

Date: May 16, 2019

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Operations & Finance Report # 2

Dear Council,

So I'm a couple of weeks into the role now and things are moving along well. Just going through various carryover projects and starting work, so there aren't too many exciting items to inform you of today. I did get the opportunity to see some of you at RATT on the patio, which was a lot of fun!

Also, I have heard from a number of you that you are interested in SERC, so I have started looking into what bringing that back may entail. I likely won't have much on this point until mid to late June as I'll be leaving until May 28, but I wanted to give those of you who were interested in the sustainability initiatives of the SU an opportunity to learn a bit more about what your SU does to be environmentally friendly in our operations. To this end, I have attached a short report that reviews what initiatives the SU has taken to be environmental and have added a motion for a discussion period to review the Students' Union's Sustainability.

The Executive Compensation Package

By this time the Executive Compensation Package will have already been brought to Finance Committee and, assuming it went through there, you will likely notice it on the agenda for this council meeting. This proposal was put together last year by an ad-hoc committee, and therefore, I have not personally done the work on this. Instead, I am working to finalize steps so that Council can implement it.

Planning Out The Year With Marketing

I met with our Marketing department last this week to discuss my portfolio goals for the year and set priorities for which ones will be worked on in what order. Our Marketing department works exceptionally hard and is swamped with work between all our services and business as well as the execs goals, but the SU has added some new mechanisms to streamline the planning and make the process easier from them. Additionally, last year Council had passed a new budget which saw them get a little more money to strengthen their capacity. That said, after the meeting, it looks like we should be able to get through all the goals, and I am looking forward to bring them to Council as they are developing over the next year.

Committee Meetings of Note

Bylaw and Finance

The first meeting of Bylaw and Finance committees under the new chairs took place this week. Both of the sessions were mostly looking at preparatory work for the year with the Finance Committee also having to look over last year's executive compensation page proposal.

Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC)

TBAC met for the first time in my term. In this meeting, we reviewed the suggested changes the university was looking to make tuition to meet the government mandate from last year. The current format the university seems to be considering would see domestic student tuition cost be adjusted the same as they have been in the past (curved with CPI) but will see reasonably significant changes in international student tuition cost format. International students have had to pay on a per class bases in the past (just like domestic students) and often have a hard time predicting what the cost for these classes may be throughout the term. The new format provides international students with a price for the program of their choice with a guaranty that it will not change for a length of time which is the standard program length plus one year (so four years for a BA plus one for example). On the whole, the new process seems to be better for international students as they can have predictable costs for going to school here.

U-Pass Administrative

This committee meeting wasn't particularly eventful as we primarily discussed current U-Pass distribution and usage rates and noted any student considers that had recently occurred on an individual basis. There was some discussion around the eventual implementation of Smart Fare on ETS systems in the future, but more deliberation will happen in the next meeting on that point.

United Way

This meeting was looking over the last years United Way campaign on campus and how to improve this year's campaign.

Centre LRT Working Committee

This meeting was interesting as we revied multiple proposed LRT lines alongside other stakeholders from around the university area to make suggestions for how the city should proceed with building its new LRT line. There were six drafts presented to us, and we had some discussion around the pros and cons of each. In the next meeting, we should receive new selections which reflect some of these recommendations.

Upcoming Conference With Student Care

Vice President Larsen and I will be leaving for the Student Care Conference on the 22nd of this month, and I look forward to learning more about the health and dental plan there.

If you ever want to swing by and talk, my office hours this month will be Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3PM-4 or by request!

Cheers,



University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President Operations & Finance