



December 1, 2015

**To:** Students' Council

**Re:** Report to Students' Council

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Hello Council!

What an exciting time of year! I hope you are all pumped for the winter break and the holidays, and get some much-needed relaxation in after a very busy and very meaningful term. I have many things to update you all on, so my apologies in advance for the lengthy report.

## **BILL 7: ALBERTA HUMAN RIGHTS AMENDMENT ACT**

As some of you may have heard, a bill concerning gender was introduced in the Alberta Legislature and passed first reading last week. If successful, Bill 7 will replace "gender" in the Alberta Human Rights legislation with "gender, gender identity, and gender expression," thereby cementing gender identity and non-binary gender as a legally recognized and protected ground in the province. This is absolutely massive, and has many, many implications for gender in Alberta and at our university. The Equity Statement on Student Affairs in the Calendar is required to follow Human Rights legislation, so gender identity will be included in that statement. This can also be used as a reason for requiring pronouns alternative to the gender binary be used in governing documents and policies, and for additional gender options when students register for school. This is genuinely the happiest moment of my term, and I feel comforted that transgender and gender non-binary students who may have felt oppressed, invalid, or invisible can now point to legislation as proof that the government recognizes them and that they exist as more than just an afterthought in our formerly binary system.

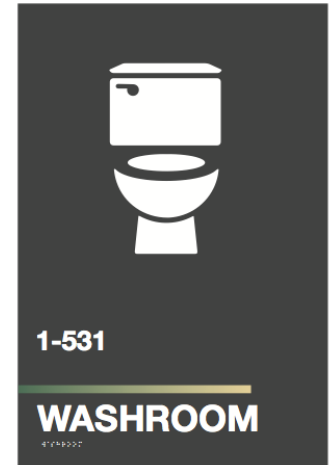
## **INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE PROCEDURE**

I am working with the Provost's Office to develop a procedure around use of inclusive language at the University. After consulting with interested parties in November, it was suggested that the best way to make these changes to gendered language would be to create a procedure under the existing Discrimination, Harassment, and Duty to Accommodate Policy. Since the policy already recognizes gender identity as a protected ground, the proposed procedure would outline how the policy is put into practice relative to language use in documents and in the media. This would act as a style guide of sorts, and talk about which language is appropriate when, and how it would apply across the University (through the Calendar, Code of Student Behaviour, policies, syllabi, media releases, marketing materials, policies, etc.). This procedure would address gendered language and pronouns, but also other potential areas of improvement with regards to other forms of inclusive language (e.g., ableist language, colonial language, etc.).

## WASHROOM SIGNAGE

It was recently pointed out to me that not all of the single-unit washroom stalls in SUB were labeled as such, and many are still needlessly gendered. Although we don't own every floor, I have gotten permission from the Office of the Dean of Students, and we will be moving forward on changing the washrooms in the tower to reflect gender-neutral signage.

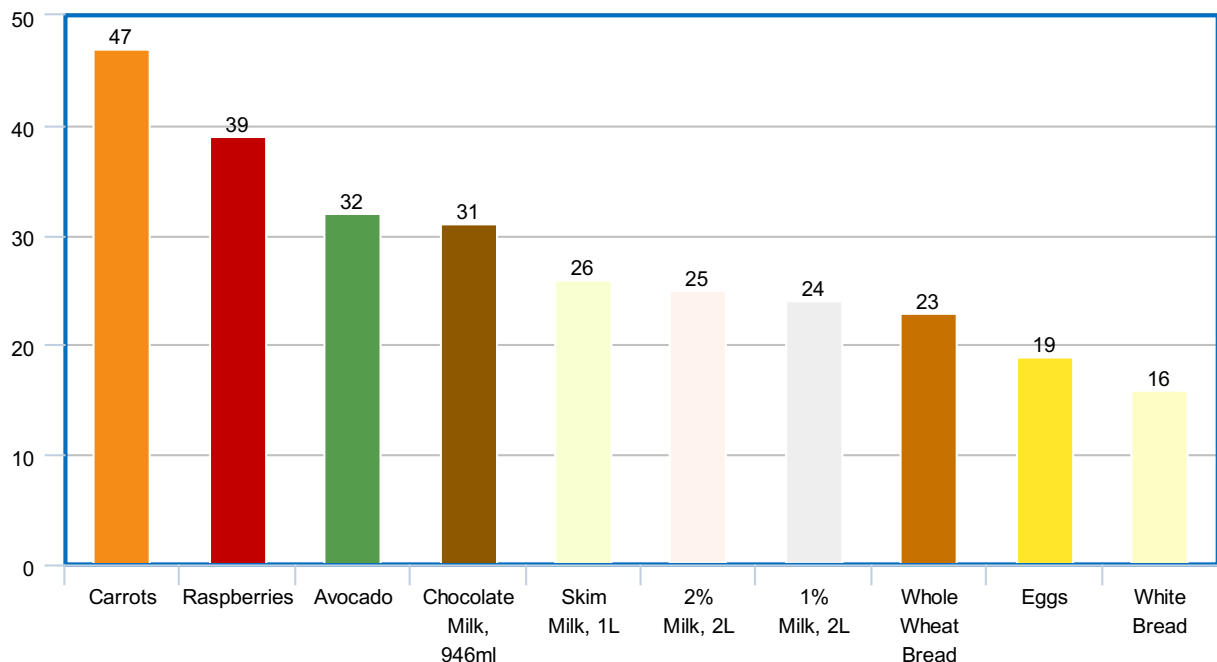
I am also pleased to report that the University's Facilities and Operations department will be moving forward on a plan to change their signage in single-unit washrooms across campus, as while they are currently not labeled by gender in most places, the signage they use is still problematic. The University Architect has drawn up a sample of the design they hope to use, which is modeled after the toilet silhouette we chose for our signage in SUB. If the committee I am on that deals with signage is in favour, these signs will be introduced in a few buildings on campus to start, and feedback will be gathered with the hope of expanding across campus later in the year or next year. The mock-up design is featured here, and while I am in favour of it, it has yet to be approved by the committee.

