

Date: 07/14/2020

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Operations & Finance 2020/21 Report #6

Dear Council,

Happy to be seeing you all again! I hope that you have been thriving during these last two weeks. Something that has been bringing me a lot of joy at work lately is that I have started using my whiteboard to make to-do lists for my major priorities and projects. Each item is colour-coded to indicate urgency, and overall it has been helping me a lot. So here's to organizational tools! My garden is still thriving: I used some of my basil in a recipe yesterday and it was so fragrant. I hope your hobbies are also bringing a smile to your face these days.

Services Update

UPass

We are putting a lot of effort into fighting for a good deal for students to have affordable transit in the Fall. We put forward a strong and comprehensive proposal to ETS for an opt-in UPass for the Fall, which they have turned down. We are currently (as of July 9th) drafting an alternate proposal that seeks to accomplish an equally good outcome as the last proposal. Despite our very best efforts, solutions are not quickly forthcoming, as ETS is being slow to bring forward solutions or to meet in the middle. We are investigating further advocacy efforts to try to arrive at a solution for students as quickly as possible, so that we can mobilize our staff to implement what needs to be.

As far as the Ride Transit Program for the Summer goes, I am aware that it presents some issues. It is cumbersome, and ETS has yet to update me on if the back-end administration systems are working to allow students to participate (though they guarantee that students can participate). These issues are only increasing our determination to find a feasible solution for the Fall semester. For the time being, I thank you for your patience, as we really are working hard to get the best possible outcome.

Projects Update

Free Menstrual Products Initiative

Vice President Kidd and I have had some interesting meetings about the free menstrual products initiative over the last two weeks. One of them, which I would like to highlight, was with Hempact. Hempact is a student-run startup (which has recently become incorporated), that was started through the Enactus club at the University of Alberta. They are developing a biodegradable sanitary pad made from hemp fibres that would otherwise become waste. As part of our long-term strategy for the free menstrual products initiative, we plan to work with them to

make this project environmentally-conscious. You can learn more about Hempact and their fantastic work [here](#).

Noteworthy Meetings

Vice-President, Finance & Administration Search Committee

The University has formed a hiring committee to find a successor for Gitta Kulczycki, our current VP Finance & Administration, who will be leaving soon. I am happy to be on the committee along with President Bill Flannigan, Provost Steve Dew, and other University and Faculty administration. We had our first meeting this week, with the hiring firm, to go over criteria for the role and what advertising will look like.

Here is a bit of information about the portfolio. The VP Finance & Administration provides the appropriate systems and resources for the academic community to advance and achieve its vision, to retain and attract talented people, and to provide best in class support to the university community. The VP Finance & Administration will play a key role in supporting the University during this time, and in creating a new model for University administration that is both sustainable and innovative.

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)