

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

To: Students' Council 2011/12

Hello Council,

I apologize for my very late council report but I honestly have had zero time to prepare it until now. Please be kind and hesitate from slapping me on the wrist for my tardiness. On a more serious note this past week has been absolutely outstanding. I think that our Students' Union has done an excellent job welcoming our students to and back to campus. You should all be very proud of the hard work that you have put into creating a better university experience for your fellow students.

Anyhow, here is an update on what I have been up to in the past two weeks.

Programming

Circus WOW:

Mix the hot sun, happy students, no midterms, and awesome activities and events and what do you get? This year's Week of Welcome! I would like to give a special thanks to all of the staff and volunteers who worked day-in-and-day-out to ensure that Week of Welcome ran smoothly. Our Programming Department (Jennifer, Kristen, Dennis, Brennan, Arlo, Butters) were outstanding even though they barely slept all week, and our WOW Facilitator team and volunteers were equally amazing. These individuals definitely deserve the credit so make sure to congratulate them on a successful week.

Everyone that I have talked to had an amazing time at the WOW events and we managed to recover a lot of our costs through concert tickets and food and beverage sales (or less eloquently put, the beer gardens). I myself took part in some Sheepert tossing during ShoutOutOutOutOut at the Mainstage concert and politely enjoyed watching my doppelganger crowd surf at Dragonette. I hope that you all had an opportunity to participate in at least one of the amazing events held throughout the week.

We will soon be having a meeting to do a recap of the week to go over what went well and what did not so that we can make recommendations to those planning WOW in future years.

Services

Orientation (Centre for Student Development):

If anyone ever asks me about the best way to encourage delegate retention at Orientation my answer will be simple. Host the greatest Orientation in recent memory! And this is exactly what the over 600 Orientation staff and volunteers did this year!

This year's CSD staff (Tannis, Tim, Dayna, Josh, Ann, and Steven) did an absolutely amazing job getting all of their volunteers pumped up to welcome over 2000 new students to university.

The presentations provided for the new students at Orientation were both fun and informative. Some of them were even mentioned in the national newspaper The Globe and Mail! I was extremely impressed with the high energy level that was maintained throughout the two days and was maximized at the Presidents' Address in Hawrelak Park, which I thoroughly enjoyed!

Thanks again to all of the OL's, OPA's, OPF's, Photography Technicians, UAX OL's, and TF's, and CSD and SU staff who made this year's Orientation program so memorable!

Health and Dental Plan:

The opt-out deadline for the Health and Dental Plan is next Tuesday, September 20th. Please tell your friends and constituents about this so that they don't end up spending money on the service if they are already covered under a different plan or if they are not interested in having coverage. I will be doing class talks this week and next week to inform students about the deadline. Feel free to help me out!

Infolink:

Infolink has been doing a great job getting the U-Pass out to as many students as possible. Their new staff are doing great and will soon be finished training so that they can operate the Infolink booths on their own.

Peer Support Center:

The PSC is almost done their move to the 2nd floor of SUB and should be fully operational soon. Today we moved a casino request to purchase new furniture for their office.

SFAIC:

SFAIC has been very busy processing student loans. They have been doing an excellent job (go Councilor Amer!)

Safewalk:

Safewalk received new radios that even have the ability to text message! Crazy hey?

Student Group Services

SGS ran an excellent Clubs Fair and managed to tough it out sitting under their info-tents in the +30 degree heat. The Clubs Fair was extremely well attended and showcased over one hundred student clubs. A big congratulation to SGS Manager Kelin Flanagan and SGS Coordinators Kevin Thomas and Bill Pickering for a job well done!

Advocacy

Peoplesoft (Beartracks Meeting):

The VP Academic and I had a meeting with the Peoplesoft (Beartracks) staff to discuss a number of changes that we would like to see with the program and to provide feedback on its performance. We made a number of recommendations including the inclusion of a full fee assessment breakdown, 2am-6am operation, a GPA calculator, a link to Bears' Den, an editable monthly calendar, more detail in the financial holds section, giving heads-up for maintenance outages, and a better awards application process.

RHA:

The Residence Hall Association did an outstanding job promoting themselves during move-in and providing support to the Residence Associations. The RHA announced plans to run a grocery bus for residents and create large-scale events such as a multi-residence game of Humans vs. Zombies organized by Councilor Sumar. I also had a chat with Dima (Executive Director of Residence Services) and the RHA President about the progress that has been seen with the Dry/Quiet floor initiative in the Lister Residence.

Thrift/Free Store

I had a meeting with Louise Veillard from APIRG about including my thrift store idea as a project in Sustainability Awareness Week (SAW). I will keep you updated as we move on from here.

Protective Services Advisory Committee:

At PSAC there was discussion about the new “Don’t Feed the Thieves Campaign” to encourage students not to leave their belongings unattended. I believe that the campaign will be very successful and the graphics/posters being used are very visible. The emergency notification system was also discussed and we brought up using SUTV as a medium for the program to operate.

Residences:

Today the President, the RHA President, and I attended the Residence Budget Advisory Committee and asked a flurry of questions regarding food services on campus as well as the meal plan. We received some interesting answers and non-answers but overall I was happy with the way the meeting went. We also received a tour of the new Lister Served and got to try a number of food samples.

Fat Franks:

We had a meeting today with Ancillary Services to discuss the future of Fat Franks. I provided them with two options: either Fat Franks is removed from Quad entirely or that we get a cut from their revenues to go towards the student groups holding BBQ’s in Quad that they compete with.

Opportunities for you to get involved:

-Go Centre Grand Opening – SU Booth: Come out 12-4pm this Saturday to volunteer at our booth and speak with over 3000 people from the community about our amazing SU!

Let me know if you are interested.

-Help do class talks to inform students about the Health and Dental Plan opt-out deadline Tuesday, September 13.

Summary:

Overall, I am still pretty tired from Orientation and WOW but I have a ton of e-mails to answer so I will work hard to catch up on the work that I missed last week.

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