



January 19, 2016

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Students' Council

Hello Council!

ACTIVATION FUND

I have done some research into the Activation Fund, and spoke about it with Hospitality Services at the university, whom we sign the Memorandum of Understanding with to distribute the funds received from the Single Source Cold Beverage Agreement. The Joint Cold Beverage Committee oversees the applications for the Activation Fund and which groups and departments receive money, and will continue to do so under the new agreement. I have proposed moving the application to an online form and making it more public than it currently is, and including it in Student Group Services literature so every group knows they can apply for it. The applications would ideally go in rounds instead of continuous granting, and a working group of the JCBC would be established that had representatives from both the Students' Union and University, to distribute the money much more openly and fairly. I will be working with other members of the JCBC this term to establish clear rules for the Activation Fund, and make sure that every group and department has an equal chance to apply for this fund for their events.

MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE

On February 2, I will be bringing a motion to Council to increase the Students' Union Membership Fee. After doing a lot of research on the impact of the proposed \$15 an hour minimum wage to our operations, we are going to be asking for a 7.7% increase each year over the next three years, in addition to the mandated CPI increases. This amounts to roughly \$6 more per year per student (assuming they are full-time and here for both terms of the year). This will not cover the entire cost of raising the minimum wage; we will also be implementing marginal increases to point-of-sale pricing, and will continue looking for alternative revenue sources that aren't student-funded. After consultation with Finance Committee and giving them a chance to look at the numbers, they voted to recommend this to Council.

GATEWAY BYLAW BREACH

As an Executive of the Students' Union, I am required to report breaches in Bylaw to Students' Council. The Gateway has breached Bylaw 6200, Section 4.1: *All Operational Dedicated Fee Units shall provide an annual report of their finances to the Finance Committee within six months of the end of their fiscal year* by failing to provide their financial package to Finance Committee by



December 31, 2015. At this time, I recommend against sanctions to The Gateway, as they already will not be receiving their DFU funds until they provide their financial package, and they have acted in good faith through this review process, and we have been in constant communication about this delay. Management at The Gateway have committed to having their review available at the next meeting of Finance Committee on February 1, and I believe they will follow through on this commitment.

JOB SHADOW DAY

I will be having my Job Shadow Day for VP Operations and Finance on Tuesday, February 2! I have a few internal meetings scheduled that day, will do a Q&A session, and am looking to schedule more meetings so you can get a sense of what I do in this job. It will be going all day beginning at noon, so feel free to come and go as your classes allow. Let me know if you can make it so I know how many to expect, and if you know someone off Council interested in my position, let them know and they can come talk to me outside of this day too ☺

BUSINESS REVENUE TRACKING TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

Business	14/15 Revenue	15/16 Revenue	% Change
SUBmart	\$423,944	\$420,596	-0.8%
Post Office	\$282,014	\$254,832	-9.6%
SUBprint	\$530,214	\$555,949	4.9%
RATT	\$341,071	\$328,836	-3.6%
Dewey's	\$225,959	\$274,977	21.7%
L'Express	\$449,786	\$439,209	-2.4%
Catering	\$238,201	\$265,377	11.4%
Daily Grind	\$351,617	\$387,477	10.2%
Undergrind	\$26,873	\$47,413	76.4%
Total	\$2,869,679	\$2,974,666	3.7%

Although SUBmart is taking in slightly less revenue that last year to date, I attribute this to Fall Reading Week, which in turn caused the drop in revenue across the rest of our food outlets. Last month, SUBmart was 2.69% down from last year at a seven-month total, and after eight months it has closed the gap to 0.8% down, so I am confident that the addition of groceries have had a positive impact on revenue and will continue to over time, and management echoes that confidence.

