

September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

To: University of Alberta Students' Council 2014/2015

Re: Vice President Student Life Council Report

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*"You're only given a little spark of madness. You mustn't lose it."*

*Robin Williams*

Hi Council,

This is a relatively brief report, time wise. It will cover from September 8 through 18, plus some updates on some issues I've been working on.

### **Advocacy**

The **residence complaint form** was generally well received at the last Residence Advisory Committee. Both the residence associations and residence services gave great feedback about how to improve the form, and make it clearer to students what the purpose of the form was. We will be implementing those recommendations as soon as possible.

President Lau proxied for me at a recent **residence budget advisory committee (RBAC)** while I was sick. Everything seems business as usual, as we're looking over documents that describe where and how they intend to conduct renovations and maintenance on residences, and how they intend to adjust rental rates.

The **Residence Halls Association** discussions will be ongoing as time allows. There is a bit of urgency to it, but the next two weeks are tight on time, as I have many new meetings starting up, including the Council on Student Affairs, the Athletics and Recreation Fee Advisory Committee, and the Health Centre Advisory Group.

### **Council and Governance**

Due to illness and other urgent priorities, work on the Health and Wellness policy has been delayed until such time as I can sit down and write up first principles. The research for the residence policy proved more complicated than anticipated and will also be delayed.

## **Access and Communications**

Services staff, marketing and communications staff, the general manager and I are having ongoing meetings to discuss the branding of **Student Life Central**. If you haven't yet, please take the time to go check out the lower level.

## **Student Groups and Associations**

We will soon have a **board game rental service** for students at Student Life Central! It should be good to go as soon as our staff there have time after our September rush. The way we have discussed it working is that a student would give us their ONEcard, and we would provide them with a board game of their choice.

A discussion was briefly started with the Augustana Students' Association about how their clubs are managed. We may talk this year about how to better provide service to them through Student Group Services.

I have begun the process of **mapping out quiet and silent spaces on campus**. For background - in March, I heard from Muslim students how described that they could not always find adequate prayer space, especially in the far corners of campus. This conversation started as a way of reducing that burden where possible. Thus far, I have emailed both the Muslim Students' Association and our Safewalk director, and everyone seems on board. I will be meeting with a few Muslim Students' Association executives next Friday.

## **Events**

Green and Gold Day and Alumni events were this past weekend - I hope you got out for some of the festivities (or deals at Students' Union businesses!). I'm writing this on Thursday evening, but I'm sure I'll see many of your faces out on Saturday morning for our reception for Students' Union alumni, right?

I have been meeting with the writing centre team planning the **Long Night Against Procrastination**. Check it out at [fb.com/longnightagainstprocrastination](https://fb.com/longnightagainstprocrastination). It's coming up in November!

This week we have a **free movie night** on the Tuesday the 23rd, a **comedy night** on Wednesday the 24th, and the **farmers market** on Thursday the 24th. For more info on UASU events, check out [uasuevents.ca](http://uasuevents.ca), and for my events calendar, check out [uasu.ca/vpslcalendar](http://uasu.ca/vpslcalendar).

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Best,

Nicholas Diaz  
Vice President Student Life 2014-2015