

December 1st, 2015

To: University of Alberta Students' Council 2015/2016

Re: Vice President Student Life Council Report

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### **Advocacy**

**GSA's VP Student Services** and I had a meeting regarding the **Prayer and Meditation Space** updates, and we have some good news to share. The **University has promised to fundraise the remainder \$200 000 for the project**. As of now, they still hasn't given us a date on when the construction would start. We will be communicating with them to ask for a committed date as this has been delayed for quite awhile now. The original timeline was supposed to have the PaMS constructed and ready to go for Fall 2015 as soon as UAI moves out of the HUB space.

Our lovely **SU Lister Representative, Leila**, and I had a meeting with **Sarah from Residence Services** this past week to talk about our tabling efforts. We have been asked about the purpose of our tabling, and we provided them with the answer of **making SU more visible** to students since LHSA is no longer active in Lister to advocate for students. Residence Services was concerned initially that we will be communicating wrong information to the student residents, but that has been resolved.

After months of searching, I've finally got a hold of the **Newton Place Residents Association representative, Di Wu!** It was a pleasure to finally get to meet her and chat about more residence advocacy at Newton Place. She will be invited to future Council of Residence Associations meetings. Our first one-on-one meeting went through some of her goals for the year and discussed some feedback of residence experience at Newton Place. Overall, she was very optimistic about the year and I was pleased to know that there are currently no major concerns brought forward by her residents.

### **Access and Communications**

**Peer Support Centre** will be trying something exciting this upcoming January as a test to see how effective it is to offer multilingual sessions to students. Looking forward to hear more about the results.

**Positive U** is still waiting for their Mental Health Packages to get approved before they can connect with **VP Rahman and I** to get them distributed and promoted to faculties. **Faculty Associations** are aware that these packages are happening, we are all just patiently waiting but going through levels of University and professional approval may take awhile. Hopefully I will hear some news before the end of the Fall semester, but I totally agree that we should not rush rolling out something so important until it is 100% ready. Being patient will end in great rewards! On another note, Positive U is still launching events to encourage student involvement! They will be hosting a **Color Me Happy**

coloring event in **Alumni Room** this upcoming **Wednesday (December 3rd)** from 7PM-9PM. I still need 2 more team members! Let me know if you are interested!

The third **Dean of Students' Selection Committee** meeting happened this past Tuesday. We have now entered the **longlisting** process and reviewing applicants. I am not able to disclose any of the information at the moment of these candidates as I have signed a confidentiality declaration form, but I will provide updates when available!

### **Student Groups and Associations**

The **Residence Associations** and I have been working tirelessly trying to polish our **Residence Association Fee Proposal** to present it to the **Residence Advisory Committee**. So far, we have been making good progress and received some helpful feedback from respective residences. We are hoping that the **Registrar Office** can take the position of **Residence Services** in the physical fee collection process. We also hope to model the Residence Association fee collection process to be similar to the **Faculty Association** fee collection processes. I will be meeting with the Registrar Office in the following week to talk about the proposal more and see if this will be a possibility.