**ACCESS FUND**

As I reported last meeting, the disbursement for the Access Fund this year has been higher than normal. In addition to having more applicants than expected, a change was made to how the Registrar's Office awarded students, resulting in more funds being given out. The changes made by Finance Committee would have counted for roughly 8% of the increases, under similar application numbers as last year. There was a change to the professional student cap that resulted in many more students being eligible than under the previous guidelines. We are currently looking into the long-term impact of this change, as well as our agreements with the Registrar's Office to investigate the process for approving changes to policy and practice. In the meantime, we have a second account that consists of money rolled over from previous years but not yet transferred into the reserve. Under Bylaw, I am able to authorize a transfer to cover the increase in spending, and have done that for this funding cycle. Future transfers will have to come from our reserve, which requires Council approval. Depending on what we find when researching, we may bring this back as a larger discussion for Council, but for now, this is all we know and I am just keeping you all in the loop.

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

I am the Students' Union's representative on this committee, chaired by Student Accessibility Services. The main goal of the committee is to provide feedback to the Office of the University Architect on projects in development, and make sure they not only comply with the minimum standards for physical accessibility, but that wherever possible accommodations are made for accessibility on all fronts. The first meeting was this week, and it was very sobering to hear from the students at large who have had accessibility issues across campus. I look forward to the work this committee will continue to do.

GOALS UPDATE

Immediately following my report you will find an update on my goals for this year. The Executive Committee will be releasing a consolidated goals report in the near future, but I wanted to let you all know what I've been working on this year in my portfolio and what I hope to achieve in the final four months.

In solidarity,

Cody Bondarchuk

Goal 1: Increase Effectiveness of the Students' Union on Social Media

Accomplishments: Assisted in development of SU social media policy.

To Be Done in 2016: Develop strategy for social media rollout and increase to social media following, understand where students prefer to get information about the SU.

Goal Tracker:



Goal 2: Create a Better Connection Between Students and their Union

Accomplishments: Classroom talks schedule, delivery of donuts and hot chocolate during exams, consistent State of the Union newsletter distribution, member of Open House Planning Committee and attendee of 2015 Open House.

To Be Done in 2016: Find out why students aren't connected to their SU, look at historical voter trends.

Goal Tracker:



Goal 3: Offer Healthy and Affordable Groceries on Campus

Accomplishments: Grocery survey for food items sent out to students, research on market grocery prices, report compiled from data, extension of SUBmart hours to accommodate students in night classes, changes to mark-up policy for SUBmart to lower cost for students, began sale of groceries to students, continuing adjustments to inventory and volume of groceries, marketing of project to students in residence.

To Be Done in 2016: Continue evaluating project and switch focus to long-term growth.

Goal Tracker:



Goal 4: Expand the Variety of Prepared Meal Options in SU-Run Businesses

Accomplishments: Better marketing of L'Express daily meal options, marketing the continued success of Dewey's, offering sustainable food options at Dewey's, prepared "to-go" snacks sold in SUBmart.

To Be Done in 2016: On the advice of a staff member, develop plan to add "lighter fare" options to RATT and Dewey's menus, look at physical restructure of L'Express to a more open concept, begin Mystery Shopper program to evaluate businesses independent of management.

Goal Tracker:



Goal 5: Construct a Centralized Scholarship Database

Accomplishments: Initial conversations with Registrar's Office.

To Be Done in 2016: Research other institutions' direction on centralization, lobby Registrar's Office and faculties for increase to scholarship availability/marketing, create a framework for how the database would look.

Goal Tracker:



Goal 6: Review Award Accessibility and Eligibility, Both Internally and Externally

Accomplishments: Change to language requirements for SU Awards so students can apply in French, change to composition of adjudication committee to make more students eligible for awards, review of financial need component of SU Awards.

To Be Done in 2016: Research blurred line between bursaries and awards, review leadership awards and involvement awards vs. academic awards in terms of frequency.

Goal Tracker:



Goal 7: Engage with the Community By Being Ethical & Environmental Sustainability Leaders

Accomplishments: Continued monitoring Zero Waste Station initiative, participated in SU Staff Sustainability Challenge, Submitted feedback document to Office of Sustainability's 2016 Sustainability Plan, implemented an option of 100% recycled paper in SU Executive and Administrative offices, member of Social and Environmental Responsibility Committee, participation as volunteer in Sustainability Awareness Week, assisted in development and release of food purchasing survey.

