

## 2011/2012 Report to Council

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Vice President (Student Life)

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**To:** Students' Council 2011/12

The last two weeks have been a lot of fun! I have been having 1on1's with the many talented people that I will be collaborating with this year. Though time has been flying by fast, it feels like it has been a long time since we have had council so I hope that you have lots of great questions.

### ***Programming***

#### **Week of Welcome Theme:**

We are down to three themes! We are now awaiting marketing to give us proofs of their ideas for each theme before we make a final decision. I am not sure if the three remaining themes are a secret so I am going to keep quiet on them for now. I will give you a hint and say that they are all very exciting...

#### **Dodgeballs and Fighter Pilots:**

Our World Record for the largest dodgeball game has been unofficially broken again by the US Airforce Academy. They reported having 3623 cadets playing in the gigantic game. The Academy is still awaiting official approval from Guinness.

### ***Services***

On Wednesday the executive received an awesome services orientation from the services staff. We got a quick brief on each service in a speed-dating style meeting and concluded with a very fun game to test our services knowledge. I am proud to say that we did very well!

#### **ECOS Renaming/Rebranding:**

The rebranding of ECOS is nearly complete... I hope. We are testing out the name "Balance" Shaping a Sustainable Campus Community. This name still has to pass through the exec and we are also waiting to see what the University's Office of Sustainability thinks about the name. If you have any great ideas for names let me know! I also attended a number of sustainability related meetings.

#### **Peer Support Center:**

We are currently meeting with a number of people to discuss the movement of the Peer Support Center to the second floor of SUB. The floor plans and renovation plans look awesome! The plan has been approved but we still have questions regarding what we will do with the PSC's old space in the basement.

## **Advocacy**

Last week I had a great meeting with Frank Robinson (Dean of Students) and we discussed a number of important and exciting initiatives for the year regarding items such as residences, campus wide programming, mental health, and my plans to enhance the scope of services that we offer.

## **Residences:**

First off, I would like to say that I have been extremely impressed with the work that Adi Rao (the new Residence Hall Association President) has already put into the position. The other RHA executives are also doing a great job as well. I am happy that they are such an energetic, ambitious, and diverse bunch.

I met with Michael McPhillips (Lister Hall Students' Association President) and Michelle Villettard (Lister Admin Assistant) to discuss their goals for the year. The dynamic duo laid out some big plans including reworking the LHSA constitution, ensuring that the meal plan is fair for residents, and building a strong Lister culture and community. The SU will be working with the LHSA very closely this year as we have a vested interest in creating the best residence experience for our students.

## **U-Pass:**

I had a number of meetings regarding the U-Pass that I attended with Justin Williams (SU Director of Research and Political Affairs or DRPA). It seems that we are making ground on the Spring/Summer U-Pass and I hope to get a survey out this summer to see if Spring/Summer students are interested. Edmonton Transit System (ETS) has offered to provide a combined mandatory Spring/Summer U-Pass and is doing research to see if they can afford to allow us to create a Spring/Summer U-Pass that only students registered for both Spring and Summer classes will receive. If you have any strong opinions on this topic please let me know. We will also be meeting the student executives from NAIT and Grant MacEwan for lunch as a meet and greet and to discuss topics as coordination for our combined effort to add three new municipalities to the U-Pass coverage.

## **PAW:**

This week we met with the Group 2 engineers to discuss the Site Plan and parking that will surround the PAW Centre. They offered a lot of very interesting designs and innovative ideas. Last week I got a tour of a number of current Van Vliet and Pavilion facilities including the climbing wall, the ARZ (Activity Registration Zone) and the Glen Sather Sports Medicine Clinic. We talked a bit about the Paw Centre Proshop and Registration Zone. I will also be working with a number of student groups like the Healthnuts on the Teaching Kitchen for the PAW Centre.

## **New Student Experience Working Group:**

I attended a meeting hosted by Norma Rodenburg (the Student Affairs Officer from the Dean of Students' Office) regarding this new initiative to have a sort of "orientation round 2" in November to supplement student needs. We brainstormed a number of ideas

for sessions that could help students with common problems that often come up in the first few months of University.

### **Health and Wellness**

Andy and I spoke to Donna Cave (Director of the University Health Centre) about a number of health and wellness initiatives for the year as well as many of the service gaps that she hopes to fill with more staff. We are meeting with Jameela Murji from the Health and Wellness Team on Monday to bounce ideas off of each other.

### **Opportunities for you to get involved:**

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

-Let me know if you want to help on any of my initiatives!

### **Summary:**

My job is awesome! I have completed almost all of my reading and will soon begin working on my goals. I am extremely excited to see that many of the issues that I am passionate are being brought to the table for major changes this year by both student and staff leaders.

p.s. I apologize for this report being so long. I had a lot to talk about!

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

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