

Date: 19/4/2022**To:** Students' Union Council**Re:** Vice President Student Life 2021/2022 Report #26

Dear Council,

Today is our last Council meeting of the year. For the past three years, I have attended Council every other Tuesday, so tonight is very bittersweet for me.

Because this is my final Council report, I want to thank everyone who helped support me on this journey. I want to thank my campaign team members, particularly AJ, who helped get me here. My bf Daniel for supporting me every day after work, and I want to thank my family, who supported me in extending my degree.

I also want to thank the executive team for being an amazing support system, helping me get projects done, and working as hard as they could to support students and accomplish their own goals and projects. And of course, I want to thank the UASU staff members, particularly Marc, who guided us through our year.

Because it's the final Council meeting of the year, I wanted to give a quick overview of some of my main projects this year:

Indigenous Celebration Week (ICW)

This year I had the opportunity to work with the Indigenous Students Union (ISU), our FNMI specialist and the events team to plan ICW. I am incredibly grateful for everyone who helped plan and run this project. Despite the setbacks from COVID, the event was successfully held from March 21st-25th. This event allowed us to take a step toward reconciliation, build community, and learn how to be Treaty partners. I look forward to seeing what the ISU and the SU do with this event in the future!

Creating the Family Lounge

Creating the Family Lounge has been a goal for multiple years. This space would allow student parents to have a safe(er) space for themselves and their children to hang out, study, and eat in. After many conversations with the University, this space is being created on Rutherford's 3rd floor it will be open in Fall 2022. I cant wait to see the finalised space!

Creating religious spaces on campus

As was mentioned in my last report, I worked with ESS and Diversity in Engineering to open a new prayer, meditation, relaxation and smudging space in the Mechanical Engineering Building. It's room 5-8T. I am hopeful that this space can be used as an example for the creation of more spaces like this across campus.

Pronoun Campaign

The Pronoun Campaign was created in response to the discrimination faced by trans students. This campaign had 2 parts. The first was focused on educating students, staff and faculty through physical and online resources. The second was sending out information and resources to faculty members and asking them to both respect pronouns in their classroom and educate their students. Hundreds of professors took part in this campaign, meaning that thousands of students were exposed to these resources. I look forward to seeing what next year's executive team does with this project and the other work they do to make our campus a safe(er) space for 2SLGBTQ+ folks.

Period Equity

This year VP Kimani and I installed 4 new dispensers (one in SUB, 2 in VVC, and one at CSJ). We secured thousands of dollars for the project and tested new sustainable products for this project. In addition, we ran a small awareness campaign. I am excited to see how this project grows in the next couple of years!

Sexual Violence Prevention

This year was a massive year for sexual violence prevention advocacy and work. Thanks to the hard work of CORA, COFA, and Council we:

- Got the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Coordinator hired after 5 years of hard work from previous VPSLs
- Worked with residence services to create a new sexual violence awareness campaign
- Worked with residence services to review and reform their training for RAs and new residents for next fall
- Worked with the Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Coordinator to start reviewing the SV policy and procedure for November
- Got a commitment from the University to create a training program for campus community members by 2022
- Got a commitment from the university to start making more in-person sexual violence prevention and response resources available at Augustana Campus. This is vital given the distance between Augustana and North Campus. And that resources would be translated into french

Additionally, we have been working with staff to improve the work that the UASU does to educate students about healthy relationships and consent. I know that a lot of this work is being passed on to next year's team. I am looking forward to seeing all the massive wins that happen next year!

Of course, this is just a taste of the work that I did in my portfolio this year. I am eternally grateful to the students who elected me. This year I had the opportunity to work every day on projects and with people that I love. I will miss my time at the UASU dearly.

Cheers,
Talía Dixon

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Talia Dixon, Vice President Student Life

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