

2011/2012 Report to Council

May 12, 2011

Vice President (Student Life)

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To: Students' Council 2011/12

Hello Everyone! I hope that you have all settled into summer. That being summer jobs, summer school, summer vacation, or whatever else you choose do with this lovely summer weather (minus the wind).

This past week I have been busy enjoying the view out of my office window as I have been spending the majority of my time in the wonderful room temperature environment of 2-900 or in meetings. Since we met last Thursday I have been all over the map working on the following:

Programming

Week of Welcome:

The programming department has been hard at work developing materials for the WOW facilitators and researching/brainstorming exciting ideas for events. We had our first WOW facilitator meeting Wednesday night and I was very happy to engage with an ambitious new group (many of the facilitators have returned from last year's Student Life Events Committee) bringing fresh new ideas for the WOW theme in our brainstorming session. I fully believe that the strength in our programming department and the ambition of our volunteers is going to make this the best WOW yet.

Services

Health and Dental Plan Advisory Committee:

Andy and I are almost done interviewing for this committee (just one left) and we will have made the decision for choosing its membership by the time you read this report. We have received a number of strong candidates for the committee making the decision difficult.

Campus Food Bank:

We have received a commitment from the University to help pay for a large portion of the renovation costs to move the CFB to the main floor of SUB!

Name Brainstorm:

Next week we will be brainstorming for the possible renaming/rebranding of both the ECOS and Infolink services. We are investigating this opportunity to accommodate for the growth of each services portfolio so that its name properly reflects the broad scope of each services mandate.

Advocacy

Residences:

I am very excited to have been part of the first Residence Hall Association Executive meeting of the year. We met over Skype and it was very nice to meet all of the new Executives online. I am excited to see what great things the RHA can achieve this year with an overhauled constitution and structure, new ambitious members, and the outstanding leadership of President Aditya Rao. I met with Adi and Kyle Marshall (The UGAA of the SU Advocacy Department) to discuss transition and the great amount of work that Adi has done for the organization already.

We also attended the Residence Budget Advisory Committee meeting where Don Hickey (UofA Vice President Facilities and Operations) and Doug Dawson (Executive Director of Residence Services) showcased a number of diagrams showing the proposed changes to the Lister Cafeteria and Dining Center.

I have my Residence Community Standards meeting tomorrow (will have have happened by the time you read this)

GSA Meeting:

I met with Hillary Sparkes (GSA VPSL) to discuss initiatives that we will be working on together this year. We also discussed our views on different meetings that we both attend and how we can work together to provide solidarity and a strong voice for students.

Appeals Regulation Group:

We went over a number of edits to the UAPPOL appeals policy to streamline the academic appeals process. The finalized document will be done this summer and will be passed into further channels of governance. Justin Williams (SU DRPA) is looking over the document to help me provide recommendations to the committee.

Alcohol Policy Working Group:

We have outlined the main agenda of directive ideas to change the University Alcohol Policy. We are looking to streamline the registration process for alcohol related events as well as make specific categorical rules for different types of events. I will be putting a lot of focus into this committee over the summer. Also, Carl Amrhein (UofA Provost) has requested that we host another town hall meeting this summer regarding the Alcohol Policy.

LGBTQ Centre:

I have begun my reading regarding Sexual Orientation and Gender Centers that exist in other Canadian institutions. I read a great brief on the topic written last year by the VP Academic during his term working for the Advocacy Department. I plan to visit a number of these services at other schools over the summer to help understand how they operate. I will also begin speaking with student groups soon to see if this is a service that we need.

Opportunities for you to get involved:

-Please sign up to volunteer for Week of Welcome at <http://goo.gl/P4vMs>.

-Check out Petros' awesome new committee SIC (Students Interested in Council?)

Summary:

My first full week in office has been crazy fun. I finally have everything set up, caught up on e-mails, and have gotten a hang of the office lifestyle. This weekend I will be doing a lot of reading and handling some non-vpsl related work that I have been leaving to get done for a while. I will soon be setting up a lot of meetings to make sure that I have a grasp on all of the resources that the SU has to offer.

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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