

Prepared by: Colten Yamagishi, Vice President (Student Life)

To: Students' Council 2009/2010

Hello everyone,

Welcome back! I hope that you have had a nice break after finishing exams and that your spring is going well. Hopefully we can all meet later to catch up and discuss everyone's plans for the summer.

I have been kept busy over the past few weeks with the following:

Exec Retreat:

Retreat was a blast! Though the sessions were long, tough, and filled with information, we all managed to get some time to relax and prepare for taking office.

Transition:

I have been meeting with Rory on a regular basis to discuss the many facets and details of the VP Student Life portfolio. I have been doing a lot of reading to understand the role that I play within the Students' Union. Over the past few weeks I sat in on all of the VPSL meetings while Rory was away at a conference.

Programming:

We have been informed through the news that RIT has broken our Dodgeball world record by hosting a game with 2136 players. The programming department and I are extremely excited to 'Strike Back' and reclaim the title this year!

Week of Welcome programmers have been selected and are excited to begin working on the project over the summer. Special congratulations to Arlo Grundberg and Brennan Murphy for being selected as this year's Student Programming Coordinators, as well as Jonathan "Butters" Look, the new Programs Assistant. I very excited to work with these talented individuals.

Services:

- The Sustainability Review is very close to completion and is currently in the final editing stages.
- I have been thoroughly reading through the restructuring plan for ECOS and am involved in the selection of a new name for the service.
- The Infolink proposal has been completed and looks very promising.
- We are excited for the relocation and renovation of the Campus Food Bank and the Peer Support Center.
- The Center for Student Development is hard at work preparing for Orientation. They have a very strong team this year and I am very confident that they will put on a great program in September.

-Bears' Den, a tool for students and student groups to successfully manage and operate a myriad of extra-curricular tools and resources has recently gone online. Numerous student groups have already signed up and we have received very positive feedback.

-We have received a commitment from ETS for an undergraduate Spring/Summer U-Pass but there are still many details that need to be worked out before we move forward.

Residences:

-Congratulations to Adi Rao (President), and all of the new Vice Presidents for being selected to sit on the Residence Halls Association executive for the following year. A number of structural changes will be implemented this year and should make the organization much stronger.

Governance and Advocacy:

I have been kept very busy over the last month sitting on what seems to be an infinite number of committees. I have been working with a number of groups regarding topics such as the PAW Center design, sustainability and healthy initiatives on campus, a renewal of both the appeals policy and the alcohol policy, and the new Emerging Leaders Program for student leaders such as yourselves.

Opportunities:

Please get in touch with me if you are interested in pursuing new ideas and opportunities such as a street team, volunteering for WOW, campus musicals, lip dubs, etc.

Overall Premise:

I think that my transition has gone over exceptionally well and that Rory has done a great job preparing me for the position. I am extremely excited to serve you as Vice President Student Life this year! I am always excited to talk to councilors and learn about your goals and interests.

If you have any other questions ask during council, stop by the office, or send me an email at vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca.

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