



June 16th, 2015

To: University of Alberta Students' Council 2015/2016

Re: Vice President Student Life Council Report

Hi Council,

I am excited to finally be present for my fourth council meeting! Hurray! On a side note, I have officially convocated and obtained my Bachelor of Science degree, so I guess I am a big kid now...

Advocacy

This week was a little bit crazy for me in terms of dealing with residence concerns. Many student residents are transferring from their winter term contracts into spring/summer contracts. So a lot of miscommunication has occurred between residents and residence services. I spent a few weeks dealing with student resident concerns and was able to help resolve some ambiguity. This also gave me a sense of direction on what to focus on the next few weeks - the **Residence Feedback Form** (previously known as the Residence Complaint Form). I have arranged meetings with the new **Presidents of the Residence Associations**, just to chat about their vision for the upcoming year, as well as concerns regarding their respective residences that I should keep an eye out for this year. So far, I've had the opportunity to chat with **Leila from Lister Hall Students' Association**, **Cody from East Campus Village** and **Rabib from HUB Community Association**. I am looking forward to meet the rest of the Residence Association executives in the next few months! We've agreed that this is a good time to relaunch the form and start collecting student resident feedbacks for future advocacy purposes.

Council and Governance

Councillor Zhang and the rest of the CAC team spent a while picking out styles for our council jackets. The options will soon be presented, stay tuned and feel free to join us at our next CAC meeting. We always end up having a great time during the meeting and after!

Access and Communications

This past Monday, **VP Hanwell** and I had the opportunity to meet with the **Executive Director of the Counselling and Clinical Services, Jake**, to talk about partnership in obtaining continuous provincial mental health funding for the next few years. Jake was super enthusiastic and supportive throughout the conversation. He provided us a good overview of the number of

students that used their services and the overall growth in demand for appointments in the past 3 years (a rough estimate of +54%). These numbers were super significant and we are in the progress of getting in touch with the rest of the Executive Directors of respective services/initiatives to obtain a more holistic picture of the growth in general.

I also had the opportunity to get in touch with the **Programs Coordinator from International Student Services**, Anica, to talk about fostering a possible **partnership between the Students' Union and International Transition Orientation** this upcoming August/September. We currently have a meeting scheduled in the following week to talk about some logistics and details of orientation programming. It will be such a wonderful opportunity to have SU representatives present to engage the new students.

Student Groups and Associations

Here is an upcoming opportunity for councillors to be involved in - **November Diabetes Week** (tentatively set to run from **November 2nd-5th** in **SUB**). This event is structured in a similar way as the annual March Health Week. In mid-April, I have been approached by the **Alberta Diabetes Institute and Alberta Diabetes Foundation** to be a part of the planning process. In case you aren't aware, November 14th is International Diabetes Day! The institute is hoping to take this opportunity to engage students-at-large to take part in this awareness campaign. There will be a lot of fun and educational activities happening, such as handing out healthy snacks, awareness brochures, quick diabetes check and more. We have already confirmed a number of partnerships, such as **University Wellness Services, School of Public Health Students' Association, Health Sciences Students' Association, Nutrition and Food Sciences Students' Association, Health and Wellness Movement, and many more to come!** If you would like to be a part of the planning committee, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Attended the **Alberta Pharmacist Students' Association (APSA) and Interdepartmental Science Student Society (ISSS)**'s graduation banquet as a friend and graduated student. The members of the planning committees invested a lot of time and effort into their events and totally deserve a pat on the back! Thank you for the invitations, I had a wonderful time being a part of the celebration. And well done graduates!

University

I ended up sitting through 4 **convocations this spring** (including my own) as the Students' Union representative on stage. It was quite the experience, and I also had the opportunity to mingle with a few Deans, U of A President, Chancellor, Honorary Degree Recipients, Graduate Students and Registrar Administration staff. It brought me a lot of joy to have the opportunity to

congratulate some of my best friends on stage this year. I am excited to see where these bright alumni will go in the future!

Chancellor, Ralph Young, extended an invitation to the Students' Union to attend the **Honorary Degree Recipient Reception** on June 10th. It was my pleasure to bring **Councillors Kwan and Thronndson** along. We all had an interesting evening together spotting out the people we recognized. It was definitely quite the experience for us to be the youngest three present, and being surrounded by a sea of successful and influential people.

Events

Last week, **VP Hanwell, Councillors Duan, Kwan, Lewis, K. Wang, and Zhang** were down in Calgary with me for the **Wellness Summit at University of Calgary**. It was a pretty hectic day, but we managed to make it to Calgary safely and just missed a little bit of the keynote speaker. This year's conversation at the summit was focused on taking action in 5 ways:

1. Planning the approach
2. Implementing action
3. Evaluation progress
4. Sustaining efforts
5. Build momentum and support

We had some great conversations during our round table sessions. Now we are just waiting for **Ashley, the Provincial Mental Health Strategy Facilitator** to record these notes electronically, so she can share it with us via email. I am definitely excited to see what others brought up during their discussions. Lastly, we also had the opportunity to meet with the **executive team at the U of C SU**. They gave us a great tour around their building (MacEwan Hall) and treated us to dinner the same night. It was a great experience and we all had a lot of fun!

We also participated in the **Pride Parade on Whyte Ave** this past Saturday! I wanted to thank **VP Bondarchuk** for his hard work and efforts put into organizing a spot for the SU representatives. And thank you **VP Rahman, Councillors Mostafiz, and Thronndson** for coming out and supporting pride! It was so much fun marching down Whyte Ave with an enthusiastic crowd. It was such an energetic morning in Edmonton. Hopefully more of you can join us next year!



Thanks for scrolling all the way down to my report! I actually had a lot of fun writing this one :D



Vivian Kwan
Vice-President Student Life 2015-2016