

Date: 10/20/2020

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Operations & Finance 2020/21 Report #13

Dear Council,

Report number thirteen and Halloween just around the corner? Seems like we should have stayed home this evening - oh wait! Thanks, COVID. Alright, back to professionalism. My NS 201 midterm went very well. I would say that it was a result of my many hours spent studying, but VP Kidd only got 2% less than I did, and she studied a lot less. If you have any theories for why this might be, please keep them to yourself. Just kidding. So much for professionalism.

Anyway, in my studying, I learned that the numbered treaties (which are just a few of many treaties between Indigenous groups and the Crown) have very interesting histories. I learned that Indigenous worldviews do not view land as something to be owned, meaning that it cannot be bought or sold. I would like to learn more about what this looks like for Indigenous peoples today. This meant, at the times of treaty making, that Indigenous groups believed that they were agreeing to shared use of the lands they occupied in exchange for protection against the growing settler society (and tools to help them thrive alongside this new society, like agricultural implements). The Crown, however, believed that Indigenous nations were fully signing away their rights to land ("ceding"). As they had been doing for millennia, Indigenous peoples passed down many of the aspects of treaty agreements orally, whereas the Crown used a written contract. These issues have led to many disagreements that continue to this day.

Building Update

Horowitz Theatre Walk-Through

On Thursday of last week, President Agarwal and I had the wonderful experience of walking through the building with engineers, architects, designers, and others as we explored the building's intricacies to ensure accurate drawings. It was very exciting to see some of the most inaccessible parts of the theatre (catwalks, underground maintenance spaces, etc.). I am more convinced than ever of both the need for renovations, and of the potential for this great space.

Holy RATT-rimony

(If you appreciated that, please send me an affirmative message. Thank you.)

Last week, our Catering & Events staff decked out Room at the Top (our 7th-floor bar) in full wedding setup. Nobody actually got married, but several model couples showed up in their wedding attire to take pictures for our advertising of the space as a potential wedding venue. This will be a very exciting way to bring in additional non-fee revenue!

Dean of Students**Monthly Meetings**

The Exec team now has monthly meetings with the Dean of Students to talk about issues that are top of mind. Last week, we spoke about academic restructuring, campus sexual violence, and the provincial government's Alberta 2030. We are looking forward to increasingly productive discussions moving forward.

DoS Review

Andre Costopolous, the Dean of Students, is undergoing a standard review. VP Kidd sits on the review committee, but I would also encourage you all to pass along your feedback about Andre to Katie. If you have any questions, please let one of us know.

Other Noteworthy Happenings**Executive Shadow Days**

It is surreal to me, but executive shadow days are already here. If you would like to get a taste of what it's like to be an exec by shadowing one of our meetings, do not hesitate to reach out, and I will pass along our signup form!

As always, if you have any questions about the contents of this report, or simply want to talk, please feel free to reach out! Stay safe and healthy.

All the best,

Alana Krahn

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