

Report to Students' Council

May 26, 2011

Farid Iskandar, Vice-President (External)



Hello Hello,

Reading the VPX report I see.
Lots of acronyms there will be.
Never hesitate to question me:
"What the hell is GOTV!"

CASA Western Transition

On Friday May 13th, Rory, Justin Williams the Director of Research and Political Affairs (DRPA), attended the CASA (Canadian Alliance of Student Association) Western Transition. We have met our counter parts from UBC, MRU, UFV, SAIT, UofC, UofL, AUGSA. The transition is an introduction to CASA, and the roles and responsibilities of its members.

CAUS Meeting

On Thursday May 19th, Rory and myself had a Conference Call Meeting for The Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS). We discussed the two documents we are about to produce that will outline the shape of our year. As I mentioned in my last report to council the first document will be a "Vision for Alberta Post-Secondary" targeting candidates for and party leaders and a "Priorities" document that targets Civil Servants. Once those documents are finalized we will begin to send them to important stakeholders.

GOTV

Still dreaming about the May 2nd Federal Election? Well, brace yourself for another potential election coming up. There is a strong chance that a provincial election will be called during my term, either in October or March. This might very well be the most exciting election Alberta has seen in the last 40 years. UASU cannot miss this opportunity to make Post-Secondary the hot topic of the election. A lot of progress has been made for the creation of a yearlong "Get Out The Vote" (GOTV) campaign. The purpose of which is to outreach to students on campus and to convince them to cast a ballot in the upcoming election. This would be a great way to engage students on campus for a noble purpose. There are certain risks with this campaign those, as nothing on that scale has been done before.

ACIFA Conference

On June 1st Duncan Wojtaszek, the executive director of CAUS, and I will be attending the Alberta College Institute Faculty Associations (ACIFA) Symposium 2011, at Mount Royal University in Calgary. It is a daylong discussion on PSE in Alberta. Some of the potential topics are listed below:

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- PSE Funding Sources and Trends
 - Tuition, Scholarships and Bursaries
 - Improving Access
 - Enhancing Quality
 - Advocating in the Community
 - Lobbying Governments
 - System Articulation, Transfer and Mobility
 - Defining Shared Values
 - Improving Communications and Shared Messaging
 - External Challenges, Threats, Opportunities
 - Copyright, Learning Resources and Libraries
 - Supporting Under-represented Groups

I will write a report after the conference to brief the execs and council about the outcomes of this conference

Alberta Student Summit

Right after the ACIFA Conference, Mount Royal University Student Association (MRUSA) is hosting another conference. The “Alberta Student” Summit is for Student Associations across Alberta. The topic will be to create an election strategy for the upcoming provincial election. Duncan Wojtaszek, Matt McMillan (VPX UofC), Dylan Jones (President UofC), will also attend. This is a great opportunity to discuss the potential for all the Student Associations of Alberta to join efforts in one big Election Strategy.

Alberta Party

Raphael Lepage Fortin has been asked by the Alberta Party to communicate some thoughts on Post-Secondary. So Raph and I met and discussed potential topics to discuss with the Alberta Party when the meeting is set.

Cheers,
Farid

“Humility is a weapon”

-Marc Dumouchel, General Manager of the University of Alberta Students’ Union