

**Prepared by:** Saadiq Sumar, Vice President (Student Life)

**To:** Students' Council 2012/13

Hey Everyone!

The last two weeks have been quite steady. Although the first week has come and gone, it has been quite busy with a lot of goals work coming in the last few weeks.

### ***Programming***

#### **Comedian Adam Mamawala**

The SU Programming Team is bringing Adam Mamawala from New Jersey. If anyone on council is interested in grabbing a pair of tickets, please let me know. Although he isn't extremely well known, I can assure you that he is hilarious. Here are a couple of videos for your viewing pleasure.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3J9GC6zbbrw>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uR6x\\_\\_S-Gm0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uR6x__S-Gm0)

#### **Singer/Songwriter**

The singer/songwriter series being run by the SU kicked off today! There should be a regular run of them coming to SUBstage, and I will keep council updated on the different artists that come to campus.

### ***Services***

#### **U-Pass**

The Advisory Committee met two weeks ago now. The transit providers looked to get additional feedback on our proposal as well as once again explain the rationale behind their price point for the U-Pass. They also drew our attention to potential value-adds that they were considering as well as other models to get to the ETS proposed U-Pass price. On a different note, the Spring/Summer discussion is going quite well. I am now waiting on ETS to get a copy of the contract for our perusal and eventual approval.

The different student associations met once again last week to draft a second proposal to the transit providers. The increases proposed are being tied to the Municipal Price Index as opposed to the proposed formula until such time as an accurate trip metric can be determined. I have been setting regular meetings with Councillors to discuss the U-Pass and am looking forward to potentially meeting with various committees and councils to discuss the price point and potential value-adds.

## **Student Group Services**

Student Group Services held their annual Leadership Summit yesterday. The Executive Team (with the exception of the VPA who was away at a conference) was fortunate enough to answer a few questions from the student group executives. I will hopefully be compiling the remaining answers into a blog post in the next few weeks. Hanhmi, Abdullah, Kelin, and the rest of the SGS team should give themselves a huge pat on the back for the summit and the work that has been done thus far.

## **Advocacy**

### **Residence Halls Association**

The RHA is still looking for Executive Members. If you are interested in residence issues, if you know someone else who's interested, or if you think a friend would make a positive contribution on the RHA, please have them contact myself or the RHA President Kaibree Drake.

Due to concerns surrounding HUB Security, the HUB Community Association, along with UAPS and Residence Services, would like to conduct a Safety Audit of HUB Mall. I will update council as this progresses.

### **Golden Bears and Pandas Legacy Fund**

A few members of Athletics, the University Athletics Board President, and I ran through the submitted proposals for allocations from all the UofA teams. The process went quite smoothly and I will be submitting a report to GAC for approval. There was a short discussion on creating a formal memorandum between the three parties (Athletics, UAB, and the SU) and there will most likely be future meetings to formulate this agreement.

### **Council on Student Affairs**

We had our first meeting of the year. Donna Cave, Frank Robinson, and various members of the committee provided updates on what their association(s) was (were) doing. This also led to myself and the VPA attending a session on new Early Detection Software that the University is considering purchasing for students who are struggling academically or showing behavioural issues. There is still a long way to go before this is purchased by the University, but they are looking for feedback from interested parties.

## **Other**

### **SUB Renovations Steering Committee Meeting**

I attended the SUB Reno Meeting. DIALOG brought a physical model to show the committee, which Councilor Le and I got a few good pictures of. There are a few interesting items coming, but the project is still in the schematic design stage. Once the design has been finalized, a presentation will be made to council.

### **Tour of the North Powerplant**

The PotSU, the VPOpsFi, and I along with executives from the GSA took a short tour of the North Powerplant. I must admit I was a little awestruck. I am quite excited for the

day when the space does become a venue that the SU can begin using again, and I already have a few ideas running through my head about the space.

### **SAW Planning Meeting**

Late last week, various representatives from across campus met to discuss what Sustainability Awareness Week will look like this year and the different sessions that will be held. It looks like it's going to be another jam-packed week but there is always room for more. If you or your student group is interested in hosting an event, please let me know so that I can provide you with the proper information.

### **Alumni Weekend**

In case you weren't on campus at all at the end of the week, Alumni were out in full swing for Alumni Weekend, with various ceremonies and dinners in the evenings and events going on during the day like the Tuck Shop. The Alumni Dinner was a great chance for the Executive to meet with (other) alumni as well as some administrators. I also had the chance to meet a few senators and discuss a few student issues with them.

### **Message from Robin Everall**

Robin Everall is the Provostial Fellow charged with looking at the state of mental health on our campus. The following is a message from her:

"Dr. Everall is interested in undergraduate student perspectives on questions such as:

- Are students aware of the mental health and support services available to them on and off campus? What do they know about these services?
- How should services be promoted to reach the largest number of students and increase awareness of service availability?
- What impedes students from accessing services?
- How should we reduce the barriers to accessing services?
- What services are necessary but missing?

The goal of this process is to enhance relevant, responsive, and accessible mental health services to students at the University of Alberta.

The meeting schedule of each group will be set after the group is established, but members should be available in October.

Nominations are being solicited from a wide diversity of students, including full- and part-time students, international students from a variety of countries, domestic students, and students who are parents."

### **Takeaways:**

- Apply for an RHA Executive Position (or tell a friend)
- Meet with me if you are interested in the portfolio or just to chat!
- Talk to your constituents about the message from Dr. Everall

If you have any other questions, please ask during council, stop by the office in SUB, or send me an email at [vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca).

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