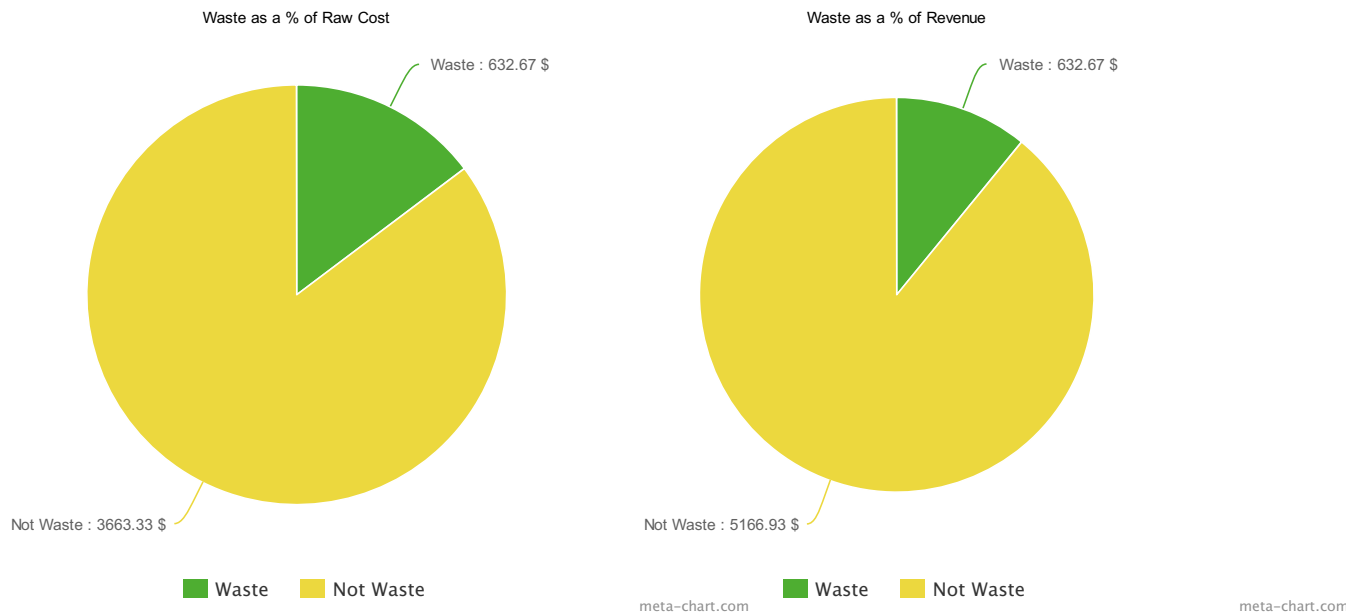


## GROCERIES ON CAMPUS: UPDATE

SUBmart has been providing groceries on campus for just over a month now, and I have some exciting things to report! Overall, the initiative is going very well. We have seen a noticeable increase in people coming to SUBmart, and as more people learn we carry a wide variety of groceries, the volume of customers increases. Statistics and highlights are below:

Top Sellers Oct 13-Nov 20





- Extending the store's hours to 8pm was beneficial, and a new POS system coming to SUBmart this month will be able to more accurately track sales per hour
- The majority of waste came from produce this month, so we're able to see what is popular and what we can scale back on
- So far, I view this as a success, and will strongly recommend it continues in the future

