

Prepared by: Colten Yamagishi, Vice President (Student Life)

To: Students' Council 2011/12

Hello council. I hope you are all as excited for school as I am (unlikely I know)! I am looking forward to what will most likely be my busiest two weeks of the year. Week of Welcome, Orientation, and everything that comes with them will soon hold my complete focus of attention. Let me tell you about what I've been up to.

Programming

Circus WOW:

Week of Welcome is coming along very nicely. Decorations are well in order and we have a number of very large 'circus themed' cutouts in the shape of things such as bears riding tricycles, strongmen, circus tents, scary clowns, etc. Our band lineups are almost complete and we should be selling online tickets very soon! A few of the events that I can announce at this time include the daily Pancake Breakfast, a hypnotist show with Wayne Lee on Wednesday night, Dragonette and USS on Thursday night, a free showing of X-Men First Class in the Myer Horowitz on Friday night, and our Mainstage concert on Saturday night. Quad will be filled with activities, games, a BBQ, beer gardens, and carnival style concession snacks! Most importantly all of our quad activities and beer gardens will be organized around and inside a giant BigTop tent that we bringing in to make sure that all of our events are kept enjoyable, rain or shine! I am very excited for WOW to begin! Make sure that you and your friends grab your event tickets early because they will sell out quick!

Services

Orientation (Centre for Student Development):

Orientation is set to begin in approximately one week! The CSD and their volunteers have done a great job preparing for the introduction of over 6000 new undergraduate students that will be joining us this fall. The theme for Orientation is 8-bit and campus will be sporting 8-bit mockups of some of our most famous campus celebrities including Indira Samarasekera, Gooba and Patches, and our own fabulous President Rory Tighe. I know that many of you are involved in Orientation and I want to thank you because I think that it is very important for councilors to be out and about educating our new students and developing a positive brand for the SU.

Awards:

The principles for the new SU awards have been approved by GAC, and SFAIC is now working hard to put them into their final form. We have successfully more than tripled the number of awards that we offer.

SUSTAIN SU:

The exec took a look at some of the newly proposed logo designs for the SUSTAIN SU Service. We were very happy with the proofs provided by the marketing department and selected an

image with three intertwined loops for our official SUSTAIN SU logo. I will provide council with images of the new logo once they have been finalized.

Health and Dental Plan:

We had a meeting with Lev, the owner of our health and dental plan provider (Studentcare). He provided us with a promotional video to use in our advertisements about the change-of-coverage period as well as the opt out program.

Infolink and SFAIC:

Infolink and SFAIC have been very busy training their new staff. Infolink is also providing an early U-Pass distribution service to help reduce lineups when the fall term begins. You can pick up your U-Pass at the SUB lower level Infolink but it does not activate until September 1st. We are also proud to announce that Infolink: Academic and Information Services has been given a new name! Infolink: (Your) Campus Connection Center.

Peer Support Centre:

The PSC has begun their move to the second floor of SUB and should be well in place before the start of fall term. So far the renovation has gone quite well and we will be very happy to have the PSC near the rest of the University Health Services.

Student Group Services

SGS is very busy planning for Clubs Fair and getting the student group offices cleaned out and ready for a new year. They are also working on preparing for the official launch of Bears' Den to the entire campus community.

Advocacy

Ontario Tours Debrief:

I met with Jane Lee (Senior Manager of Services), Johanna Comartin (Assistant Manager of Services) and the exec that went on the Ontario trip to discuss programs that we liked/didn't like from the schools that we toured. We also talked about the different student centres that we visited and how we can implement aspects that we saw in these buildings to our lower level renovation.

Take Back the Term: formerly known as New Student Experience Working Group:

We have set the schedule for Take Back the Term and have created a draft of all of the different sessions that we want to host. Session ideas are tentatively labeled as the following: healthy living, money matters, making connections, learning skills, writing skills, the tough stuff, finding the fit, difficult choices, understanding your grades. Each session will hopefully help students who are struggling with different aspects of University. Sessions will be lead by a variety of University and SU staff.

