

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

To: Students' Council 2011/12

Hello wonderful council! I apologize for not being able to make it to this council meeting. I (at the time of the meeting) will be in Calgary attending the Leaders Hall conference hosted by the UofC SU and the SAIT SA. The conference will provide me with a great opportunity to speak to student executives from around the country to discuss best practices in services, programming, advocacy etc. and to visit the LGBTQ centre at the UofC. I will attempt to Skype in if possible, however the closing dinner for the conference is being held at the same time. I hope that you all give Vice President Cheema and Vice President Csorba a hard time during question period while they hold down the fort. I will be back in the office on Thursday morning.

Here is a brief summary of what I have been up to in the last two weeks:

Programming

Break the Record:

We are excited to finally announce the date for the Break the Record Dodgeball World Record Attempt. The game will be held Friday, February 3rd, 2012. I hope that you all come out and bring at least 3623 of your friends so that we can once again reclaim our record! We will be running a strong interactive marketing campaign for the event this year so I hope that you all volunteer to help out.

WOW:

The entire programming department has been at the COCA campus programming conference in Whistler British Columbia for the week. They have been having fun, learning about new programming initiatives, and scoping out potential acts for this year's Week of Welcome. We will soon be choosing our WOW theme once we receive the style guides for each theme from the marketing department.

Movie Nights:

As promised in my election platform we will be seeing a significant increase in the number of affordable (and quality) student movie nights being held in the Myer Horowitz theatre this year. This is being done with the goal of hosting easy access events for students to enjoy and to become interested and acquainted with the Students' Union. We are interested in working with the Gateway to promote the movie nights. Please let me know of any feedback regarding what movies you would like to see and what parts of the overall service you think would enhance your movie-going experience.

Services

First of all, I would like to thank the CSD staff for hosting an amazing Orientation BBQ. The event had an absolutely enormous number of student attendees and there was a great energy

surrounding the event. Unfortunately I showed up right at the beginning of the water fight and turned into an easy target. My nautical themed shorts are still hanging up to dry.

Bears' Den:

The exec and SU staff recently received training on the Bears' Den online web utility. Norma Rodenburg (the Student Affairs Officer from the Dean of Students' Office) led us through a quick seminar teaching us how to create our own customizable profiles and how to edit student group spaces on Bears' Den. Bears' Den is an amazing program and will provide us with a ton of opportunities for communication and student engagement this year. The website should be in full operation next month and will be ready for thousands of student registrations during orientation and Week of Welcome. To get your own Bears' Den account check out the following link: <https://alberta.collegiatelink.net/>

SUSTAIN SU:

We have successfully rebranded ECOS (the environmental coordination office of students) to be named **SUSTAIN SU: The Student Sustainability Service**. Everyone is very excited about this new name and the new strategic plan for the service. On a side note, I would like to congratulate Ian Moore (Director of Sustain SU) for receiving an Emerald Award in the youth category from the Provincial Government to recognize his and his programs accomplishments in sustainability. Ian is extremely deserving of this award for all of the excellent work that he has done for our school and the Students' Union.

Infolink Rebranding:

We have completed another brainstorming session for the renaming of our Infolink service and have proposed a set of names to the executive for feedback. Some popular choices include Infolink+, Campus Connection Centre, and Connect SU. I will keep you updated with the process.

Advocacy:

Residence:

I have spent a ton of time in meetings over the last two weeks regarding residences. I have met with Dima Utgoff (Director of Residence Services) as well as Peter Ochs (former UASU advocacy department employee) regarding the possibility for a residence governance decision-making system that would involve a voting system with student and residence services representation. The idea is very interesting to me and I believe that it could provide a solution to the communication errors that often come up between residents and Residence Services.

I also met with Rory and Doug Dawson (Director of Ancillary Services) to discuss food vendors on campus as well as details regarding the meal plan and the renovations to the cafeteria in Lister Centre.

I had a Skype meeting with Adi Rao (President of the RHA) regarding planning for the first RHA council meeting that will happen this summer (hopefully in a few weeks).

Property Theft:

I attended an awesome roundtable meeting/discussion hosted by the director of Campus Protective Services regarding property theft on campus. We worked on planning ideas for a campus wide antitheft awareness campaign the CPS is interested in running. I will begin the

campaign by telling you not to leave your bags/laptops/belongings unattended on campus. The thieves are hungry! In all seriousness, theft on campus is a bigger problem than most people think and we need to be very careful to protect our belongings. What would you do if all of those precious notes disappeared with your laptop right before your final exams!

Health Promotion Advisory Committee:

We discussed a number of interesting issues at HPAC including the results of the National College Health Assessment results for students at the UofA, psychological health and domestic violence at the workplace, smoking on campus, and the University/Aramark's healthy food choices initiative and food services contract.

U-Pass:

At our last U-Pass Administration meeting we received an update from ETS on next year's U-Pass stickers and were excited to hear that they are no longer rectangular but will have an interesting shape and design. We are interested in asking for smart card U-Pass technology to work in coordination with the OneCard but I guess we will have to do with fancy stickers for the time being. I briefed the committee with plans to survey students regarding our Spring/Summer U-Pass initiative and announced that we are working on a lobby document to convince city councilors in the three outstanding municipalities to force their municipal transit services to join the U-Pass program.

Opportunities for you to get involved:

- Go join Bear's Den <https://alberta.collegiatelink.net/>
- Sign up for WOW volunteering
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/eventsvenues/wow/volunteer/volunteerapp/>
- Tell me what you like to see regarding SU movie nights

Summary:

The last two weeks I spent a lot of time answering e-mails and random requests from students, student groups, and outside organizations. Our Students' Union is very popular and everyone wants to get involved with us! When I return from the Leaders Hall conference I plan to go full steam ahead to achieve some of my platform goals before the summer is over.

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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