

November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014

To: University of Alberta Students' Council 2014/2015

Re: Vice President Student Life Council Report

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Hi Council,

This report covers from October 23rd to October 30th.

## **Advocacy**

The groundwork for different advocacy goals has been laid, so I am waiting on our first **RHA Council** meeting, and a meeting with Protective Services and Safewalk about **AUSFJ** security concerns.

## **Council and Governance**

On Wednesday, October 29th, I came as a guest and proxy for Bylaw committee. I have been deliberating on the structure of Student Group **Bylaw 5600**, operating policy, departmental policies, and external bodies that work with student groups, and I presented a proposal for how Bylaw 5600 could look. We had a fulsome discussion, and I will be taking their feedback to inform my own work, and for discussion at our SGS working group.

## **Communications**

A big thank you to President Lau for our biweekly meetings with our Senior Manager Marketing and Communications on Students' Union **communications strategy**. Though I have not reported on it in a while, we continue to meet every two weeks to freely discuss different aspects of how we brand our different units, what tools and avenues we use to communicate with students, and how we administer these processes.

## **Student Groups and Associations**

In the evening on Thursday, October 30th, I had a three hour meeting with members of the **International Students' Association**. I continue to make myself available to them to facilitate their growth and planning.

I have met with two groups to advise them on their **Wellness Project** submissions, as I sit on the Wellness Grant Adjudication Committee. I have also met with three student groups regarding their **student group registration** concerns, and have followed up with our staff to

ensure that their needs are met. If you hear of any other student groups having issues, please feel free to reach out to me so I can follow up.

## **Health and Services**

**Unwind Your Mind** is preparing to launch again for the end of this Fall semester. It is a program run in collaboration between many campus offices to provide stress relief and academic support for students during finals season. I have had meetings with UofA Compliments, too, and I am connecting them with the Unwind Your Mind team to increase our programming.

On Wednesday, October 29th, we had a meeting of our **Fall Reading Week Programming Task Force**. This is a workshop between most services providers on campus to develop a vision and plan for fall reading week programming come 2015. It was very productive. We broke out into 5 groups of 4-5 each, and developed answers to questions regarding administrative structure and student need assessment. These meetings will continue every month or two until the task force is satisfied with our plans for fall reading week programming.

## **Events**

I have been approached to provide Students' Union sponsorship for **International Week** at the end of January. We discussed the details at executive committee regarding foregone revenue and direct granting and are following up with their team soon.

The Landing and campus partners brought **Asexual Awareness Week** to the University of Alberta. I was at a forum in Athabasca Hall on Tuesday, October 28th, and got to hear about a few individual's experiences on our campus, and in our society, with regards to asexuality. It was great to hear that we are at least making progress here on our campuses to provide a more welcoming space for students.

I had a brief phone conversation with an executive from the **Augustana Students' Association** about busing their members up for North Campus events. I hope to continue the discussion so we can set a plan and find money to make this happen!

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Best,

Nicholas Diaz

Vice President Student Life 2014-2015