U-Pass:

We had a U-Pass Admin meeting and discussed a number of topics such as the new U-Pass stickers, early U-Pass distribution, the U-Pass smart card proposal, the spring/summer U-Pass, outstanding municipalities, the U-Pass fall communications plan, an increase in fines for having no ticket (\$110-\$250), complaints from students, and the delays put on the Whyte Ave late night transit program. I have a meeting with Gord Dykstra from ETS next week to discuss the fine

details surrounding the spring/summer U-Pass program. I have also been responding to a number of complaints from students who want a refund on their U-Pass fee.

Residences:

I met with Adi Rao (RHA President) and Dima Utgoff (Executive Director of Residence Services) and got an update on a number of residence issues. First, the renovations to the server room in Lister Centre will be completed in time for fall move-in. Second, they are still working on the exterior locks/security issues in HUB. Newton Place will be seeing renovations to its “back yard” area that will include a beach volleyball court. We will be having our final RHA Council meeting for the summer this Wednesday.

Food Policy:

We have started work on a food policy in policy committee. I have taken the lead on this with the help of Nikki Way (CSL Coordinator). If you have any feedback for what you would like to see in the policy please let me know because I am definitely not an expert on food. I will be working with Councillor Khinda to learn about the difference between Fair Trade, fair trade, free trade, and more!

Sustainability:

Tim Ira (CSD Assistant Manager) and I took part in an interview with the Office of Sustainability to discuss the sustainable initiatives that we are including in WOW and Orientation. Such changes include using all recyclable products (no Styrofoam), hosting “how to live sustainably” slides before Orientation presentations, and including items from the Campus Sustainability Tour in the Orientation Campus Tour. I may be attending an international sustainability conference (ASHEE) later in the year.

Paw Centre:

We recently had our first PAW design meeting in a while. We went through each section of the PAW Centre room by room to look through technical specifications. We made recommendations to the architects for how we would like the interior of each building space to look and function. I am in charge of selecting the games for the games room (pool, foosball etc.) and helping design the teaching kitchen. I was happy to hear that the PAW Centre will have water bottle refilling stations at their water fountains, similar to those that we put in SUB. We will be having many more of these meetings in the near future as the PAW Design and Development deadlines come closer. Expect a presentation to council this fall.

Meeting with Health and Wellness Movement:

I met with two of the HWM execs (Moses Fung and Solomia Tsisar) to discuss their plans for Health Week this year. Health Week is a week-long celebration of health and wellness that incorporates a multitude of events, activities, workshops, and talks to promote health and wellness on campus. The week is planned to run in late March 2012. The HWM is planning to run a number of exciting health related programs this year including a stairwell campaign to people to take the stairs instead of the elevator, weekly fitness events, fresh food stands, and possibly bi-weekly Dance Dance Revolution (which I am very nerdily excited for).

Student Engagement Plan:

We had a meeting with the exec and the advocacy department to talk about the Student Engagement Plan that the President will soon begin writing. I am sure that he will report with more detail on this but my contribution will be that of support and making sure that the report contains strong and useful recommendations for the improvement of the services and programming.

Fat Franks:

We have setup plans with the university to ensure that Fat Franks Hot Dog stand will not be in Quad during Week of Welcome and Orientation and that we will create an agreement to ensure that Fat Franks does not cause a threat to the success of student group fundraiser BBQ's held in Quad.

Opportunities for you to get involved:

WOW! Volunteer, tell your friends to volunteer, and buy tickets to the shows as soon as they come available! Promotion = Fun = Success for all!

Summary:

I apologize for the long report but I had a lot to talk about. I am soon entering into Super WOW Mode so please let me know if there is something that I am forgetting to do on the wayside.

If you have any other questions ask during council, stop by the office, or send me an email at vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca.

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