

# Report to Students' Council

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011

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Hello Council,

I will be taking a week off for vacation on the last week of June. So unfortunately I will be absent from the next Council meeting on Tuesday June 28<sup>th</sup>.

## ACIFA

Last Thursday, I was at the Alberta Colleges Institute Faculty Association (ACIFA) PSE Symposium. It was an outstanding initiative. For the first time a room with Institution Administrators, Faculty Members, and Students, assembled to discuss PSE. ACIFA will be hosting another conference to fossilize the ideas that were brought such as:

1. Creating a Trio-Message (Admin-Fac-Students) to potential MLAs
2. Delivering that message to the public
3. Taking Politics outside of PSE by creating a 5 to 10 year plan for PSE funding

## Alberta Student Summit

Last Friday and Saturday were the Alberta Student Summit (ASS), an initiative organized by SAMRU (Student Association of Mount Royal University). Present were members from all three Student Lobby group of Alberta: ASEC (Alberta Student Executive Council), AGC (Alberta Graduate Council), and CAUS (Council of Alberta University Students). Again this is a one of a kind event. We have identified that communication between the three groups is our biggest weakness. We discussed better ways to communicate. We all agreed that something like a regular meeting between the three of us will make for a better unity of lobbying efforts, and thus we have set another date for the Alberta Student Summit on July 19<sup>th</sup>. By then ASEC will have set their lobby goals for the year, and we will be able to see where we can work together

## GOTV

CAUS have entrusted the UofA with the marketing for the campaign. The cost of marketing is one that CAUS is going to pay for. Marketing work should be finalized by the 1<sup>st</sup> of August. In order to mobilize the cost of this campaign Council approval will be needed. I plan to create a presentation to Council with the budget and other GOTV related issues on Tuesday July 12<sup>th</sup>.

## CAUS Meeting

On Friday June 17<sup>th</sup> the Council of Alberta University Students will be meeting in Lethbridge. We will be meeting the Chief Electoral Officer for the provincial election. We hope to lobby him on our election reform priority, as well as try to push the Alberta enumeration process to take place in September rather than in August, so that Students are able to vote on campus. We also be meeting Raj Sherman, a Liberal Leader Candidate, in order to lobby him on our CAUS Vision for PSE.

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## Federal Budget

The Federal Budget was announced on Monday. So far, there are mixed reactions to the PSE policies introduced among different stakeholders. The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) in their press released announced that it was pleased with the positive reform in the CSLP (Canadian Student Loan Program), such as the increase to in-study work exemption, improved access for part-time students, and tax relief for trades and professional certification. However the proposed PSE investments do not target the issue for those students with the highest loan limits.

## Bi-Winning

Alison Redford, a PC leadership candidate, has announced her PSE campaign. I'm glad to see that increasing Alberta participation rate is a major part of her platform (CAUS win). As well as creating a 3-year institutional funding plan (ACIFA win). Serious plays we made in this platform.

Cheers,  
Farid

*"Sometimes you gotta take a play before you can make a play"*  
*-Nick Dehod, President of the University of Alberta Students' Union 2009-2010*