



March 24th, 2017

**To:** Students' Council

**Re:** Report to Students' Council

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Hey Council,

Wow, is it ever nice to be back. Three weeks off feels like forever, and I am finally getting settled back in. Last week was essentially 100% playing catch-up, and this week I was able to get back to my regular meetings and work. While it was tough to catch up, I feel like three weeks for a whole more year was a good trade. AMIRIGHT? In this report, I'll update you with that I've been working on and some important meetings that took place.

#### *Budget Principals 2017/18*

After returning from elections, and after receiving CAC's recommendations, I was able to complete budget principals. You will see them attached to this agenda. The UASU budget works in a similar fashion to a bylaw. The principals are essentially the first reading, and are the basis on which the full-itemized budget is created. Therefore, you won't see any specific numbers on this document, but you will see ideas that will guide them. I've been spending a good amount of time creating and consulting on them. If you have any questions or feedback, don't hesitate to ask me ahead of time, or during debate on my motion to approve.

#### *St. Patrick's Day on Campus*

Last Friday was legit one of my favorite days of the year, ST PADDYS DAY! I mean, what other holiday do you essentially get a free pass to hang out with your friends at the pub all day? Whether or not you hit up a pub, I hope everyone enjoyed it. We hosted events at Room at the Top & Dewey's, and both venues were packed. I am hoping to continue this trend of capitalizing on occasions to bring people into our bars. Shameless plug warning: In other words, bringing students back to campus!

#### *Health & Dental Plan Committee*

Last this week, VP Ghossein and I attended a meeting of the Health & Dental Plan Committee. The core elements of the discussion that took place, and the decision that was made, can be found in Studentcare's presentation at the beginning of this meeting. But key takeaways are that claims continue to grow, especially dental, and we need to find a way to continue to provide coverage, while keeping fees down.

#### *Access Fund*

Over the course of the last week, a member of our management team, Sirina Hamilton, and I were working with the Office of the Registrar to disburse the second last round of Access Fund grants. We only have one more round to go, and I am happy to report it is very likely we will remain on



budget this year. This is huge, as last year we were significantly over budget. Usage of the program is up as well this year.

*Alberta Budget 2017 – Dent/Pharm & Deferred Maintenance Funding*

Last week, the provincial government announced their budget. Overall, post-secondary students saw some things remain the same, and some improvements. We are happy to see that nothing was cut. Check out VP Sandare's Facebook page for a detailed outline. Specifically, I was ecstatic to see increased funding for deferred maintenance in two areas. The government has committed \$149m to restoring the Dent/Pharm building, which is essentially unusable right now. Additionally, they have increased the funding post secondary institutions received to address deferred maintenance from \$101m to \$154m. It is great to see the government addressing needed maintenance before building new infrastructure.

*Myer Horowitz Theatre Renovations Update*

This week finally saw me returning to the Myer Horowitz Theatre project. We held a design meeting, where the next steps into design development were discussed as well as options to vent a commercial kitchen in the lower level. Later that same day, we hosted a "Friends of the Myer Horowitz Society" board meeting. We updated the board with the latest from the feasibility study as well as schematic design. On that note, we have officially completed 22 of the approx. 30 interviews of the study. Expect an interim report at the last council meeting. We then hosted a discussion with the board on the topic of programming for the future theatre. We received a ton of valuable advice, including how to manage long term clients, as well as how the SU could possibly curate content. This last week, I also began the search for a consultant to complete a market analysis of the Edmonton theatre market. I have reached out to other renovation boards to see if any work has already been completed, for cost saving. After I hear back, I intend to reach out to experts in the community to advise on someone to complete this analysis.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robyn Paches', with a stylized, flowing script.

Robyn Paches