



*Office of the VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE*

October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**To:** University of Alberta Students' Council 2016/17

**Re:** Vice President Student Life Council Report

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Dear Council,

I hope you all are taking care of yourselves during this midterm season!

As many of you know, the Minister of Advancement Education visited SUBstage and announced an extension of the current tuition freeze.

On that same day, the rest of the executives and myself had our monthly retreat where we shared obstacles, plans, and thoughts on how our term has been going.

On the 21st, I was pleased to present some awards to outstanding students at awards night and was really impressed by the skills and talents of the recipients as well as our staff's amazing work with events!

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*ADVOCACY*

Residence

Lister Meal Plan

Please encourage all students that live in lister to fill out the form below and provide us with feedback on what they think about the meal plan:

<https://goo.gl/forms/url0jAtTath7skva2>

We launched a survey on Wednesday (26th) at 11 am and received **480 responses** by the next day. So far:

**91.3%** of respondents are in favour of maintaining the **current** plan while **8.8%** of students are in favour of adopting the new plan.

- 67.7% of respondents indicated that they spent *less than 50%* of their plan *in* Lister and the comments indicated that the main cause of that was convenience: many students spend an extended amount of hours on the opposite part of campus with no breaks as a full-time student, etc.
- 78.4% of the respondents stated they would never/rarely take a boxed lunch or come back to Lister for a boxed lunch, or would take a boxed lunch only once or twice a week.
- 82.3% of respondents indicated that they didn't want the flex dollars to be mandatory. They indicated in the comments that they oppose the idea of adding flex on the principle that they should not be asked or required to add money on their plan to eat outside of the Lister Cafeteria and the PLH, but that they should have the flexibility to use their meal plan elsewhere on campus to begin with, as per what the current meal plan allows.

We got a very high proportion of respondents -over 200- that left additional comments, some of which were very extensive.

#### Residence Association Fees

We are in the process of finalizing the messaging that is going to be sent out to students.

Residence Services is the unit that is going to collect these fees from ALL residents. Given that the SU only has authority to assess fees to undergraduate students, we will adapt accordingly in working with the Graduate Students' Association and the University on that

#### Residence Life Task Force

During our last meeting with the residence life Task Force, we shared our scores and thoughts on the different proposals that we received from third parties that were interested in conducting research on the current state of residence. We will send the decision of the Task Force out as soon as it is finalized.

#### Lister Representatives

The Lister representatives have been great advocates on the meal plan issue and have been providing feedback to all parties as well as soliciting student feedback.

Our high turnout rate on the survey that we ran is definitely a product of their efforts!

They are also planning a few events, one of them being a photo booth for Halloween.

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### COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

#### Sexual Violence Policy committee

This committee is the immediate group that gives feedback on what we think the sexual violence policy that the University is drafting should look like.

A draft of the policy and procedures was brought to the Campus Law Review Committee where many interesting questions were posed.

#### Board of Directors-The Landing

We had a Board meeting as well as meetings of the two committees that I am on: Policy and Finance.

The Landing Board approved a financial policy that is now in effect.

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#### *MISCELLANEOUS*

A reminder that my office hours are 12 p.m to 1 p.m on Fridays so stop by if you want to chat or have any questions. If that doesn't work for you, you can also e-mail me at [vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca) and we'll find a time to meet and chat.

Cheers,

Francesca Ghossein  
(Submitted electronically)