

Date: 27/06/2019

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice-President External 2019/20 Report #5

Dear Council,

Happy rainy end of June and beginning of July! Also, Stampede season is approaching and I could not be more excited!!! It has been very nice to actually be around the office for the last 2 weeks, so I have had a very productive time.

1. CASA Board Liaison Calls: As part of my duties on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, we do monthly check-ins with each of our members to inform them of more detailed operations and answer any questions they may have. My liaison members for the year are the SAIT, Conestoga College, Brock University, and the University of New Brunswick - Saint John students' associations. As we are rearranging office operations, preparing for the Get Out the Vote campaign, and starting various projects, there is much to update them on!

2. Internships Media Interview: I was [interviewed by the Canadian Press](#) about unpaid student internships. I reiterated CASA's stance that students should always be getting paid in internships, and the federal government has acted to eliminate unpaid student internships in the federal government and federally regulated sectors. There still exist some internships that are not paid, however students can earn credit. I said that credit is better than getting no direct compensation-type benefit, but being paid is always the preference.

3. Francophone Announcement: On June 23rd, I attended an announcement from Minister Aheer of the Alberta government. She has named Fort-McMurray-Lac-La-Biche MLA Laila Goodridge as the Parliamentary Secretary for the Francophonie. Ms. Goodridge is an alumnus of Campus Saint-Jean, so I am looking forward to continuing our discussions about how the provincial government can better support access to post-secondary education in French in Alberta. She and I had a chance to speak at the Council of Alberta University Students' MLA mixer earlier this week about her appointment.

4. Student Leaders Orientation: On June 24 & 25, President Bhatnager and I participated in various information sessions and workshops hosted by the Ministry of Advanced Education. Students' association leaders from across the province were brought together to discuss student issues and learn about the details of the Ministry and Alberta's post-secondary education system. We also met Demetrios Nicholaides, Minister of Advanced Education, who answered several questions from student leaders and later attended the CAUS MLA mixer as well. I look forward to hopefully meeting with the Minister soon to discuss our priorities, in particular access to grants as compared to tax credits.

Adam Brown, Vice President (External)

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5. **CAUS Meeting:** On June 24th, President Bhatnager, EAA Nelson and I attended the Council of Alberta University Students' AGM meeting. We passed the 2019-2020 CAUS budget, discussed the incoming free speech policy mandate from the provincial government towards post-secondary institutions, and are working to finalize our priorities document. This document will detail our advocacy priorities that we will present to MLAs from across the province.

6. **Social Media promotions:** As part of our new social media engagement strategy, I participated in the filming of a fun video. I am sure you will all see it soon!

7. **Deferred Maintenance meeting:** Shortly this afternoon, President Bhatnager and I will be meeting with Andrew Sharman, VP Facilities and Operations of the University, to discuss infrastructure funding from the provincial government. With the university's current deferred maintenance bill, it is crucial that we receive adequate funding from the province so that student-oriented spaces can be maintained.

8. **Advocacy Meetings:** Tomorrow (June 28), President Bhatnager, EAA Nelson and I will be meeting with both former Advanced Education Minister Marlin Schmidt (now the NDP environment critic), and current Advanced Education Critic David Eggen. We will be communicating the UASU provincial priorities for the year, including affordability, mental health access, student employment, open education resources, and institutional funding.

9. **Personal Announcements / Things to Note:** I will be out of the office on July 5th for my annual francophone camping weekend (the Fête Franco-Albertaine in Nordegg!). I will also be in Calgary for the Stampede on July 11 & 12, where I will also try to attend some political BBQs and pancake breakfasts. Finally, I will buy the first person that asks me "where are your hands??" (see adambrown.ca for context), before I give my executive report, a beverage of their choosing next time Council goes for drinks.

Cheers,



University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President (External)
Adam Brown