

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Operations & Finance 2020/21 Report #3

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Dear Council,

Happy to be seeing you all again, even over Zoom! I hope you have all been keeping healthy. It has been a busy two weeks. I am finding myself settling into the rhythm of the role, and am enjoying the people I get to collaborate with. Now, a short gardening update. My kale plants have all survived being transplanted! I started the seeds in egg cartons, and have transferred the small plants to planter boxes on my balconies. My beans and peas are also shooting up quickly. Fingers crossed that I'll have home-grown veggies this year!

### **Sustainability Projects**

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

I have been continuing to work on the creation of the Sustainability and Capital Fund Committee (SCFC). As you know, this is the committee that will oversee the management of the Sustainability and Capital Fund, adjudicate projects and decide project disbursements, and report on SCF to Students' Council. The SCFC is unique in its membership and mandate, and will be a very interesting committee to be a part of.

Standing orders have been brought to Bylaw Committee, and you will see a first reading of them today. I encourage you to consider whether you would like to sit on this committee. You do not need to be an expert in sustainability, but if you want to actively help the Students' Union and our student body strive to care for our community and our planet, consider joining. I expect that it will be engaging, rewarding, and fun! Reach out to me with any questions you may have.

### **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.

This week, VP Kidd, President Agarwal, and I met with counterparts from the Students' Association of MacEwan University, NAIT Students' Association, and Norquest Students' Association. It was a preliminary discussion to establish our goal of working together to achieve the best outcomes for all of our student constituents. I am happy to say that they are all lovely people to work with, and I am excited to collaborate with them. We are hoping to meet again this upcoming week to do more work together.

#### **Sauvons Saint-Jean Meeting**

Last week, I was able to attend a "Sauvons Saint-Jean" virtual town hall meeting. I got to hear wonderful testimonials about Campus Saint-Jean, reinforcing to me the incredible value of the CSJ campus to our community. To learn more about the movement, visit the [AFCA website](#).

### **Service Updates**

#### **Health & Dental Plan**

## **Health & Dental Plan**

VP Kidd and I are in conversations with StudentCare (the student-focused insurance broker with whom we partner to provide our Health & Dental Plan) about what we can provide by way of mental health services via the plan. The Students' Union already provides numerous wellness and mental health supports, including the [Peer Support Centre](#), [The Landing](#), and [UASU Cares](#). VP Kidd and I are in the early stages of exploring options to ensure that students continue to be able to access a broad range of mental health services in this online COVID environment. We look forward to updating you as we go.

## **Noteworthy Meetings**

### **E-Scooters Committee**

With the launch of e-scooters in Edmonton in Spring of 2019, the University was invited to collaborate with e-scooter companies to ensure the scooters could meet the demands of students while respecting the University's interests .

A working group representing Facilities and Operations, Risk Management Services, University of Alberta Protection Services, the Students' Union, the Graduate Students' Association, University Relations, and the Injury Prevention Centre was formed to evaluate the merits and concerns related to e-scooter use on campus. The working group has concluded the University of Alberta has an opportunity to allow limited access for e-scooters on North Campus in a way that balances ease of use with safety concerns by conducting a pilot program during the spring, summer, and fall of 2020, followed by an evaluation to determine and recommend a longer-term approach.

Alberta Health Services has cleared e-scooters to return to the streets quickly, and as a result, the University's e-scooters working group is preparing areas around campus for use as parking hubs. Last week, we had a quick meeting to determine content for signage, and other physical logistics. VP Kidd and I were able to attend the meeting. It has been very interesting to be involved with!

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)

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**Alana Krahn, Vice President Operations & Finance**

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