

January 7th, 2014

To: University of Alberta Students' Council 2013/2014

Re: Council Report of the Student Life Portfolio

---

Dear Council,

Happy New Year : )

I wish you good health, happiness, and peace of mind in both your personal life and your student life. Beyond simply *wishing* though, I hope we can all gather together to build a campus that supports these good fortunes, one motion at a time.

I thoroughly enjoyed my vacation in Asia. The most important reminder that I received during my vacation is that in recent history, economic activity and moral standards have been inversely related.

This relates to us because Canada is a young nation, and has created an education system focused on academia. While we anticipate economic growth, there are no structures in place to support the social morals that are at risk. Traditionally, the Chinese education system has had three components – academia, physical education, and moral education. Unfortunately, with westernization of their curriculum to meet international standards, moral education is being left behind as it's value in Western society is not as high. Putting this into the context of integration with International students, there really is a lot that we can learn from one another. We have all been exposed to different experiences, and different knowledge as well through varying education systems. We have just as much to learn from them as they have to learn from us; I hope we all take advantage of this University setting to make these interactions.

Anyways, with the New Year kicking in, here are a couple projects I have lined up:

- Building an International Students' Association
- Laying the foundation for the PAW Centre Community Kitchen

Hope you enjoy the first week back before the homework is assigned!

All the best,

William Lau

[Electronically submitted]