

Date: 08/04/2021

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Student Life 2020/21 Report #23

(My final) Hello council!

This feels somewhat unreal, writing my last council report. This year in some respects has dragged on but also gone so fast. I am so proud of myself and my team for this year. We have worked so hard together and accomplished so much for students. It has been an honour and privilege to be your VP SL.

Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator

This was my number one goal throughout the campaign and after being elected. After being recommended in 2016, and four years later I am so happy this is a reality. I have spent the whole year helping survivors who couldn't find the support they needed. I know how vital this role is.

Sexual Violence Website, UAPPOL and Sexual Violence on Experiential Learning

Other sexual violence initiatives from this year! We ran a survey for sexual violence on experiential learning, as I campaigned on. This found 10% of surveyed students had experienced sexual violence. We successfully advocated the University to update their sexual violence website. This made reporting pathways and resources more clear, and added a quick exit tab. We also advocated for adding clarifying documentation to the Conflict of Interest policy to clarify rules about relationships with profs. We also are working on an experiential learning UAPPOL policy which will be continued next year.

Mental Health: Empower Me

One of my key platform goals was working to diversify the SU's mental health services. To do this (and respond to the pandemic), I focused on launching Empower Me through the Health and Dental Plan. This provided mental wellness services at no additional cost to plan members. It is available 24/7, 365 days a year, confidential, multilingual, culturally sensitive, gender inclusive and faith inclusive. It is also available in 22 countries outside of Canada.

Residence: Meal Plan Rate Advocacy and Pride Sidewalks

This year CORA and I focused on advocating around the meal plan rates. We worked successfully with residence services to lower the meal plan rate by 200\$. This was a high priority for us and I am really proud of all the residence association presidents. We also worked through the Residence Improvement Fund to apply for Pride sidewalks. Three will be installed in the fall. One is funded through the Students' Union. I can't wait to see these on campus in the fall.

Students Who Parent: Daycare

The UASU and GSA partnered with Kids & Company, to offer a daycare service to students. This service has numerous locations across Edmonton. It offers students 1-5 full day, part time and drop-in care. The drop-in care is low cost to meet students financial needs priced at \$50 a day for the first 10 days. Students will be guaranteed a placement in 6 months and there are extended hours available as well.

EDI

It became clear this year that the UASU needed to start doing more. I worked to create EDIT, who's survey about the SU services is out now. We also worked in collaboration with the ISA and Nigerian Students' Association to offer drop in supportive listening in response to their needs. We had the first two EDI Speaker Series. The first was "A Conversation with Angela Davis" and was hosted by Eternity Martis. The second was "Finding Identity: An LGBTQ2S+ Conversation on Intersectionality, Mental Health, and Allyship" and featured Ben O'Keefe, Jack Saddleback, Milan and Kat Blaque. Finally, we are hiring an EDI consultant to look at some of our internal processes.

Events

This year changed how we offered events with everything being online. Our events team did a great job at adapting as much programming as possible to be online, such as the trivia nights and escape rooms. We also had the Campus Kick Off Concert featuring Nina West, Lennon Stella, Pink Sweat\$, Roy Wood\$, A Tribe Called Red, Tyson Ritter (of The All-American Rejects) and The Reklaws. This was to try to have a virtual Res Fest/ WOW Concerts. Finally, as previously mentioned we started the Edi Speakers Series which I hope will continue in person!

I started volunteering for the Students' Union in my second year of University and now I end my fifth as Vice President SL. I would like to think second year me would be really proud of who I am and what I did this year. I am so grateful that I got to work with you all this year. I hope you are all proud of what you accomplished this year. I also hope you take the lessons you learned at the SU to go out and do good.

I am not very good at goodbyes. So I will leave you with my favourite Taylor Swift quote, "I had the time of my life fighting dragons with you"

Yours,

Katie Kidd

University of Alberta Students' Union
Vice President Student Life