

Date: 29/01/2019

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Report to Students' Council

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Hi everyone!

Not too much has changed since our last meeting, and I will be sending my regrets to today's meeting to attend a Golden Bears and Pandas Legacy Fund meeting. Nonetheless, here are the updates on the projects I've been working on!

### 1. HUB Residence

The University committed funding to support safety and security in HUB Mall! Congratulations to everyone who helped get this project off the ground and stuck with us throughout the process. The University and The Students' Union continue to seek feedback from students on HUB:

There is a survey available that only takes about 5-10 minutes to complete and you'll be entered into a draw to win a 100\$ bookstore giftcard!

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUwmVigs\\_hQeTeNjHCtcEJz7aqeVwbUJk3-ORtnmOAeEZgKg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUwmVigs_hQeTeNjHCtcEJz7aqeVwbUJk3-ORtnmOAeEZgKg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

### 2. Post-Secondary Standards for Mental Health

Several campus stakeholders are involved in a national conversation to establish standards for mental health across Canada. We are incredibly excited for the opportunity to participate in the project, and look forward to seeing the results of the consultation.

### 3. Board // GFC // Senate - Joint Summit

On January 25th, the Board of Governors, Senate, and GFC members came together to discuss the joint position paper from COPPOA, the Council of Post-Secondary Presidents of Alberta. The position paper outlines 3 major goals for Alberta Post-Secondary Education.

- 1) Increase the available seats in post-secondary institutions.
- 2) Grow the amount of up-front grant available to students from low-middle income families.
- 3) Increase the amount of funding available for research and innovation.

While all three strategic areas are undoubtedly important for the student experience in Alberta, I feel concerned that there is no mention of ways to improve student life beyond financial assistance. It's important that we don't limit discussion of other

important issues such as mental health, sexual violence supports, and reconciliation efforts.

This is particularly relevant considering the Sexual Assault Centre protested the summit and outlined several concerns regarding the University Appeals Board and the University's approach to sexual violence practices. We look forward to a response from administration, and will continue to advocate for more immediate action from the university to make their policies and procedures fair and student-friendly.

#### 4. East Campus Students' Association

The East Campus Students' Association is back! They hosted their first event since getting an executive team together and had over 100 people attend. It was amazing!

#### 5. Closing

Earlier last week, CBC posted an article highlighting a student who had been evicted from their residence for self-harming. I would like to reiterate that under no circumstances is a letter like this ever acceptable, and the Students' Union strongly advocates for more supports for students who experience mental health struggles. The Students' Union remains in contact with the Dean of Students concerning this issue, and have received verbal confirmation that since October 26th, 2016, no such letters have been sent to students. This is a clear example of a case in which University administrators were not sensitive or aware of the complexities and nuance of student mental health, and confirms the necessity for on-campus mental health services and practitioners to help administrators respond to students at risk effectively, empathetically, and ethically.

If you need help, please do not hesitate to reach out. My door is always open, and there are several services you can reach out to in a time of need.

211: 24/7 Counselling Resources  
780.482.4357 : Edmonton Distress Line

Take care,



Andre Bourgeois  
VP Student Life