

Date: July 21, 2017
To: Students' Council
Re: Report to Students Council

Hi Council,

Was going over my calendar and it's been some time since we've been together! A lot has happened over that time, and I'm excited to find out how everyone's summer is going, how our committees and advocacy are progressing. When you do receive this report, I will be at our federal advocacy policy conference, so please send me any questions you may have by email or chat, and I will respond as soon as possible.

Edmonton Student Alliance



On June 29 our members of our executive committee attended a meet and greeted with the Edmonton Student Alliance members. We went over introductions with member institutions (Concordia, Kings, NAIT, UofA Grads., NorQuest, MacEwan), chatted a bit about the upcoming elections, and did some brainstorming for pertinent issues. We are hoping to see some movement on a City of Edmonton orientation and some closer working relationships with all members.

Executive Committee Retreat

On June 30 our executive committee had a full day retreat to evaluate or goals, budget project allocations, and do a full debrief. For myself, it was incredibly worthwhile, as the sessions also included Marc (General Manager) and Jon (Director of Research and Political Affairs) who were invaluable in developing next steps. Externally we have had an astounding amount of collaboration on topics such as tenants rights, deferred maintenance, and access to education.

Advocacy Meetings

ADVOCACY MEETINGS



I've had the pleasure to meet some MLA's over the past three weeks. Pictured is Minister Feehan, government members Carson, Horne, and Cortes-Vargas, and Alberta Party leader Greg Clark. I also was able to attend both the Wildrose and Alberta Together (Alberta Party) mixers last Thursday where I had the pleasure of speaking with Greg Clark and a few Wildrose members. Overall all members we meet with have been receptive to some aspect of our advocacy efforts. I've seen a lot of interest in topics such as deferred maintenance, tuition regulation and costs, and tenants rights. I hope to continue with one-on-one meetings throughout the year and follow-up on a range of topics.

Municipal Elections

The Department of Research and Political Affairs and I are moving forward with planning for the municipal elections. We will have voting booths in SUB and are currently exploring the feasibility of a municipal forum in the Myer Horowitz Theatre. We will run a small get out the vote effort as well, including some education in residence.

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

Likely when you are reading this report, I will be attending our federal advocacy groups political strategy conference. We will be hammering out our federal direction for the year, and I am excited to breach topic such as the international student experience, differed maintenance costs, and access to student financial aid. Keep ears and eyes open for some live-stream activity.

Counterpart Conference & Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) Meeting



I chaired and facilitated our first Counterpart Conference and in-person CAUS meeting on July 10th & 11th. CAUS finalized our provincial advocacy priorities, and there should be a public document released next week. Counterparts Conference went well, and from all feedback received, people from across the province are looking forward to our next meeting. I found that the dynamic and relationships between Alberta schools to be incredibly strong and I look forward to working with such a motivated group. Fun note, it was a sweltering 35 degrees in Lethbridge for those days, and we stayed in residence with no air movement. We all sweated advocacy.

CAUS

My position as CAUS Chair has kept me busy. However, the work we are getting done is well worth the effort. I have had some additional face-time government administration and have found that government members are interested in that side of my work. Looking forward, I will be attending a full day discussion on university funding frameworks on July 26th, where we will present CAUS's perspective. Also, I will be giving a presentation at an Introduction to the Government meeting on August 2nd with the Ministry of Advanced Education and will have additional face-time with the Marlin Schmidt. Overall CAUS continues to function very smoothly, and I believe this will be an excellent year for provincial advocacy.

In The News

I was interviewed by The Gateway for a story on the recent mental health announcement. The executive committee has been involved in some announcements and media interviews. The largest piece of news regarding the University of Alberta has been the release of the sunshine list, which has put a spotlight wage gaps and high wages. The Minister of Advanced Education himself has commented on pursuing methods to curb the rising compensation of top executive members.

Cheers,

Reed Larsen