

February 2nd, 2016

To: University of Alberta Students' Council 2015/2016

Re: Vice President Student Life Council Report

Advocacy

President Khinda and I, along with all the Residence Association executives attended the January **Residence Advisory Committee** meeting. We were notified in December that this meeting will be the meeting where all members will reach a consensus and decide the future of the fee collection process. Before the meeting, we had a conversation with the Registrar Office, and I have followed up on the topic of having **Registrar Office (Financial Services Department)** physically collect the fee like they do for our SU membership and Faculty Association fees. I was informed by Residence Services before the meeting with the RO that they have already communicated about this issue, and they said to RS that it was "impossible" to have RO collect the fee. Interestingly, this was not what I have heard from the meetings with the RO when discussing this issue. I am aware that it is a problem that the two systems (RO and RS) don't communicate with each other, but I was also told that it could be worked out like how they worked out a solution for the U-Pass, and it will just take time. Bringing this update forward at RAC, RS was still not convinced that this is the solution, which I then suggest to have all three parties sit down and talk this through, as I am hearing different messages from both parties. In that meeting, we did decide on a "solution", but **it was definitely NOT the solution we wanted**. RS has informed us that they have chatted with their bosses (higher administration in Ancillary Services) about this issue, and said they have already made a decision to adopt the community league model. This means that as of **May 1st, RS will cease any physical collection activity for Residence Associations**, and the student representatives will have to go out and solicit membership fees on their own (opt-in method). This leaves Residence Associations in a panic state, fearing about their budget for the following year as this may create a shortfall that is big enough that will lead to associations dissolving. I have urged them to reconsider, and brought up the alternate proposal (suggesting that RS should continue collecting fees with loosen oversight while we work out a solution with RO) that I said I would bring forward in the January meeting. Unfortunately, I was told the night before the meeting that my proposal will not be added to the agenda as it is "redundant" and "does not address any of the previous concerns raised". We are currently doing our best to negotiate with the University and inform them that this is absolutely a terrible idea, and most importantly, this was NOT decided by students.

Events

Movies for Mental Health will be happening on **February 8th, 2016 at the Myer Horowitz theatre**. I am super excited to see how this plays out as many of our partners (**Human Resources Office and Dean of Students**) had spent a tremendous amount of effort trying to put this event together. The event will be open to the public and no registration will be required. It will be an exciting opportunity to discuss mental health via film, as we have never done this before on University campus.

Wellness Summit took place this weekend at Lister Centre, it was great to see representative from all 27 institutions across Alberta attend this conference to talk more about our strategy moving

forward with the Alberta Provincial Mental Health Strategy. A recurring theme came up when we were asked to break out into different groups to discuss about our focus in the upcoming 6 months. Many of us resonated with the need to have a centralized focus in advocacy, sustainable funding, and an inventory of experts/programs across the province to prevent redundancy and recreation of already existing programs. I am looking forward to see what plans will be generated as action items after this weekend!

For homework purposes (NURS 498) as well as a personal interest, I have attended **Stephen Lewis' talk on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals** this past Friday as a part of **International Week**. I was absolutely blown away by how charismatic Mr. Lewis is, and he was critical and on point about the current global issues that require major awareness.



Cheerios,

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