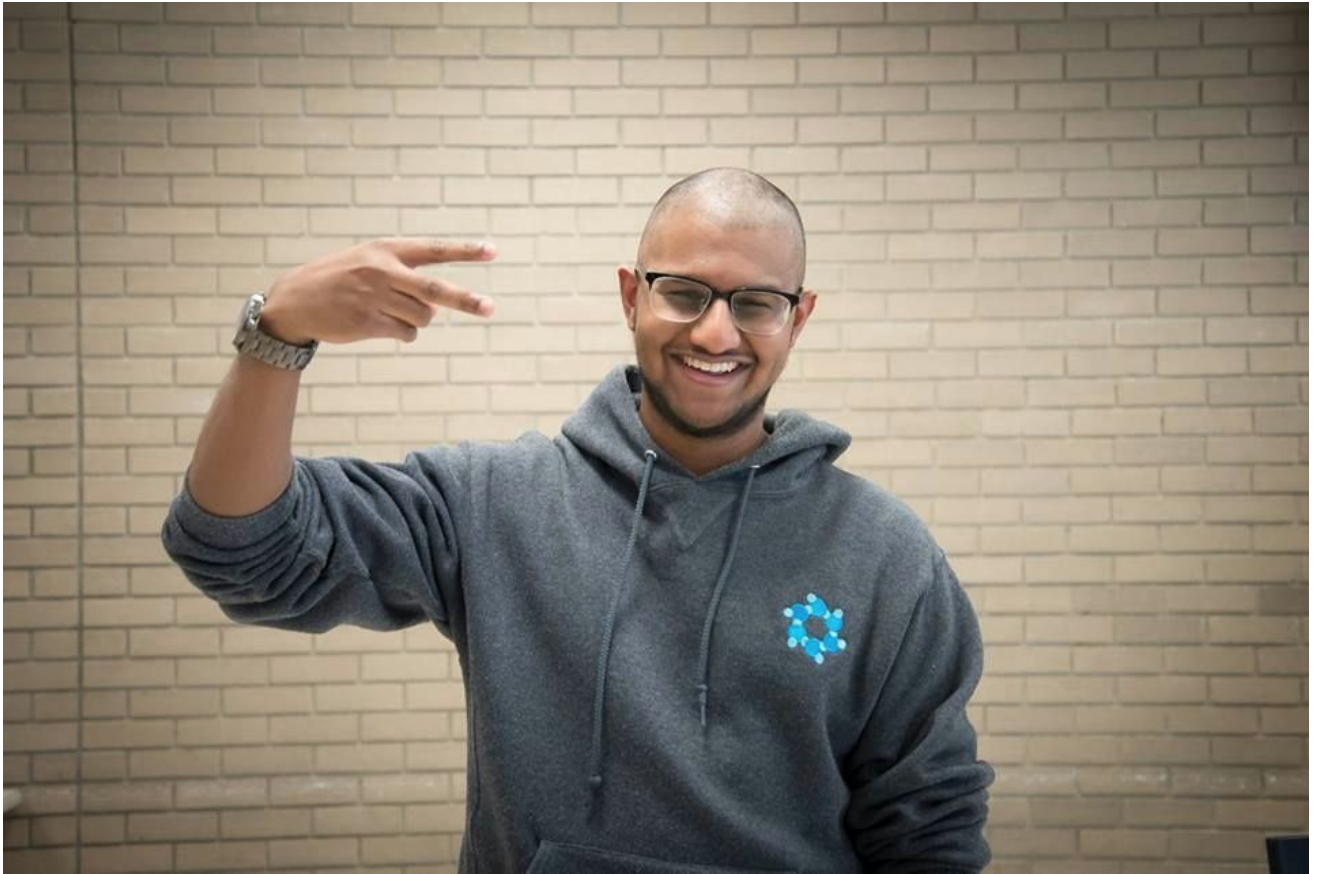
### **Events**

An intriguing health forum was held at **Westin Hotel** by the **Institute of Health Economics** this past Thursday. I attended as a delegate of the **Lieutenant Governor's Circle of Mental Health and Addiction**, as well as an undergraduate student representative of the SU. The forum touched on a lot of interesting topics such as how to engage teachers in the process of crisis management and early signs of distress in classrooms, which really resonated to the my mental health packages (for professors) project. The benefit of equipping teachers with these skills and knowledge helps prevent the chaos that happens when a certain support program gets cut because of the lack of funding. This help nurture capable staff to support students in classrooms even with a shortage of resources. In addition, they also have great partnership with their community health providers so they know where to connect the students to external resources. As always, I took a lot of notes and I would love to share it with council if you're interested!

**Awards Night** also happened on the same Thursday! Congratulations to all the winners (yay **Councillor Duan**), it was a great honor to be present at the ceremony to celebrate the successes!

Just a reminder that **Campus Cup** will be happening this weekend! Excited to play and feel the pain for the rest of the week. Woot!

**VP Rahman and Councillor Patrick** are officially bald for charity. Shout out to this huge champ for shaving his luscious hair off for the annual **Engineering Head Shave hosted by the Engineering Students' Society!**



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Yas what is sleep,

Vivian Kwan  
Vice President Student Life 2015-2016  
(Electronically Submitted)