

September 25th, 2012**To:** Students' Council**Re:** Report to Students' Council (for September 25th, 2012 Meeting)

1. PC Caucus Meeting on Campus

As mentioned last Council meeting, the Students' Union (SU) was going to be hosting the Progressive Conservative's Capital Region (Edmonton) Caucus (PC CRC) meeting on Monday, September 17th. However, with the unfortunate passing of Premier Lougheed and the memorials that followed led to it being cancelled and rescheduled to a later date (that has yet to be chosen). I'll keep you posted on my end in regards to this.

2. External Advocacy Team Lobby Training

Since the PC CRC meeting got rescheduled, this gives us ample time to better lobby train students who were interested in the external advocacy team. Next week and the week after we'll be providing two different lobby training sessions. Furthermore, I'm trying to set up one-on-one meeting times with those interested in the advocacy team so I can hear what their expectations are for the program and the team. Here are some of the details that I emailed out:

1. **One-on-Ones** – I'd like to get a chance to know each one of you and hear what *YOUR* expectations are for being involved with the External Advocacy Team. Again, this team is in its infancy and its structure and goals will largely dependent on you. I've CC'd **Zdena**, the SU's Executive Assistant, so that you can email her and figure out a time that works best for both of us to have a 15-30 minute chat **this week**. (Furthermore, if a certain time works for multiple members, then we'll just have group meetings!)
2. **Lobby Training** – After getting to know some of you better with our One-on-Ones, I'd like to jump into lobby training! Here is the tentative schedule:
 - Session 1: Provincial Government 101
Mon, October 1 at 4:00-4:50PM in SUB 4-20
or
Tue, October 2 at 4:00-4:50PM in SUB Lower-Level Meeting Room
 - Session 2: SU Political Stances 101
Thurs, October 4 at 4:00-4:50PM SUB Lower-Level Meeting Room
or
Tue, October 9 at 4:00-4:50PM SUB Lower-Level Meeting Room
3. **Mixer** – It'd be great if we can all hangout sometime to familiarize ourselves with each other! If I get enough people confirming that hanging out sometime between **4:00-6:00PM on Fri, October 5** works for them then I'll organize something! If not next week, then I'll be sure to get something going soon.

If these times don't work for you, *email me*. If you plan on coming, *email me* your confirmation. If you're not interested in this anymore or if you think you're way too busy for it, *email me*. In conclusion, just fire me an email in regards to this message!

3. Senate

Last week, the Senate hosted its first Executive Committee meeting and Orientation session. Furthermore, there were several events that Senators were invited to so that they can better know the other Senators on a more informal basis. Something that was interesting to note was that some Senators were interested in reviewing the processes by which Honorary Degree recipients were chosen.

Furthermore, another Senator expressed great interest in further reviewing issues relating to student mental health and another Senator raised the fact that he'd like to get briefed on what's going on in Lister.

4. NDP 45th Annual Provincial Convention

One of my goals this year is to attend each provincial and federal party's convention/annual general meetings (if they happen in Alberta). This will give me the opportunity to not only familiarize myself with various MLAs, MPs, and members deeply involved with various parties, but it'll give me the chance to possibly influence their party's stance on post-secondary education.

My first convention was the NDP's 45th Annual Provincial Convention here in Edmonton. I attended as Observer—which is something I plan on doing at each of these conventions—meaning that I was not allowed to speak or vote. This was necessary in order to keep the apolitical stance that the SU has.

At the convention I was able to meet a bunch of MLAs and MPs, including Brian Mason, the Leader of the Provincial NDP, and Thomas Mulcair, the Leader of the Federal Official Opposition and Federal NDP. Furthermore, I was able to influence some of the PSE-related resolutions that were being proposed. Overall, it was an extremely insightful and successful outing for me as VPX.

Signing off,



Petros Kusmu

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