



2011/2012 Report to Council

August 12, 2011

Vice President (Student Life)

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

To: Students' Council 2011/12

Hello Council! Long time no meeting.

It looks like I am going to have to go back in time to update you on the most current three weeks of VPSL activity. Over the last few weeks I've been busy tackling a gigantic increase in e-mails and questions from students. I have however; found some time to enjoy the outdoors by volunteering, playing soccer, and participating in the Campus Food Bank's De Vera Cup Fundraiser Volleyball Tournament.

Programming

WOW:

Word on the street is that we may or may not have secured some serious concert bookings for Week of Welcome. Ask me in question period if you would like to find out more! Planning for WOW is going well and we are just over three weeks away from unveiling "The Greatest Show on Campus" a.k.a. Week of Welcome with a Circus Theme. I am getting very excited to make a number of speeches to students including a keynote to the Shinerama volunteers and the daunting task of speaking at the Orientation President's Address!

Services

Access Fund:

The VP Operations & Finance and I conducted the summer granting session for the Access Fund. There were far fewer applicants compared to the spring session but we are expecting to have a huge number of applicants come September for the first fall granting session.

Awards:

The awards expansion is nearing completion and will soon be approved by GAC. I would like to thank the dedicated SFAIC staff as well as the GAC members for the countless hours that they are putting into this great project. I'm sure that all of the work will be worth it as we are awarding thousands of dollars to deserving students.

Campus Food Bank:

The CFB has been hard at work preparing for the year and getting ready for the influx of users in the fall term. They have hired a new AED External, Nehal Mahmoud. The CFB recently held their De Vera Cup Fundraiser Volleyball Tournament (which I spoke of earlier) and it was highly successful. Renovations and the move to the new CFB space on the main floor should begin soon. The CFB Board also has a meeting coming up soon.

Infolink:

The executive had a chat with the Infolink staff to discuss how we plan to carry the Infolink redevelopment plan forward. We will be voting on a new name for the service on Tuesday and are moving forward with some prototype designs for an electronic information service terminal as well as general Infolink booth redesign. The President also had a meeting with Don Hickey (University VP Facilities and Operations) to discuss our plans for Infolink and SUBTV expansion. This Sunday we will be participating in a “Speed Dating” session with the new Infolink and SFAIC employees.

Orientation:

Orientation is coming into season and the program is well on its way to being prepared for September. The CSD staff and Orientation volunteers have begun creating their wonderful “8-bit” themed decorations in Dinwoodie lounge. To increase craft making morale I let the volunteers borrow Sheepert for an afternoon. The volunteers seemed to be very pleased.

Student Group Services:

In the coming weeks the VP Operations & Finance and I will be doing a significant amount of work with the SGS Manager overhauling the student group granting policies and procedures. We are looking to streamline both the application process as well as the selection process. We are also working with University of Alberta International to include some grant money that they have available for the promotion of international student group events.

Advocacy**Athletics:**

We are still ironing out the athletics marketing agreement that we have with the University. The VP Operations & Finance and I will be meeting with Trix Baker from University of Alberta Athletics again to get this sorted out soon.

Microwaves:

We finally have microwaves! Manuel (one of our amazing building staff) has kindly purchased and installed brand new microwaves (and stands where necessary) at the following locations: CAB Basement and Main Floor, ETLC Vending Cubby, Tory Atrium (near the Telus phones) and in the Tory Vending area. This project has seen a very long process but I hope that the results will provide for student demand.

Residence:

We recently had our first RHA Council meeting and moved a few orders of business including a \$2000 sponsorship to promote the RHA name on campus by sponsoring the bands at the Residence Block Party taking place during check-in. I was very excited to hear the RHA executive and residence association reports to hear what these hard working individuals have been working on all summer and to hear their plans for the upcoming year. I was very pleased that the meeting made quorum (even though many of the members are away for the summer) and that we had a representative from Residence

Services in attendance. I am very confident that this is going to be a very transformative and positive year for the RHA.

Food:

I am working on a food policy with Nikki Way and should have something prepared for the next Policy Committee. At our meeting with the University Facilities and Operations staff I was very pleased to hear from Doug Dawson (Executive Director of Ancillary Services) that they are willing to work with us to ensure that Fat Franks does not create competition with student groups running BBQ fundraisers in Quad.

Sustainability:

I am working with Lisa Dockman from the Office of Sustainability to promote sustainable initiatives in WOW and Orientation such as the following:

- No Styrofoam at the pancake breakfast
- Orientation slides including tips on how to live sustainably
- The use of recycled paper products for all printed materials and the placement of recycling/compost bins all over campus during Orientation and WOW

Hopefully these initiatives will help us significantly reduce the ecological footprint of our first busy week on campus.

I would also like to congratulate SUSTAIN SU's Community Garden on the achievement of winning an award from Sustainable Food Edmonton! The Community Garden has been doing outstanding work and I am very happy that they have been recognized.

International Student Association:

The VP Academic and I sat down with Raymond Matthias from UAI to discuss the possibility of creating an International Student Association. We are unsure of the details of such a project but we are planning to look at creating a governance body capable of advocating for international student needs.

Paw Center:

We attended the first PAW Steering Committee meeting where we learned a number of facts regarding the current status of the PAW project. We were told that the designers estimate us to be 1 point away from LEED Gold and that they may have to look at "shelling" a floor to save costs. Ask me in question period what "shelling" means because it is a difficult concept to explain in writing. Other points of discussion included the name of the facility and how it may change depending on donations. We are also in the design phase to plan how we want the Bike Library to look. Council will be receiving a presentation on the PAW Center in the fall term.

Summary:

Fall is fast approaching and I am getting extremely excited for the school year. With only a few weeks of summer left I will be down to the grindstone to finish off a few of my summer goals and get some initiatives started before I get too busy in September. Thus far I have been extremely impressed with the executive team and am really excited to see what we can do with the rest of the year.

Opportunities for you to get involved:

- Please sign up to volunteer for Week of Welcome at <http://goo.gl/P4vMs>.
- Fill out the new campus band survey <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2SYS3CV>
- Let me know if you want to help on any of my initiatives!

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

- Colten Yamagishi
780-299-3076