## BUSINESS REVENUE TRACKING TO OCTOBER 31, 2015

Business	14/15 Revenue	15/16 Revenue	% Change
SUBmart	\$335,632	\$313,115	<b>-6.71%</b>
Post Office	\$201,874	\$179,705	<b>-11.00%</b>
SUBprint	\$395,230	\$412,307	<b>4.32%</b>
RATT	\$217,026	\$222,321	<b>2.44%</b>
Dewey's	\$131,290	\$157,453	<b>19.93%</b>
L'Express	\$321,806	\$318,081	<b>-1.16%</b>
Catering	\$162,664	\$200,709	<b>23.39%</b>
Daily Grind	\$253,117	\$269,100	<b>6.31%</b>
Undergrind	\$13,206	\$28,252	<b>113.93%</b>
Total	\$2,031,845	\$2,101,043	<b>3.41%</b>

**CHANGES TO U-PASS SUBSIDY**

Last week, VP Kwan and I met with Phyllis Clark (VP Finance and Administration), Don Hickey (VP Facilities and Operations), Martin Coutts (AVP Finance), and the GSA about the continuation of the subsidy the University of Alberta pays for students' U-Passes. Since the inception of the transit pass, the institution has paid 1/6 of the cost regardless of the price. When the program first started, the cost was \$90 per term (\$75 for students after the subsidy), but has now risen to \$162.50, with the university still paying 1/6 of the cost (and will be \$170 in 2016-17). The increase in the U-Pass price has caused them to take a loss each year financially (they used to pay for it out of a sustainable travel levy they introduced on parking fees), and after this contract ends in August 2017 they will no longer be offering the subsidy at these same levels. They have committed to still subsidizing the cost, which will be a flat dollar amount as opposed to a percentage, and we will be receiving that number next week. Currently, we are the only institution that has our administration cover a portion of the cost, so I am inclined to not fight their decision, as it makes fiscal sense and is more than is required from them.

As we begin negotiations for the next U-Pass contract, I see this as an opportunity for the SU, GSA, and U of A to work together and get the best possible deal for students. An estimated 30% of ETS's ridership is post-secondary students, so we have considerable leverage before we go to a referendum in March 2017 and I believe we can lower the existing price because we are huge stakeholders in the future of transit in Edmonton. Side note: if anyone is planning on running for VPSL or VPOF next year, this will be a big part of your term, so get excited early!

**LONG NIGHT AGAINST PROCRASTINATION**

The second annual Long Night Against Procrastination happened on November 19-20, and it was a success! We are waiting to hear official numbers, but there seemed to be a lot of students there throughout the night! The event ran from 8pm to 8am and had great programming run throughout the night. The SU contributed by having Safewalk and the Peer Support Centre volunteers available for visitors to the event, and we catered the Survivor's Breakfast and sponsored marketing and advertising for the event. Overall, the Centre for Writers did a great job, and I hope to see the event again in the future!

**LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY IN AWARDS**

I met with the SU's Team Lead – Leadership last week, and we talked about our awards and how we can make them more inclusive to the entire campus. For students attending Campus Saint-Jean, there is no minimum skill level of English required, as the students can be fluent in either of our official national languages. Because of this, just fewer than 100 students can't properly access our awards, so we are working to find a solution that allows the award information, and the students' applications, to be in French if they choose.

**PRESIDENT TURPIN'S INSTALLATION**

I had the pleasure of being a member of the platform party for the installation of President Turpin to the University of Alberta. The event was beautiful, and mixed ceremony with comfort flawlessly. Dr. Turpin's speech was interesting, as it pointed out some of the major projects he wishes to accomplish in his first term. I was excited to hear about his passion for expanding access to education for marginalized groups, specifically indigenous people, and am confident the Students' Union will be able to work with him on these important issues. When Prime Minister Trudeau and the Governor General of Canada submit videos welcoming Dr. Turpin, you know you have a very accomplished person leading the institution, and I expect great things from him during his time here.

**CAUS ALL-EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE**

Last week, the executive got to take a trip down to the University of Calgary and attend a meeting with our counterparts at universities across the province. I always love these trips, as I get to connect with my fellow VPOFs and we have a great time talking about spreadsheets and organic marketing reach and synergy. We also got to participate in a discussion with someone from the province's Ministry of Advanced Education, as they are in the process for consulting stakeholders in what an ideal vision of post-secondary education looks like. I think we had some pretty convincing arguments for access to school, the importance of mental health funding, and how to fairly determine the cost of an education.

In solidarity,

Cody Bondarchuk