accomplishing this year:

Savings

- \$2 million over two years in savings for the Student Health and Dental Plan
- \$1 million in savings by removing the \$40 Installment Fee for students who pay their tuition over two semesters
- \$15,000 donated by internal stakeholders towards improving the infrastructure of the period equity initiative.
- Froze the Health and Wellness Fee for on-campus students next year, and prevented a 4% increase.

Policy, Operations, and Businesses

- The Peer Support Centre's budget increased this year to expand our staff capacity!
- Increasing efficiency and transparency of the SU's finances by expanding our consultation efforts, and changing the budget format
- Worked to provide opportunities for student leaders to better understand the internal operations by getting core managers to give presentations to Finance Committee
- Did a majority of the behind-the-scenes work and all of the consultation on Fee Governance Policy Changes
- Perks was used at an AMMICUS conference and we received a lot of positive feedback with multiple schools interested in acquiring it
- Expanded the Health and Dental Plan to include the addition of gender-affirming care at no cost
- Got the University to consult with students on a larger scale for the first time regarding tuition, including coming to Students' Council and ISA Council for consultation

Events

- [Held the Second Annual Residential School Memorial](#) in partnership with the Indigenous Students' Union to encourage critical reflection on the history of Residential Schools and their effects on Indigenous communities

- Held a Tuition Protest at the Board of Governors, which engaged students across the university to rally against the fourth consecutive tuition increase.
- I was able to give a presentation at the first session of Stride: The Campaign School this year! I also got to be a mentor for a Strider, which was an amazing experience being able to encourage other women to get involved in their campus community.
- I also got a chance to be part of the Councillor Mentorship Program once again this year, and got to mentor a student interested in being a part of student governance
- Celebrated Asian student excellence this year, and featured students on the UASU Instagram page for Asian Heritage Month!
- For National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, we sold orange shirts and drinks at SUBMart and donated \$1500 to the Indian Residential School Survivors Society and Orange Shirt Society

Building and Businesses

- Revitalized the Dewey's menu and put new items to establish a better sense of identity for one of our campus bar
- The Daily Grind underwent some renovations this year, and once the theater opens we'll be able to double the amount of customers we serve!
- Got the International Students' Association an office space within SUB and in the process of helping them secure an even larger space
- Opened a new business to get more non-student revenue at South Campus: Balmoral Lounge
- The SUB Living Room got a makeover with new furniture and a new water feature!
- Redecorated the walls in SUB with some new art from the SU's Art Collection in tandem with the Art Committee
- Worked with UofA Design classes to get ideas from UofA design students directly on possible improvements and design changes they would make to the Students' Union Building

Governance

- Helped the Native Studies Students' Association get set up this year
- Worked on Sustainability Committee recommendations to help make the SU more sustainable
- Met with Student Representative Associations monthly for check-ins to provide them the support they need
- Council of Faculty Association: Finance and Administration Working Groups met on a monthly basis, and they received PD sessions from SU staff
- Formed a committee to implement changes to room names within SUB into Cree to reflect the Indigenous and ancestral space of Treaty Six and also get Indigenous art in tandem

- Part of the hiring of the new College of Social Sciences and Humanities Dean

Best,



Julia Villosa

Vice President Operations and Finance
University of Alberta Students' Union