

November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012

**To:** Policy Committee

**From:** Petros Kusmu, Vice President External 2012-2013

**Re:** Report to Council Committee (for November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Meeting)

Hello Council! Here's a brief summary of what I've been up to.

### **I. Progressive Conservative (PC) Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

Last weekend I had the opportunity to check out the PC AGM in Calgary with members from the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), Alberta Students' Executive Council (ASEC), and Alberta Graduate Council (AGC). This is a continuation of my goal to attend all AGMs hosted by all political parties in the province. At this AGM I had the opportunity to meet with one third of the Legislative Assembly and promote the Future of Alberta's Post-Secondary Education System conference to all of Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and various staffers. I'm in the works of sending follow-up emails to confirm their attendance to the conference's reception. The next AGM coming up will be the Wildrose's right after my time in Ottawa for the Canadian Alliance of Student Association's (CASA) Advocacy Week.

### **II. Students United for a Politically Active Campus (SUPAC)**

Last week I hosted a mixer between all of the different politically engaged groups on campus, such as:

- PCs;
- Conservatives;
- New Democrats;
- Greens;
- Wildrose;
- Student Umbrella for Social Justice;
- Medical Student Association; and
- Student Network for Advocacy and Public Policy;

It was an absolute blast. We had a great turnout rate and everyone had an excellent opportunity to mingle with each other. (We even did a little jam session at the Musicians' Club Open Mic in Dewey's). After the meeting, I decided to name this collective SUPAC. So far there are already talks amongst the groups in co-hosting an event in the coming months. Great start towards a more politically engaged campus!

### **III. Future of Alberta's Post-Secondary Education System Conference**

The conference is progressing great. Colten and I are meeting with the University of Alberta's Provost at the end of the month. The various members of the Steering Committee have contacted their respective institutions (i.e. University of Calgary, Mount Royal University, University of Lethbridge, Grant MacEwan). I also met with the Confederation of Alberta's Faculty Association's (CAFA) Executive Director to talk about CAFA's involvement and he loved the idea and expressed serious interest in wanting to sponsor the conference. Furthermore, my colleagues and I will be meeting with Alberta Enterprise and Advance Education at the end of the month to discuss funding, as well. Challenges? Needing to be able to book speakers as soon as possible. But overall, I'm ecstatic with where things are going.

### **IV. CASA Advocacy Week**

From November 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, I will be in Ottawa for CASA's Advocacy Week. During my time in Ottawa, I will have a face-to-face Board meeting (since I am a Director-at-Large on CASA's Board), the opportunity to lobby numerous MPs on CASA's newly created lobby document (check it out online at [www.casa.ca](http://www.casa.ca)), and a CASA Plenary where we will discuss important issues, such as, the organization's stances on post-secondary education (PSE) tax credits. I'll keep you posted on how it goes after I return.

### **V. Advocacy Training Session**

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> the SU hosted an Advocacy Training Session that encompassed both the external and academic portfolios. The external side got amazing attendance, which peaked somewhere between 17-21 students. Furthermore, after Kevin Taft – past leader of the Alberta Liberals and a highly regarded public policy thinker – presented to the attendees on advocacy he gave out free copies of book! On November 13<sup>th</sup>, I hosted a mini-Advocacy Training Session to the Student Network for Advocacy and Public Policy (SNAPP) to somewhere between 10-12 students. To date, I have presented somewhere up to 40 students on the SU's Advocacy Training Session – something I'm extremely proud of. If you and a group of students (at least up to 8 students) are interested in having me do an Advocacy Training Session for you, just give me a shout and we can arrange something.

### **Props**

- Props to the Pi Kappa Alpha (PIKES) fraternity defeating the Phi Gamma Deltas (FIJI) at hockey. Good job to all the guys and Greeks that showed up.
- Crazy respect for April Hudson, Gateway News Editor, for doing Chillin' for Charity with me...Last minute...With no change of extra cloths. Note to future executives: always have extra pair of cloths in your office. YOU. NEVER. KNOW.

If you have any relevant questions, ideas, or interesting thoughts, don't hesitate to give me a shout.

Signing off,



**Petros Kusmu**

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