

August 13th, 2013

To: University of Alberta Students' Council 2013/2014

Re: Report of the Student Life Portfolio

Hello Council,

How are you? I'm doing fine, thank you. Actually, I'm on a plane to Vancouver right now with Vice Presidents Chelen, Le, and Woods as I am writing this report. I know what you're thinking, but I assure you that our time away from the office will still be spent working for students!

I. Programming

Athletics

The tailgate party for the Golden Bear' Hockey team on Saturday, September 21st is still in the works. Unfortunately, the tailgate party for the Golden Bears' Football team on Saturday, September 7th will probably not happen. However, if the Football team gets back to us soon, maybe we could help promote the game via distribution of tickets throughout Week of Welcome!

Week of Welcome

The only update I have is surrounding a change in language re: what used to be called the "Beer Gardens". As an effort to take away the attention from what seemed to be an alcohol-driven event, the area encompassing the bands and the beverages will be labeled as "Main Stage" ;)

Again, councillors have been invited to come out to volunteer for the Pancake Breakfasts and only those that register will receive a limited edition WoW T-shirt. If you want to vote on what will be printed on the T-shirt, please visit the Students' Council Facebook page.

Winter Programming

Last Council Report, I mentioned hopes to have one additional large-scale event before Break The Record... it *might* look like a talent/variety show ;)

II. Services

International Student Mentorship

Although this is not an actual SU Service, I want to put out the message that Vice-President Chelen and I are currently recruiting domestic students that are interested in mentoring international students later on this academic year.

III. Advocacy

U-Pass

In last week's meeting with ETS Security and Municipal Prosecutors, I learned that U-Pass related failure to provide proof of payment is brought to the courthouse roughly once a week. City personnel has made a request for 1) an increased effort to raise awareness among students surrounding carrying their U-Pass, and 2) statistics around the frequency of U-Pass violations, so that they could better illustrate what procedural changes would look like as they are being considered. In the meantime, the Municipal Prosecutors will be working on a written response to us surrounding the issue (no specified timeline).

Otherwise, Sherwood Park Transit has been having a few changes. They are currently building a new bus terminal to accommodate more (1200) parking stalls. In September, they will be in a state of transition which will need to be communicated to students. We will support the efforts as we receive updates. Additionally, they will have a double decker bus running in September as well!

Residence

The review of the Residence Community Standards (aka discipline process) will probably wrap up within the next month. Although the restorative justice process is a theoretically sound process, President Kusmu and I are working on ensuring that fair processes (ex, transparency to involved students) are written in policy. In the longer term, we will be working towards codifying the lease process under which evictions from residence occur. The current system is not understood by many, and is broad to allow flexibility and for residence staff to treat cases individually. However, we feel that some clarification is necessary surrounding what could result in eviction, and how those decisions could be appealed.

Cheers,

William Lau
[Electronically Submitted]