

Hi Council,

It has again been nearly a month since we saw each other! It has been the busiest month so far for myself as well, so buckle up for this report.

Before we jump into it though, just want to shout out any of the volunteers or staff who were involved in putting together such an amazing Orientation and Week of Welcome! It was a unbelievably busy week, a wonderful celebration, and it certainly set the pace for the rest of the year! Congrats on surviving!

Advocacy Meetings



Round Table Discussion

This month we were able to have one-on-one meetings with MLA Nielsen and Minister Anderson. Both were very interested in our advocacy direction, especially the fact that students don't have tenants rights in shared residence. President Banister, VP Scott, and I also partook in a round table discussion with federal Ministers Sohi, Boissonnault, and Fillmore on democratic reform and engagement. It went exceptionally well and VP Scott and I also spoke with Boissonnault for a extended time at a charity event over the weekend. We largely hope to push post secondary education, especially federal transfers, as an election issue with these members. Finally, Jon (DPRA) and I met with Alberta Together, a political engagement group, to discuss engagement in youth across the province.

Mental Health Announcement



On Monday the 11th the Government of Alberta announced the levels of funding for

post-secondary mental health services in the Edmonton region. The UofA received 1 million dollars a year for the next 3 years. The commitment to long term funding, as well as some new information on transition services, were good news, however, I believe that President Banister encapsulated our feelings here at the UASU very well:

"While students are excited for this funding, some are concerned about what that means for the future of services on our campuses. That is because the U of A did not receive an increase in funding from previous years that would reflect a rising demand for mental health services. Although the University of Alberta is the largest post-secondary institution in the province, the investment received is equivalent to only \$27.50 per student, one of the lowest per-student distributions in the province."

This particular piece of advocacy is really far from over. We will continue to push for a higher per-student amount and continuously push for on campus services. CAUS (me) and the UASU were quoted multiple times across a number of papers on this topic. As well, more information regarding transition periods, funding, and frameworks comes out daily. I recommend that anyone interested in this topic read through the government's announcements [here](#) or check out CAUS stances [here](#). Please ask questions during council for more details, as we likely will have new updates by then as well.

Provincial (CAUS)

CAUS, which means Josh and I, are going to be presenting at this council meeting! We have also had a number of developments provincially as well. I will be touring the province on behalf of CAUS periodically all of fall semester, where I will be giving the same presentation you see today to all of membership. Today I participated in a Student Leaders meeting with the ministry to give updates on provincial advocacy and give input on a number of provincial wide issues. We were thrilled to hear that the expected release dates for a number of provincial reviews, including tuition, ABC, and funding frameworks, should all happen this year, if not in the early fall. We have also had 2 teleconferences that went fairly smoothly and I would say that our provincial group, although stressed, is still optimistic. Finally, the UASU put in a successful bid to host CAUS 30th anniversary celebration, so stay tuned for more information on that!

That's largely all folks! Make sure to ask any questions you may have!

Cheers,



Reed Larsen