

November 17th, 2011

To: Students' Council

Re: VPX Report to Council

Canadian Alliance of Students' Associations (CASA) Lobby Conference

Starting Sunday November 13th the President, the Director of Research and Political Affairs, and I went to Ottawa for CASA Lobby Conference. This Conference is one of the most important weeks for CASA, and the UASU when it comes to advancing Federal Advocacy. As a reminder to council we are lobbying for:

- Book Importation Regulation/Copyright
- International Student Visas/Work Permits
- Removing the 2% funding cap from the Post Secondary Student Support Program
- Exempt 1 vehicle from the Canada Student Loan Program, as well as removing Parental Contribution

We had 115 meetings scheduled with Members of Parliament, Senators, and with the Office of the Prime Minister. We meet with members of government as well as oppositions. We met with Party Leaders Bob Rae, and Elizabeth May. I personally met with 5 Members of Parliament from across the country, as well as the Director General of the Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP). I was lucky enough to meet with Sean Speer, Director of Stakeholder Relations and Economic Policy Advisor from the Office of the Prime Minister who provides policy advice to the Prime Minister, as well as Phil Harwood who is also a Policy Advisor. The overall feedback on our asks has been overall positive from all parties. On Friday November 18th we will have a CASA General Meeting, where the UASU will be moving two Political Policies regarding Undergraduate Research, and GST exemption for textbooks. Check out the #casaacae on the twitter verse to see some of the feedback on our meetings.

On Wednesday and Thursday since the last council, I spent most of my time preparing for the CASA Lobby Conference.

Cheers,
Farid

"You're breaking my heart John, you're breaking my heart." Matt McMillan - VP External of U of C SU - to MP John McCallum after hearing that their meeting was cancelled on the Hill