



October 12, 2017

**To:** Students' Council

**Re:** Report to Students' Council

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Council,

Another October, another season of dropping temperatures and midterms! I hope that everyone had a good holiday weekend and was able to take some well-earned rest before midterms really swing into action. The last couple weeks have flown by, and I have some specific updates to share with you.

#### *CREF Fund Renewal*

I sat down with two members of the leadership team in Campus Community & Recreation, a department in the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, & Recreation on the topic of the upcoming plebiscite of the Campus Recreation Enhancement Fund (CREF). The CREF fund, a dedicated fee unit that assists the funding of club sports and other elements of athletics, is up for plebiscite this year. I walked the team through the process of plebiscite, and pointed them to our relevant bylaws. As part of my duty on Finance and Bylaw Committee, I will continue to be a resource for them leading up to relevant deadlines and the election period.

#### *United Way Campaign Kick-Off*

On October 11<sup>th</sup> the University of Alberta kicked off its United Way campaign! The campaign had a very successful kick-off event at noon on SUBstage featuring talks from President Turpin, Chancellor Stollery, Board Chair Phair, Sarah Chan and a champion of the United Way. It was well attend by university staff and students alike. Also, the SU will be donating 100% of the proceeds from coffee sales at The Daily Grind, Undergrind and L'Express from that day to the United Way UAlberta Campaign. If you bought a coffee that day, thank you, on behalf of the United Way. Together, I imagine the donation collected will be sizeable! We will know numbers sometime in the future.

#### *MHT & Deferred Maintenance Consultations*

Two of my platform points were to consult and create reports on two important topics at the university. I promised to consult relevant student groups on the Myer Horowitz Theatre Renovation Project and the issue of deferred maintenance on campus, and create reports on each. Specifically, I will be creating a report on student opinion of the Myer Horowitz Theatre Renovation Project and a report on student priorities in deferred maintenance. In



the past few weeks, with students settling into their schedule, I have began those consultations with sit down interviews. If you, or anyone you know, has thoughts on either of these topics please let me know. Also, do not hesitate to suggest groups that I should be consulting! Currently I will be consulting Faculty Associations, relevant Department Associations, the Greek community and relevant student groups.

#### *Centre LRT Consultation*

On October 10<sup>th</sup> I was involved in a consultation meeting for future LRT plans in the University of Alberta and Whyte Avenue area. The proposed line is called the "Centre Line". The current proposed route can be found on the City of Edmonton's website [here](#). The consulting team and the city are currently creating a more specific route, and that is why they are bringing stakeholders in. Joining me at the meeting was the university architect, a senior staff member from Campus St. Jean, and the VP External of AUFSJ. We stressed convenience for students, student safety, walkability, bike accessibility on campus and the need for continuous consultation throughout the process. Please keep in mind that this consultation is very preliminary; do not expect to see finalized plans and construction for a few years.

#### *UASU Investments*

Also on October 10<sup>th</sup>, the Students' Union's Controller Peter Ta and I had one of our bi-annual meetings with our investment managers. Overall, our investments are doing well and meeting our return targets. For council's information, we hold a mixed investment portfolio of fixed assets and equity with the majority of our money being held in fixed assets. Into the next period, we are intending to diversify our investments to other markets of the world. Traditionally, we invested heavily in Canadian assets, but with the sluggish Canadian economy, we are looking elsewhere to ensure we are using our money effectively. Our investment managers made some excellent suggestions and we are working with them to optimize the return on our investments.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robyn Paches', written over a light gray rectangular background.

Robyn Paches