

September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

To: Students' Council

Re: VPX Report to Council

### **Alberta's new Premier**

Alison Redford was elected leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta on Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup>. The University of Alberta has met with Alison Redford in August with Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) to discuss our priorities. Alison is a strong supporter of the tuition cap to CPI. She also understands the issues surrounding Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees. Her Post Secondary Policy includes increasing Alberta's participation rates in post-secondary, something that CAUS has been lobbying on since May. Her PSE policy also includes "Developing targeted bursaries for students from rural and remote communities to ease their financial burden", which is a good step in the right direction when it comes to Student Financial Assistance. If you're interested, please read my August 10<sup>th</sup> Council report to gain knowledge regarding our Lobby meeting with Premier Designate Redford.

### **CAUS meeting in Calgary**

The Council of Alberta University Students met in Calgary on Friday September 30<sup>th</sup>. Rory, Justin Williams (Director of Research and Political Affairs), and Maura Frunza (GOTV Volunteer Coordinator) attended. We discussed the progress of GOTV on each of our campuses, U of C is leading with 4000 signatures signed. We also renewed our tuition policy, which is fairly similar to the UASU one. We discussed some timelines regarding GOTV, and what our plans are for when the writ is dropped. We also discussed our Government of Alberta 2012 Budget Submission, currently being drafted and getting better with time.

CAUS along with ACIFA (Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association), CAFA (Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations), ASEC (Alberta Student Executives Council), and AGC (Alberta Graduate Council) are doing a poll together regarding PSE issues when the writ is getting dropped. CAUS has contributed \$1000 to the Abacus Data Poll fees.

### **Lobby Meeting with, MP for Edmonton-St. Albert, Brent Rathgeber**

Rory and I met with Member of Parliament for Edmonton-St. Albert, Brent Rathgeber on Friday September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The following were the topics that were covered:

#### Copyright

- 1) Book Importation Regulation
- 2) Digital Locks
- 3) Remove unnecessary requirements to have libraries, students and teachers destroy content within specific time periods

#### Undergraduate Research

- 1) Improve the quantity and experience of UG research by increase UG research internships / grants through the tri-agencies

#### Canada Student Grants Program

- 1) Diversify disbursement of grants to reach out to underrepresented groups
- 2) Tie grants to CPI to maintain purchasing power

International Students

- 1) Remove the \$150 from the work visas
- 2) Reduce residency from 6 months to 3 months
- 3) Investigate Multi-Entry Visa as opposed to single entry visas

Mr. Rathgeber was generally very receptive to all our asks. He said that we weren't going to find anyone who disagrees with us with regards to Book Importation Regulation and that Mike Lake, MP for Edmonton-Mill Woods-Beaumont will be the person to talk to regarding Book Importation Regulation (we've already sent in a request for a meeting).

When it came to Copyright, we were told that there was no need to worry about keeping Education under fair dealing in the new modernization of the copyright act bill (which turned out to be true, in light of today's news). But that it is going to be hard to achieve our other asks when it comes to copyright.

Mr. Rathgeber was particularly interested in the International Students issues, and asked us to provide him with more information before he can take any action.

**Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees**

On Monday September 26<sup>th</sup> we had another Budget Advisory Committee (BAC), with the Provost and Vice President (Academic). There's still not much progress made on behalf of the University when it comes to creating a mechanism for student approval of MNIFs, or creating a proper definition for MNIF. However the University did come up with a proposal for a process of reviewing existing MNIF. We are currently reviewing the suggested process and send them back our feedback. The summary of the Process is providing a report with the following:

- 1) Total annual revenue collected by MNIF type
- 2) Published budget of the unit(s), as per the University Data Book, that are supported in part by the MNIF
- 3) Examples of student services provided by the unit(s) that benefit from MNIF

The SU is going to look into this process and provide the University feedback before our next meeting. Please share your comments and ideas regarding this at policy.

**Bill C-11 Modernization of the Copyright Act**

On Thursday September 29<sup>th</sup>, the Federal Government tabled the latest of the Modernization of Copyright Act Bills, Bill C-11. The Bill is apparently almost the exact same as Bill C-32 (I have not read the Bill yet, as it is not yet up on the website). Education (along with parody and satire) is included under fair dealing, which is a huge step in the right direction. The rest of our CASA asks do not seem to be included there. It is expected that the Bill will be passed by the end of this year.

*"The person who has lived the most is not the one with the most years but the one with the richest experiences." Jean Jacques Rousseau*

Cheers,  
Farid