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To: Students' Council 2011/12

Hello Council. I hope you had a wonderful break! Here is a brief update on what I have been up to after the break. P.S. Please check out the new video blogs that the VP Academic and I have been working on. In our most recent video we talk about being an executive and why you should run!

Programming

Antifreeze:

Antifreeze starts next week and runs from Jan. 9-13. I hope that many of you have had the chance to create a team for this series of awesome events. We have had a huge increase in the number of team registrations this year but there is still room for more if any of you plan on submitting a team on Monday before the events begin.

Break the Record:

We are full steam ahead planning for the Break the Record event. We had an extremely successful presentation to Deans' Council on the event and have had our first of three planning meetings with our stakeholders. We are going to have a huge marketing effort for the event this year so I will definitely need your help to do class talks and spread the word. Make sure to tell your friends, your parents, professors, or any alumni that you know to come to the event. It will be by far the biggest and most exciting engagement event of the year. We need as many people as we can get... especially since we upped the goal to 5000!!! The Facebook page for the event will be going up on Monday so be sure to invite your friends!

Golden Bears and Pandas Update:

I have decided that my council reports are an appropriate place to provide council with quick updates on the business of our Golden Bears and Pandas varsity sports teams. I will also list any games that I plan on attending with the hope that you will be interested in attending with me. I think that the successes of our sports teams often go overlooked so I think it would be great for the Students' Union to take the lead in showing them our support.

This week I would like to highlight the success of the Golden Bears Volleyball team who recently defeated a number of top-ranked American College Teams on a trip to California. The Bears bested powerhouses such as the USC Trojans, CBU Lancers, and most favourably the University of California Irvine Anteaters – sign of things to come? I think so...

This weekend I will be going out to watch the Pandas Volleyball New Years Classic tournament, which is featuring a team from the University of Tsukuba in Japan. The Pandas will be facing off against Calgary at 7:30pm on Friday Jan. 6th and against the Japanese team at 7:30pm on Saturday Jan. 7th. Let me know if you are interested in attending!

Services

Campus Food Bank/SFAIC:

The CFB/SFAIC renovation is fully underway and is looking better and better everyday. The renovation is planned to be completed by late January at which time the CFB will begin their move upstairs. Keep on the look out for events such as the Mac n' Cheese Affair Gala this semester!

Infolink:

Infolink had their new logo approved today. As one of the people that approved the logo I will tell you that it is very nice. The logo is much more modern than its predecessor, is more e-friendly (looks better on web/smartphone pages), and brings a new splash of colour to the service. We are also looking at closing our ETLC Infolink location.

Safewalk:

Evan Worman (former Safewalk Assistant Director) has now taken over the role of Safewalk Director taking the place of our former Director, Andrea Michaud, who is finishing her final work placement for her education program.

Student Group Services:

Student Group Services is hiring a new admin assistant position for their office. The job posting can be found here <http://jobkin.ca/search.htm?moreinfo=2084>. Councillors can apply for the spot as it is an hourly position so please send in your applications if you are interested or encourage anyone who you think might be interested.

Advocacy

Microwaves:

The executive has decided to once again spend a one-time projects allocation of \$1000 to purchase new microwaves to be placed in buildings around campus. I took a quick tour of campus today with Lorraine Huntley from Ancillary Services and we have targeted areas in ECHA, CCIS/Bio-Sci, and the HUB/Humanities Atrium as possible locations to place the new microwaves. All of these proposals still have to be approved by their respective building operators so it could be quite some time before the microwaves are fully installed.

Free Store and Styrofoam Update:

I am going to be running another free store in SUB during Spirit Week (January 16-19). Please sign up to volunteer or at least come out and check out what we have to offer (or bring stuff). On a side note my Styrofoam effort has been very successful so far and I have only used Styrofoam 3 times since our last meeting and 0 times in the last three weeks. I have decided to limit my allowable Styrofoam use to a maximum of 1 time per week and hopefully I will be able to maintain my Styrofoam free streak even longer. Wish me luck!

Homophobic Flyer Distributed in HUB:

Before the break the RHA was informed that homophobic flyers had been distributed in HUB by a known group of radicals. This issue has been addressed by UofA Protective Services, Residence Services, and the local police. The RHA will be putting up SIDERITE posters and

pamphlets to show that we are visibly supportive of LGBTQ students and the maintenance of a safe and secure living environment for all those living in our residences.

Opportunities for you to get involved:

- Contact me to volunteer for the Free Store
- Run for an exec position and talk to the current exec about their jobs
- Come check out Antifreeze
- Start spreading the news about Break the Record on Feb. 3
- Apply for the Student Group Services admin assistant position
- Go support your Golden Bears and Pandas

Summary:

It feels good to be back in the office even though I wish the holiday could have been a tad bit longer. We have a really exciting semester ahead of us and I want to make sure that I can make the most of it. We all have a lot of work left to do this year and I believe that we can push ourselves to make it a great success! Hopefully this year will prove itself to be even better than the last!

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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