

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

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

Hey Everyone!

I'm sure school and your extra-curriculars are starting to take their toll in terms of time and stress. Hopefully, everyone takes the long weekend to get a little rest and relaxation and recharges their batteries before coming back. If you have a chance, the Golden Bears and Pandas Soccer Teams have their Legacy Games this weekend. Feel free to check 'em out! In the last two weeks, it seems that I have been a man of many hats, and have been working on various different projects and issues. I have also done my best to attend different athletic and student group events, like the Golden Bears Football Game from last Saturday and the Relay for Life event from last Friday.

### ***Programming***

#### **Comedian Adam Mamawala**

Adam Mamawala came to campus a week and half ago and got a ton of laughs from the audience, which included a few members of council and a small group of students. The opening acts were great, as was the headliner. Hopefully, we can more students out with the next comedian we bring to campus.

#### **Singer/Songwriter Series**

The singer/songwriter series began last week and ran for the full week. The series as a whole will be running once a month, six times this year. The next series will be next week, so if you're free from 12 to 1PM Tuesday through Friday, stop by SUBstage to hear some great live music! So far, we've been hearing some very positive comments about the series overall.

### ***Services***

#### **U-Pass**

The U-Pass Advisory meeting met two weeks ago to discuss the latest proposal from the students. Although we received some positive comments from members of the committee, most of the administrators from the transit providers were hesitant to agree. Due to the lack of negotiation on the part of the transit providers, the student associations have decided to meet with individual city councillors and make a presentation to the City of Edmonton Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

One representative from each student association met with Councillor Kerry Diotte yesterday to discuss our grievances and the pricing structure for the U-Pass. The response from Councillor Diotte was generally positive and I'm looking forward to future meetings with city councillors and various committees and councils. Several members from the University Administration also were on hand for a short U-Pass Admin meeting to discuss student comments as well as distribution updates.

### **Student Group Services**

The VPOpsFi and I went through another granting session last week. We had a large number of granting applications to go through and the session took very close to three hours. Overall, we came in very close to budget for this session.

I also had a chance to meet with members of the Office of the Dean of Students and the VPSL from the GSA to go through the Student Engagement Grant Applications.

If any of you are interested in applying for either grant and have some questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

### **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 of the RHA President Kaibree Drake.

Due to concerns surrounding HUB Security, the HUB Community Association has initiated a Safety Audit of HUB Mall conducted by UAPS, or "Crime Prevention Through Design". Although they had a short meeting yesterday, I was not able to attend. As the review unfolds, I will keep council apprised of the details and the different recommendations coming from the audit.

#### **Residence Tours**

The Director of Residence Services took me around to different units in HUB and around Residence Saint Jean to showcase what each residence had to offer, what issues are relevant to residents of each building, and the primary costs of deferred maintenance (or just pure maintenance of each residence).

#### **Campus Law Review Committee and General Faculties Council**

At the Campus Law Review Committee Meeting last week, I had a chance to bring up the governance process issues relating to the residence changes proposed in late July as well as a few issues I had with the amendments to the Residence Community Standards based off of the changes to the restorative justice process as proposed by the Community Standards Review Committee Meeting.

Unfortunately, with the former, the chair of the committee decided that it was inappropriate to discuss this item with members of the committee. A disappointing response to say the least, and adding to the broken governance process that has poisoned the issue.

At GFC, a few students, including the PotSU, raised a number of questions which were answered incompletely, or not at all.

## **Other**

### **Campus Food Bank Board Meeting**

I had my first opportunity to meet with other board members, as the chair of the board called a meeting last Friday. It was great to hear that the effort that CFB put in over the summer, led to a large increase in fundraising as well as food collection as compared to the same time period last year. There were also a ton of great comments and suggestions from board members to directors of the food bank to continue to get more funding from external sources.

### **Relay for Life**

The PotSU and I went to the Relay for Life Event last Friday. The event was great and to add to the fund already raised, both of us together raised just under \$500 through pie-throwing.

### **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.”

Please pass this message on to your constituents so that Dr. Everall can do a complete job of identifying mental health related issues on campus and working to solve them.

### **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).

Saadiq Sumar  
780-690-4765