

Date: 11/06/2020

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Student Life 2020/21 Report #4

Hello council!

I hope all of you are staying healthy and taking advantage of the nice weather (within socially distancing protocols!)

UPASS

VP Krahn, President Agarwal, and I have been working on the UPass negotiations. We are working with the other student associations as a coalition to ensure that all students access affordable transit. If you hadn't already heard, your winter UPass will be valid until June 30th. For July and August, if you are under 24 you qualify for a Youth pass. We are still working on further advocacy about the summer and fall upass, as well as the new contract.

CORA

I had the first CORA meeting last week. We had a transition one in April where I met the executives but it was excellent to start our work for this year. The biggest thing we are focusing on is how to build community in the fall. Obviously, this is a question that will take time to fully address however, I am confident that we will get there. There are still quite a few questions about what the fall will look like in terms of residence. Room offers will be going out in the next few weeks which will provide more certainty about the fall.

Orientation

President Agarwal and I were updated with how orientation will be working this year. It will be online and a mixture of synchronous and asynchronous programming. I think this is progressing well and there is a lot of thought put into how to reduce barriers that come with an online orientation. Overall, I am optimistic that incoming students will get the best orientation possible.

EDI Task Force

I have been working on the creation of the EDI Task Force. This will be a committee of the executive committee. The focus will be on bringing together diverse voices to examine edi impacts the student experience at the Students' Union. The task force will be focusing on where we need to improve and what we are currently doing well. As of

writing this, the work of creating this task force is still ongoing so I will ensure to include a more fulsome update during my oral report.

Exec Instagram

In the past two weeks I have been working on the creation of our executive instagram. I am hoping this will help to reduce some of the mythicism about what exec's jobs are, as well as, help you to get to know us better. Some of the things we will be doing is "A Day in the Life" where an exec will take you through their day on insta stories (mine will be sometime this week!). As well as starting a video series called #uasuneed2knowthis which will help breakdown some of the major issues facing students this year. I have other plans in the works so make sure you follow uasuexecutive to see all the posts!

COSA

I was recently appointed to the Council of Student Affairs which is a committee of GFC. I am really excited to be on this committee and to help VP Draper work on reforming the policies around work experience. Being the only education student on GFC will help bring valuable experience to this policy as I have completed two practicums already. I look forward to being a part of the work this committee will do this year.

On another note, I have decided to change how I do book recommendations! I will tell y'all what I am going to be reading in the next two weeks in case anyone wants to join in on this little book club. I will still give you an update if I would recommend the book or not. Last week's book recommendation is "The Tattooist of Auschwitz" by Heather Morris. It is based on a true story of two individuals who met in Auschwitz and follows them through their time in the concentration camp. I highly recommend. The next two weeks I will be reading "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates, "The Night Tiger" by Yangsze Choo, and "The Great Believers" by Rebecca Makkai.

Feel free to message me if you want to meet up to discuss anything! I'm always free to listen!

Cheers,

Katie Kidd

University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President Student Life