

October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013

To: University of Alberta Students' Council 2013/2014

Re: Council Report of the Student Life Portfolio

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Dear Students' Council,

As I mentioned in my last council report, I have placed my focus on two projects that I could complete by the end of my term. 1) the Community Kitchen in PAW, and 2) building towards an International Students' Association. This week, I also have the added workload of gathering any final feedback to changes made to Student Group Procedure. Unfortunately, by the time they present to council, it may be difficult to make changes depending on the extent of the change due to time constraints in governance.

### Engagement

- **Heroes for Health (H4H) Challenge** – Overlapping with the Health & Wellness policy, the H4H challenge is an amazing opportunity for students to join like-minded individuals to *build something*. The registration deadline has just closed – let's see how things go!
- Green and Gold day – was a lot of fun! I don't have any statistics right now on the traffic that it potentially drove to our SU businesses. In future years, earlier decision-making surrounding the SU's involvement would allow more time to hype up the event. The event overall though was a great success and tied nicely into Alumni Weekend and the festivities in Quad and the Tuck Shop Tent.
- Council Outreach – Props to Councillor Binczyk for encouraging others to try out class talks, and props to Councillor Nguyen for taking the lead with the Council Video and sharing her progress with council. With the support of our in-house design studio, I have created a powerpoint to promote this council meeting as well as Campus Cup, and would love some feedback from those that use it.
- Athletic Promotions – October 25<sup>th</sup>. It's a Legacy Game, meaning that it is free entry for all OneCard holders! The Alumni Association will be offering pizza and a pep rally for International Students before the game, while we (the SU) will take care of everyone else via a BBQ of some sorts, as well as some kind of sweet deal at RATT... that is, if Vice President Le is on board ;) The second piece of SU involvement in the event is to aid in promoting the event!

- Programming and Venues Department – Campus Cup has launched! It is the (5<sup>th</sup>) annual campus-wide dodgeball tournament hosted by the SU, for students, staff, and alumni of the U of A. Registration starts on October 10<sup>th</sup> at 8am, and costs \$25 each. You are guaranteed 5 games; we are currently aiming for 100 teams.  
You could register either as a team or as a “free agent”. A team is made of 10-15 people and requires a minimum of 3 of each sex. Teams will be able to custom design T-shirts (included in registration) and the team registration deadline is November 1<sup>st</sup> at 5pm.  
Registering as a “free agent” means that the organizers will place you on a team. You could also register as a small group of affiliated “free agents” and be placed on the same team.
- Student Group Procedural Changes – the administrative changes proposed by the Dean of Students’ Office align well with the wishes of our SU Services (namely, Student Group Services).
  - 100% of student group executives must be U of A students (currently 75%)
  - Presidents, VP “Finances” and VP “Events” must attend mandatory training
    - Returning execs would have different “advanced level” training
  - Event approval mechanisms would be updated to reflect current practice

However, the changes in writing may have larger impacts. The writing is being pulled out of the Code of Student Behaviour (CoSB, discipline-focused) into University of Alberta Policy and Procedures Online (UAPPOL, administration-focused) on the basis that the code is punitive, and that the current appendices in CoSB for student groups are procedural rather than policy. Also, it was perceived that there was no true “discipline” when it came to student group conflicts. To punish a student group usually dealt administratively with their registration status.

With this shift from CoSB to UAPPOL, the administration essentially has full authority (unilaterally) over the existence of student groups. The second piece we will try to work on is the appeals procedure if conflict was to arise. It is currently drafted that the Dean of Students would have the final decision over a student group’s registration, with the (written) appeal going to a single individual – the Associate Vice-President Risk Management.

**Food**

Microwaves for CAB are on their way. Sorry about the wait, folks. I hope to attach two pieces of information to each microwave. 1) These are provided by your SU, and 2) please let the friendly Aramark staff around the corner know if the microwaves need some cleaning.

I have received a list of programming options from our research department, and have met with F&O to look over limitations of the Community Kitchen – more specifically, its proximity to bookable spaces in PAW as well as its proximity to loading zones, which will have a large impact on how the space could be used. I will now need to chat with Marc Dumouchel once he returns from vacation to talk about the flexibility of the space allocated for the Community Kitchen, which will determine the size of the venue.

In regards to the Sustainable Food Report requested from F&O, they will sum up some of the key recommendations and forward them our way.

**Health and Wellness**

President Kusmu and I attended a symposium held by the Student Health Committee, bringing together various health-related student groups to talk about various aspects and factors of health – General Health, Mental Health, Food and Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Student Governance and its role in health-related student groups. The symposium stirred up some positive feedback, and it will be interesting to see how the momentum can be used to push our advocacy efforts forward.

I have also contacted Campus Recreation and have met with them as we both share a vision of increasing team sports on campus. I am currently waiting for clubs to propose specific times to play so I can check the availability/status of Quad.

**Internationalization**

Despite the direct link in the newsletter blurb for the Peer Mentor Program, no domestic students have applied to mentor international students. Other ways of recruiting domestic student mentors are being explored, such as engaging the Greek Community with the potential of recruiting international students.

Most of my efforts surrounding International students are currently targeted towards:

1. International Student Tuition – I am supporting a group of international students that want to sign a petition to request specific asks from the University. The petition's asks and the marketing plan is currently being worked on.
2. Building an International Students' Association (ISA) – I have already collected feedback from the Indian Students' Association, the Chinese Students and Scholars' Association, and the Chinese Students' Club. Different clubs are being contacted by different individuals; the SU exec are currently managing calendars to ensure that an exec will always be at an ISA discussion meeting (Fridays at 6pm) to help facilitate the discussion and resolve conflicts.
3. Strengthening domestic-international student interactions – I am supporting a pair of domestic students that wish to launch a campaign in January to promote domestic-international student interactions. The campaign would build-up to a launch of a documentary during International week to support a similar message.
4. International Student Issues Town Hall – October 18<sup>th</sup>, 6pm. An open forum to discuss international student issues, and potentially aid in the drafting of principles for the Internationalization policy.

### **Public Transit**

With the pushback of Council's by-elections, the DSA U-Pass referendum is also pushed back.

Fortunately, the DSA actually prefers the election dates of October 24-25, allowing them enough time to raise the concern with their constituents. We have yet to receive the necessary CCIDs and student IDs to run the referendum.

In response to the City's written response turning down any action related to a U-Pass holder's failure to provide Proof of Payment, the SU is still drafting a public response to address 1) the City's response, and 2) what students should do. It will hopefully be launched before the city elections start!

As for the state of the U-Pass subsidy, there are no new updates.

### **Sustainability**

N/A

Cheers,

William Lau