

June 16, 2015

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Students' Council

Hello Council!

It has been an incredibly busy two weeks for me! I am confident in saying I have now hit my stride and am not so lost day-to-day with this job, and I still love every single minute of it!

Washroom Signage Consultation

I attended the first in a series of consultation meetings held by the University Facilities and Operations department on washrooms. This meeting included four main discussion points:

- Signage of all gender/barrier free single-unit washrooms on campus
 - It was determined that there is a need for change, as the current signage is not appropriate for the existing function of the washroom. Signage does have to be consistent, and will affect the entire time, so time will be taken to propose some potential designs going forward. Signage used by MacEwan, SAIT, and UCalgary were used as examples during the discussion. We also have to look into the addition of child-friendly and accessibility symbols on the signage.
- Alberta Building Code changes
 - This was presented as a long shot, as it can be difficult to change building code, and many sufficient reasons need to be given before the government will consider revision. It was recommended that this be put to the side as we are still addressing how to make advancements in washroom inclusivity work within the existing framework. Regardless, research is being compiled by the Students' Union on the specifics of our building code, compared to British Columbia and Ontario and how post-secondary schools in other provinces address limitations.
- Gender-inclusive change rooms in VVC
 - It was brought forward by both F&O and the SU that there is an immediate need for places to change when non-gender binary students attend the recreation facilities and fitness centre. Currently, no appropriate alternative exists to the male and female change areas in the Van Vliet Complex, so this will be a primary focus for the committee, to pilot a project for inclusive spaces to change.
- Multi-stall all gender washrooms
 - This is largely a project specific to the Students' Union, as most buildings on campus just meet the washroom requirements set out in the Code and constructing additional washrooms would be exorbitantly expensive. It is a long-term project, as not much has been done in terms of research, but a 2012/13 report on inclusive washroom space on campus is being finalized and will likely be available in the fall.

Representatives from The Landing and iSMSS attended the consultation as well, to give their feedback on the discussion points and share their expertise working with communities that use gender-inclusive washrooms. The GSA was also present.

Gateway Student Journalism Society Board

The GSJS Board had its first meeting, and I have been elected Secretary of the Board and part of the HR Committee. I am very excited for these new positions, and hope to help out any way I can to keep The Gateway wonderful!

Groceries in SUB

I have spent the last few weeks collecting data for a grocery proposal to bring to the Students' Union's Business Management Group. This proposal will include the purpose of having groceries on campus, if anyone else does it already, who would benefit from this, where it should be located, what we'll need to get it done, and items that could be stocked. A copy of this report will also be circulated to Council.

As you may know, Vivian and a representative from the LHSA sent around a survey to students, asking what kinds of things they would like to see in terms of groceries on campus. We have received almost 100 responses, and lots of good ideas were presented. This will be included in the proposal; since the primary goal of having groceries on campus would be to benefit students, the first group of people we thought of asking was students.

Finance Committee Standing Orders Change

The new standing orders for Finance Committee are attached as an information item. I will direct your attention to items 19 through 23. We made changes to the Access Fund by cutting it down, as Access Fund is now operated by the Registrar's Office. We still control the funds, and if we ever feel the program could be run better by us, we do have the right to re-assume that responsibility.

The other change involves SU Awards. We have tightened some of the language around choosing an adjudication committee for awards, and cleared up rules and timelines around disbursement. The awards schedule has changed so awards are now applied for in the summer and disbursed in the fall, and this change reflects that officially.

Operating Policy Change

You will also see an attached change to the SU Operating Policy. Executive Committee oversees and changes Operating Policy when necessary, and we are required to report all changes in the policy to Council, so enjoy! This change is fairly minor, and replaces all gendered pronouns in the Maternity and Parental Leave section with gender-neutral pronouns.

On a Personal Note

This summer, my grandparents and cousins are coming to visit me from Prince Edward Island! The cousins are aged 2 to 11, so this weekend my family and I cleaned out our shed and took a bunch of toys

out from storage for them. It was so cool to see all the things we played with when we were younger: a kitchen set, toy vehicles, tiny tables and chairs. I can't believe my siblings and I were that little once! I just wished we cleaned everything out on a Thursday so I could Instagram it.

Thanks for reading through, and have a wonderful week!



Cody Bondarchuk

P.S. You are all welcome to yell at me if I forget the Councillor discount cards again.