

July 28, 2015

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Students' Council

Hello Council!

My sixth report already, how time flies! I hope everyone is enjoying their summer, and is starting to get ready for the fall term! I was never really involved with Orientation or Week of Welcome, so I am very excited for all the events and activities lined up for the back to school celebration!

Renovation Update

It's finally over.

After five long years of discussion, approval, planning, budgeting, and construction, the renovations to the Students' Union Building are complete. The 3rd and 6th floors look new and inviting, the Lower Level is no longer a maze of walls, and the atrium and outdoor patio space are just marvelous! This is the fourth major renovation to happen to SUB since it was built in 1967, and students should be proud of this \$14 million project, because it was created by students with students in mind (and helped along by a generous contribution from student dollars after a successful referendum).

I would be remiss if I didn't give the appropriate shout-outs to some of the important people on the project. The VPOFs throughout the years, whose leadership helped steer the project: Zach Fentiman, Andy Cheema, Josh Le, and Cory Hodgson. General Manager Marc Dumouchel, who kept the project afloat and did most of the groundwork. Senior Manager of Facilities & Operations Margriet Tilroe-West, who has been here for all the other major renovations (1993, 1996, and 2002), and gave her expertise to the project. Director of Student Life Jane Lee, for planning and ordering all the lovely furniture that is here or soon to be here. Every SU staff member who is located in the Lower Level, for having to endure a lot of construction noise over the years. Carlson Construction, for their beautiful work. And all the students and consultants and staff along the way who helped build this.

This is truly a community-supported project, and we can all be proud when we walk through the new SUB, because it was not a decision made on high from a faceless corporation or administration; it was made possible by everyone believing in it, and as a result it should be used for your enjoyment, because you've earned it.

The Landing Agreement

I met with the Manager of the Landing, and we are currently working out an agreement for their tenancy and in-kind support once they leave the SU on September 1. This contract will come to Finance Committee for approval, and is modeled after similar deals with the Campus Food Bank, the Gateway, and CJSR.

Cody Bondarchuk, *Vice President Operations and Finance*

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Sponsorship Group

This new group is working out really well! Sponsorship requests are being brought to the team, who looks over the value of different requests and brings relevant ones to Executive Committee for discussion. This makes things more streamlined for the exec, and ensures everyone in the group has knowledge of our partners and what requests we get annually, to anticipate them each year.

Safe Spaces Policy

I was lucky enough to meet with Councillors DeJong and Schlamp, as well as Councillor Goertzen from General Faculties Council, and brainstorm ideas for what we want out of a political policy for safe spaces. I will be compiling our results into a document we can take to Policy Committee and hopefully create a policy out of it. It will be far-reaching, and include protections for all students, including trans students in residence, gender non-binary students in University documents, those in Greek societies, those using public change rooms in the Van Vliet Complex, and those who may have faced disturbing and triggering events in high-traffic areas of campus in the past, to ensure it does not happen again and every student is treated with respect while at the University of Alberta.

On a Personal Note

My cousins and grandparents are here from PEI, and it is wonderful but exhausting. It turns out that four children, all under the age of 12, are really good and teaming up to wrestle you to the ground without notice. I am actually happy they're here though, because they are far away and I miss them a lot.

Thanks for reading through, and have a wonderful week!

Cody Bondarchuk