To Be Done in 2016: Creation of a Sustainable Operations Committee, inclusion of Styrofoam ban in future food tenant lease agreements, gain control of sustainability fund from Single Source Cold Beverage Agreement, promote alternatives to bottled water on campus through drinking fountains and bottle refill stations, research into renewable energy options for SUB, research into SUB energy consumption.

Goal Tracker:



Goal 8: Provide Appropriate and Inclusive Alternatives to Gendered Spaces on Campus

Accomplishments: Meetings with University Architect on inclusive washroom signage across campus, transition of SUB single-unit washrooms to gender-neutral spaces, at the request of a student, inclusion of menstrual product disposal bins in all-gender washrooms, creation and implementation of Gender Policy, research on washrooms across institutions, removal of gendered pronouns in Students' Union bylaws and Operating Policy, review of Alberta Building Code.

To Be Done in 2016: Lobby to include all-gender washrooms in new Alberta Building Code, Lobby to require all new University buildings have single-unit, all-gender washroom, Continue plan for development of all-gender change room in Van Vliet Complex, request removal of gendered pronouns from Calendar, Code of Student Behaviour, and University policies.

Goal Tracker:



Goal 9: Promote Safe Spaces for all Students Across the University

Accomplishments: member of The Landing Board of Directors, SU contribution to Edmonton Pride Parade, meeting with MLA Nicole Goehring on gender inclusion, met about gender inclusion with Provost, Dean of Students, Registrar, Office of Safe Disclosure and Human Rights, and others.

To Be Done in 2016: Development of Student Space Policy, ask government for their expected outcomes from the passing of Bill 7, hold the University to account on complying with Human Rights legislation.

Goal Tracker:



Other Accomplishments

- Changes to Operating Policy on discount cards, technology disposal, solicitation, and French language translation.
- Installation of SIHA/APIRG condom dispenser on main floor SUB.
- Creation of online opt-out portal for eligible Students' Union fees.
- At the request of a student, policy change to make Lower Level SUB study space 24 hours.
- Sponsorship for Long Night Against Procrastination and participation in event.
- Attended Students' Union Development Summit.
- Lobbied for transparency in communication for drastic increase to Dental Hygiene fees.
- Continued collaboration with other VPOFs across Alberta.
- In-kind sponsorships for Diabetes Week and International Day for People with Disabilities.
- Lobbied for less heavy-handed approach of Protective Services Officers when dealing with students, more accountability, and student-friendly policies.
- Sat on hiring committees for External Communications and Media Advisor, Director of Student Life, Director of Research and Political Affairs, and The Landing Executive Director.
- Continued oversight of Dedicated Fee Units.
- Change to WUSC status as an Operating DFU to a Granting DFU.
- Sat on The Gateway and The Landing Human Resources/Administration committees.
- Assisted in removal of All You Care to Eat meal plan proposal in Lister Centre.
- Changes to Access Fund eligibility: lifetime maximum increased from \$6,000 to \$9,000, increase cost of living expense from \$1,200 to \$1,400, and rounding up on student bursary disbursement.
- Creation of Augustana Councillor per diem policy for travel to Students' Council meetings.

Accomplishments to be Completed

- Create and pass budget principles and 2016/17 budget.
- Become a member of Campus Accessibility Advisory Committee.
- Request extension of Health and Dental Plan change-of-coverage period/opt-out.
- Push for University scholarships to be applied for in either official language.
- Begin U-Pass discussions for 2017 referendum on renewal of program.
- Look at strategy for funding continued minimum wage increases for our employees.
- Policy review for Access Fund disbursement.
- Review outdated Campus Pubs Operating Policy and request an update.
- Review Elections Reserve maintenance and policy.