

October 2nd, 2014

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council (for October 7th meeting)

Introduction

The time since our lovely meeting in Augusta has flown by! Thankfully though, I got to spend some time out of the city last weekend, which was a really nice refresher. I don't have too many updates for you this week, despite the many meetings, readings, and the writing I've been doing.

CAUS/Provincial advocacy

We're having our **second quarterly meeting with the Ministry of IAE** on Monday. It'll be many of the student leaders' first time interacting with the new Minister, Don Scott, and asking him questions in person. I'm really looking forward to this, even though they moved it to Calgary last minute ...

Thus far, I am seeing good signs in terms of **relationship building with the Minister**. He has reached out to myself and other CAUS executives and had a brief phone call with us. I also just called back Marcia Nelson today who is the Deputy Minister. They seem very eager to start off on a positive path!

Market modifiers are definitely *the* topic we'll be talking about at the Quarterly. Internally, not much has changed in regards to proposals and our Faculty Associations. As you know, the LSA is conducting a survey now that they have more time to do so. This is also a positive step forward.

All CAUS schools are working on letters to the Minister highlighting our concerns with the process thus far.

I did an **interview for the Globe and Mail**, which resulted in this September 30th article: "Will students pay more for economics than English? University to find out".

I'm on a subcommittee (for IAE) of the Tuition and Fees Stakeholder Working Group known as the Subcommittee on Definitions and Guidelines. The whole purpose of this subcommittee is to review the PSLA and the Tuition and Fees Regulation and **discuss the various definitions of fees**. It can get very, very technical and time-consuming, but the policy wonk in me does enjoy it. On a related note, both VPA Orydzuk and myself have been talking about the unfortunate use of online program codes and the fees we have to pay (like the programs used in Math and Stats classes, where you have to purchase these codes in order to get your assignments graded).

Feminism and Women in Politics

Now that I've had a few months to think about this (other than most of my life-time haha ...) I'm getting the ball rolling on a project that is very important to me. Long story short – I want to do *something* akin to a conference or a series of events that focuses on two general areas: (1) exploring how gender impacts involvement in student politics/public positions of leadership; (2) having meaningful, inclusive, and productive discussions about feminism on campus.

As you should have received by now, I included a survey in our monthly "State of the Union" newsletter titled "Does gender impact your campus experience?" I would really appreciate it if you filled it out and encouraged your networks to do so as well! The results of this survey will help inform my next steps.

Long story short, I want to create something on campus that includes workshops, focus groups, media (podcasts, videos, radio), the traditional lecture, and art to bring life to these topics. At the end of it all (I'm thinking it will be

a week sometime in January or February) I'm hoping to have both qualitative and quantitative data, which can help the Students' Union in the future.

I'll leave it at that for now, since this is still in the very early formative stages. If this intrigues you and you want to help out, *please* let me know! The strength of this project relies on volunteers and passionate students!

Conclusion

If you're reading this before the weekend, remember to come out to the Bears Hockey game against Lethbridge on Saturday! Meet in RATT at 4:30 on October 4th and then we'll head over to the game.

Cheers,



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