

September 7th, 2012

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Students' Council (for September 11th, 2012 Meeting)

Introduction

Hello Council! There is nothing more invigorating than seeing the swarms of fresh-faced and returning students on campus. As a result, this week I've been balancing work on my portfolio and work on reaching out to students via attending orientation sessions to hosting BBQs. With that in mind, here's my report:

Executive Summary:

1. The SU will be hosting the Progressive Conservative's (PC) Capital Region (Edmonton) Caucus meeting on campus. Not only will a light breakfast, lunch, and tour be given to the caucus members, but the SU will also have the opportunity to jointly present with the University (and possibly the Graduate Students' Association) about their priorities and issues to the caucus. This will hopefully be the first of many caucus meetings hosted on campus and will encourage other parties to follow suite.
2. The federal NDP Youth Caucus tour will stop by campus on Wed, Sept 12 at 6:30PM. Two young NDP MPs will host a question and answer period primarily in regards to the youth in politics and how the NDP is working to represent Canadian youth.
3. I'm looking for St. Albert residents to accompany me to Minister Khan's Social Policy Framework roundtable discussion on Wed, Sept 12 at 7:00PM.
4. I'm still looking for members to join my external advocacy team! I've garnered some interest from students who aren't currently engaged in Council, but it'd be nice if we continued to have a larger team (especially with some members who are on Council) that'd be able to assist me in hosting the PC Edmonton caucus meeting on September 17th. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you're interested in getting involved.

1. PC Caucus Meeting on Campus

As mentioned last Council meeting, I finally got confirmation that the Students' Union (SU) will be hosting the Progressive Conservative's Capital Region (Edmonton) Caucus meeting. A goal of mine for the year has been trying to host various caucus meetings on campus to not only present the SU's lobby priorities for the year, but to showcase the University of Alberta, its vibrancy, and reiterate why post-secondary education (PSE) issues are a concern for all members of the legislature (MLAs), regardless of their constituency. Furthermore, working in tandem with the University of Alberta in hosting these meetings has the dual benefit of bolstering the University's relationship with the SU and showcasing the collegiatly and professionalism of both stakeholders.

Hosting the Progressive Conservative's Capital Region Caucus meeting will be an excellent start to hosting these caucus meetings on campus, as it will most likely encourage other political parties to follow suite. Furthermore, with the University and the SU recently at the odds with at each other on some issues, collaborating with one another to host this meeting will be an excellent opportunity to show a sign of good faith and familiarize a good majority of MLAs with PSE issues prior to their fall session in the Legislature.

The schedule of the day involves a breakfast reception, lunch, tour of campus, and a presentation from the SU and the University to the PC Edmonton caucus. Currently, details are being hammered out between the University, the SU, and the Chair of the Capital Region Caucus meeting (Nareesh Bhardwaj). Members of the external advocacy team will be integral in not only assisting in planning out the campus tour but will be integrate in accompanying the various politicians throughout the day and various events. I'm still looking for people to help me out with the team, so please fire me an email if you're interested!

2. Federal NDP Youth Caucus (Wed, Sept 12 @ 6:30PM)

The federal New Democratic Party (NDP) will have members from its Youth Caucus travel across the country to speak to students about youth and politics. The NDP student group on campus will be hosting this event on Wednesday, Sept. 12th, with NDP MPs Laurin Liu (Deputy Critic of Science and Technology) and Eve Pelet (Deputy Critic of Foreign Affairs) at Tory 1-83. (Note that both MPs are born in 1990 and 1988, respectively). Come out for a question and answer period and to learn more about federal politics and the NDP, representing Canada's youth. I highly encourage Councillors to come out and share the news!!!

3. Social Policy Framework Roundtable Discussion with St. Albert's MLA – Minister Stephen Khan (Wed, Sept 12 @ 7:00PM)

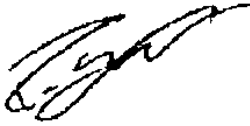
The Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education, Stephen Khan, will be hosting a Social Policy Framework roundtable discussion in his constituency of St. Albert at the St. Albert Curling Club (Upstairs). I'm looking for a bunch of St. Albert residents to accompany me to this roundtable since they really want to hear from a variety of individuals about how the government should direct their Social Policy Framework development – especially from students since they have a lot of seniors RSVPing. If you're interested in going or know someone who's from St. Albert that would, please give me a shout ASAP!

Here's some more information in regards to the Social Policy Framework (also referenced as "Speak. Share. Thrive.") from the Minister:

"Speak. Share. Thrive. is an initiative launched by the Alberta government and community partners to talk about how we as a province can respond to important challenges like housing, seniors, safety and childcare to name just a few. This is an opportunity for Albertans to speak about what is important to them and to share their thoughts with their community members and government. Information from these discussions will be used to create a Social Policy Framework for Alberta that will describe how we create hope and opportunity for all Albertans by working together to improve social outcomes.

While the province has several ways for you to get involved in the discussion, we think this initiative is important enough for us to hold a conversation of our own. The Framework is for All Albertans, and our community discussion provides a great opportunity for you to share your valuable perspective and vision for St. Albert and our province."

Signing off,



Petros Kusmu

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