



November 17th, 2016

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Students' Council

Happy day Council,

Feels strange writing this report only 72 hours after seeing everyone! Due to that, just a heads up that this report will be shorter than usual. Otherwise, I hope your last few hours have been good. Mine certainly have, lots of meetings and my moustache is beginning to come in stronger (at least I like to tell myself that). Anyways, onto business!

Chillin for Charity

Wednesday morning I had the pleasure of jumping in Chillin for Charity for the 4th year in a row! A club within the business faculty, Alberta JDC West, hosts the event annually to raise money for the United Way. Students collect donations for a couple weeks and then make a jump into a pool of freezing water. It sounds dreadful for participants, but I've always had a blast. The hot tubs they have to warm up in after may or may not be a large part of that! I jumped with Dean Doucet of the Alberta School of Business, and Andrew Sharman the new VP Facilities and Operations of the University of Alberta.

Deferred Maintenance

Also occurring on Wednesday, the Edmonton Journal, Calgary Herald and Calgary Sun posted articles outlining the extensive backlog of deferred maintenance that both the U of A and U of C are facing. They are \$800 million and \$450 million respectively. Multiple media outlets approached the SU to comment on behalf of students, so I had a few interviews this week. I made the comment that deferred maintenance needs to be prioritized in order to ensure quality of education and experience for students. The last thing we want is for this to reach a crisis point where buildings are being closed. No need to worry, we are not at that point yet, but the government needs to be acting proactively to avoid this. Also notable is this is an issue of government funding as Facilities and Operations within the U of A is prioritizing this, however they simply do not have the funds to tackle it as they'd like. Look to the news, and future reports, for more updates.

*Anti-Harassment Campaign in the Gym*

Many of you have asked me where this campaign idea has gone and where we currently are in the planning. I finally have an update for you, and it's exciting! Thursday morning I hosted the first meeting of a working group tasked with creating the principals and language around this campaign. The makeup is important stakeholders – Phys-Ed & Rec, The Landing, Graduate Students' Association and the SU. It was an extremely productive meeting and it appears this campaign may expand beyond what was originally envisioned. Instead of simply being in the gym, the campaign will extend to other fitness facilities in the Van Vleet and other areas on campus. Phys-Ed & Rec also believe this campaign can be a platform for further cultivation of a positive fitness environment for all, not just limited to harassment cases. For example, the campaign could aid in the creation of a community around fitness at the U of A. All in all, the project has officially begun and it's looking even more exciting than I could have imagined. Stay tuned!

Cheers,

Robyn Paches