

Date: June 30th, 2015

To: University of Alberta Students' Council 2015/2016

Re: Vice-President Student Life Council Report

Hello again Council!

I sincerely apologize for my late report. It has been a crazy week in Kelowna, BC. Finally got the time to catch up on some overdue work.

Advocacy

I had the opportunity to arrange a few meetings with relevant stakeholders (**President of the Muslim Students' Association and Graduate Students' Association**) for the **Prayer Space Project** 2 weeks ago to talk about future directions. The MOU has been signed before my predecessor has completed his term, now we are just waiting for Office of Advancement and Dean of Students to set up the crowd funding so we can finally go ahead with the fundraising. The construction was supposed to kick start over Spring and be completed by Fall 2015. However, it seems that construction won't be able to start until September and would possibly take up to 6 months to complete due to a delay with the funds. Fingers crossed it will be completed earlier than that. I will also keep everyone updated on the progress.

The very first **Residence Hall Association** meeting will be scheduled to take place in the second week of July. I am super excited to meet with all the incoming Residence Association executives and talk about our vision and plans for the upcoming year. In addition to that, I am currently in the progress of brainstorming ideas on how to make the **Residence Feedback Form** more visible and accessible to student residents. Some ideas that came up was having QR codes printed in business card format and handing it out to students on International orientation day/Student orientation. I am also excited to announce the pilot student-life working group – Residence Working Group – now has 7 student members as of 2 weeks ago! Super pumped to continue to see it grow.

Health and Services

The ball is rolling with the Diabetes Week planning. Got a hold of some great partnerships including – **Health and Wellness Movement, Nutrition Food Sciences Students' Association, Student Health Committee, Health Sciences Students' Association, School of Public Health Students' Association, University Wellness Services** and

more to confirm later on! **The Alberta Diabetes Institute** is super excited about this event and will be taking place **from November 2nd-6th** in the Students' Union Building. If any councilors are interested in taking part of the planning process, please let me know!

Had a brief chat with **the Executive Director of University Health Centre, Kevin Frieze**, on how the SU and UWell can work together in the upcoming year. He also brought up the importance to secure mental health funding, as the sustainability of some current projects will fall through if the funding stops permanently. **VP Hanwell and I** are currently in the process of talking to as many relevant services/stakeholders as we can to gather the necessary information to prepare for the next lobbying act. A meeting with **Dr. Robin Everall from Dean of Students** will be scheduled shortly to have this discussion as well!

Conferences

I was away in the past week for an **International Conference for Health Promoting Universities and Colleges in Kelowna, BC at the UBC Okanagan campus**. This was probably one of the best conferences I have ever been to. It was an inspiring experience to get to be in the same room with many health advocates from all around the world. There were very few student representatives present at the conference, and I was thankful that I was able to be there to represent Alberta. In the process I've also made some great friends with the **student leaders from Simon Fraser University, University of Regina Students' Union and UBCSUO**. It was a great week of knowledge, inspiration and great friendship. We also participated in designing and signing the new Okanagan health promoting charter, how cool is that?! The best part was probably having the opportunity to meet the **Public Health Coordinator, KC Tang from World Health Organization in Switzerland, Geneva**. He also provided some great pointers on how to continue effective health promotion in post-secondary institutions as well as encouragements for future career aspirations. That just made the whole trip a lot more awesome!

I have a Google doc of the conference notes available, if any of you would like to read a bit on what the conference was about, let me know! I'd love to share it with you!



From the left – Jenna Omassi (UBC AMS VP Academic); Tom Macauley (UBCSUO President); Larissa Chen (SFUSS Health Sciences Representative); Jason Gagnon (URSU VP Student Life); Matthew Mutschler (URSU VP Operations & Finance); Enoch Weng (SFUSS President)

And that is all I have for you folks this week!



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