

May 20th, 2014

To: University of Alberta Students' Council 2014/2015

Re: Vice President Student Life Council Report

"The world is your neighbourhood now. You're in their hearts, you're in their brains."

Welcome, Council!

It feels I've been going 12 hours a day since April 30th when we left on our Executive Retreat! It has been a wonderful experience settling into my role and getting the year off on the right foot.

VP Hodgson and I will not be available for our May 20th council meeting as we will be in Montréal for the annual StudentCare stakeholder conference, meeting with other student leaders to deliberate on healthcare issues, approaches, and tactics. Now, to let you know what I've been up to:

Executive Goals

Even with President Lau and VP Khinda's time away at CAUS and CASA, and with VP Hodgson and I's departure for this week, we have made great strides on refining our combined goals document. Through additional collaboration, we should be able to present this to council sometime in the near future.

Administrative

It took many long nights, and much help from our administrative staff, but the VP Student Life filing cabinet has been sorted after several years. It is amazing how satisfying organizing six years of filing into a beautiful, colour-coded system is. The office is looking pretty sharp, too!

Council Committees

GAC: At our last committee meeting, I made a motion to appoint two GAC members to the Student Group Granting Committee. Congratulations to **Councilor Chen** and **Councilor Hwang**.

Policy Committee: With **Councilor Gruhlke** as our chair, we jumped right to work. We have a list of policies that expire this year that we will need to revisit and bring to council throughout the year, a list of policies and that were worked on last year that we need to work through and decide on a course of action. I am very excited for the huge potential we have before us. Next council report, I expect to be able to inform council which policies I will be taking on.

Transportation

There are exciting developments in the works for our U-Pass. **Fort Saskatchewan** is running a pilot program until December 31, 2015, that lets you ride route 198 one-way to and from Fort Saskatchewan for \$1.00, as well as ride in Fort Saskatchewan for free. We are also in conversations with all transit stakeholders about how a **SmartFare** fare implementation would look!

Gender and Sexuality Diversity Centre (GSDC)

We have now shortlisted, and chosen a candidate for a **GSDC Program Coordinator**. Over the summer months, they will: develop a governance model, programming schedule, and fund development strategy. I will be working on this in conjunction with our Senior Manager Student Services, the Gender Based Violence Prevention Project, and my fellow Project Lead that worked with me on the research that led to this hire. We hope to launch the centre in September.

International Students Association (ISA)

Thank you **Councillor Chen** for reaching out to the executive to participate in your ISA photoshoot!

Winter Programming

Conversations have been started regarding potential collaboration with Alumni Affairs for their centennial celebration in 2016.

Student Life Working Group

I am hoping to find time soon to discuss with you all about your interest in VP Student Life issues. I am looking to convene a **Student Life Working Group** (name pending), consisting of councilors and constituents alike, wherein we can work collaboratively towards common goals.

Here ends my first written council report. Hope you have a wonderful day, and I'll see you soon!

Nicholas Diaz

Vice President Student Life 2014-2015