

**Date:** 05/19/2020

**To:** Students' Union Council

**Re:** Vice President Operations & Finance 2020/21 Report #2

Dear Council,

Happy to be seeing you all again, even over Zoom! I hope you have all been keeping healthy. Is anyone else ecstatic that provincial parks have opened up camping reservations? I hope to be getting out at least a few times this summer. These past two weeks have been packed, yet have seemed to go by very quickly. It feels recently as though I have been jogging on a treadmill, and someone just turned the speed way up - but that just means more exciting things coming along faster!

## **Sustainability Projects**

### **Sustainability & Capital Fund Committee**

One of the projects I have been working on is the creation of the Sustainability and Capital Fund Committee (SCFC). This is the committee that will oversee the management of the Sustainability and Capital Fund, adjudicate projects and decide project disbursements, and report on the Fund to Students' Council. The SCFC is unique in its membership and mandate, and will be a very interesting committee to be a part of. I am happy to say that I have brought the standing orders to bylaw, and that Council will have the opportunity to engage with this committee. I am thankful for the incredible support of my team in making this happen.

### **Free Menstrual Products Initiative**

VP Kidd and I have continued to investigate funding options for the free menstrual products initiative. We are beginning to draft strategies for expansion of the program, considering timelines and funding sources. As we move forward, we hope to share more details and have product dispensers up and ready to go for when students return to campus. To ensure the longevity of this social sustainability project, we are planning to make the project something that we learn from, so that we can be flexible according to students' needs.

## **Advocacy Projects**

### **UPass Negotiation Preparation**

The UPass provides eligible students unlimited access to regular transit services across six jurisdictions: Edmonton, Saint Albert, Strathcona County, Spruce Grove, Fort Saskatchewan, and Leduc. You may recall that the UPass is going to referendum this year. I am actively engaging with the University and the City of Edmonton to coordinate our plans for this year's upcoming negotiations.

**Business Updates****Daily Grind & SUBmart**

As the Students' Union Building has been virtually the only building on campus to remain open to the public during the pandemic, Daily Grind and SUBmart have both remained open to serve our campus community. Despite being the only businesses open on campus (apart from Subway), and thus facing little to no competition, revenues are a fraction of what they would normally be during these months. Nevertheless, we are pleased to continue to provide this service to our community.

A note on the building itself. Our cleaning staff have been taking extra precautions to clean and disinfect surfaces within the building, and have been doing an excellent job. We have received much positive feedback from members of the campus community who must still come to campus to work, thanking us for remaining open during this time.

**Catering & Events**

In an effort to move inventory that would eventually expire from Room at the Top, Dinwoody, Dewie's, we have begun selling our inventory to our campus community members. We wanted to serve students with assets we have, and save food waste. The groceries and liquor have been sold at cost (plus a small amount to cover staff time) to provide our community members who may not want to visit a grocery store, with restaurant-quality groceries. There will be a Gateway feature article coming out about the initiative shortly - keep an eye out to read more!

**Noteworthy Meetings****Tuition and Budget Advisory Committee**

President Agarwal and I attended this meeting early last week. I am very pleased to announce that the University will not be raising international tuition from the 2020-21 year to the 2021-22 year!

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.

Best,

**Alana Krahn**

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