

Date: 26/10/2018

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Report to Students' Council

Hey Council!

Welcome to my report. I've been away from office the last little while attending conferences. I'm super excited to come back with more resources to help the work the SU is doing.

1. Free Feminine Hygiene Products

We've been in touch with McGill and have received a rough breakdown of how they support this initiative on their campus. We will soon be reaching out to some on-campus stakeholders like Facilities and Operations to assess feasibility.

2. Cannabis

In case you haven't noticed, cannabis is legal now. Moving forward, it is critical that the SU and University administration work collaboratively to support students who may feel concerned about the legalization of cannabis. Some students will need more support than others, and it is particularly important that all students feel safe continuing their studies at UAlberta. We will be meeting with administration in a couple weeks to discuss a more comprehensive harm-reduction communications plan that responds to the needs of different demographics.

3. Residence

The President of the Hub Community Association (HCA) and I are presenting to administration about ONEcard scanners, lounge access, and proxy access to other residences today. We hope the conversation goes well and a clear plan to safety and security for HUB residents is established. I also went to Lister Hall yesterday to try out the food offered at the anytime dining meal plan. The food was delicious, with a ton of options available to folks with all kinds of dietary restrictions. We continue to look into supporting students who have issues with their meal plan. Most of the issues seem to happen in the early mornings and late at nights. Ancillary Services is aware of the issues the LHSA has brought forward, and is working to address a limited number of complaints with the meal plan.

4. UN Women Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces Global Leaders Forum

Last week, I had the privilege of attending a UN Women Forum that primarily focused on Violence Against Women and Girls. Several strategies were discussed for how to better respond to VAWG around the world, with particularly interesting strategies for post-secondary institutions. The highlight of the conference were the sessions led by Marai Larasi, who presented on intersectionality in feminism and strategies to respond to VAWG in London, UK.

5. Canadian Mental Health Association Conference

GSA VP Student Services Fahed Elian and I attended a conference in Montréal with counterparts from around Alberta early this week. The conference provided some really great insights into supporting mental health for students, but also for staff at the SU. In particular, I was impressed by the presentations on workplace Equity, Diversity and Inclusion practices, as well as a presentation on trauma informed support for survivors of sexual violence. It is clear that the university administration continues to lag behind in their response to sexual violence.

6. Closing.

Congratulations to all of the winners of the 2017/18 UASU Awards. I'm looking forward to attending the ceremony and celebrating the achievements of all of this year's winners. Another huge shout out to the representatives from all of the residences, working tirelessly to improve the experience of students living on campus. Thank you to all of the folks who supported the UASU United Way donation drive. Lastly, a reminder that The Landing is holding their AGM on Monday at 5:00PM in Dinwoodie Lounge. Note that this is a change from the original room 0-45 due to changes in construction timing affecting the opening of 0-45.

Have a great week!



Andre Bourgeois
VP Student Life