

July 24th, 2013

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council (for July 30th meeting)

Introduction:

Hello Council,

I have a few updates to provide in my written report, and I will also be providing an update in my oral report. Prior to Council, I will be attending government orientation at Government House, which is an event with the purpose of giving student lobby organizations the opportunity to meet with the civil servants and the Minister to discuss policy initiatives and priorities. It will also be the venue in which the first quarterly meeting with Minister Lukaszuk will take place, followed by a CAUS meeting. Overall it will be a very eventful day. I am looking forward to hearing what the government has to say regarding the current state of post secondary, the implementation of Campus Alberta, and hopefully thoughts on the Post Secondary Learning Act.

Municipal Elections:

I have a brief update regarding the Municipal Election campaign that the UASU will be participating in along with the rest of Edmonton's post secondary institutions. As I said last time, we were successful in asking the City to provide on-campus election booths. I should state that this wasn't difficult; the City was incredibly easy to deal with and said yes immediately. In addition to this good news, I was recently informed that these voting stations would not be just for students living within the specific ward each campus is located in, but all students living in Edmonton. Come October, any student who calls Edmonton home will be able to walk to SUB and vote between classes.

Premier's Pancake Breakfast:

While this may seem like a strange thing to report on, public events and constituency barbeques (especially those surrounding the Premier) are some of the best opportunities to have a conversation with members of the government. In the time I was there, I had conversations with Jacques Fenske (MLA Vegreville-Fort Saskatchewan), Matt Jeneroux (MLA Edmonton-South), Stephen Khan (former Minister of Advanced Education and Enterprise and MLA St. Albert), as well as Steve Young (MLA Edmonton-Riverview). While there was minor conversation surrounding lobby issues, the main benefit of this was an attempt to book future meetings with them. I have been successful thus far in setting up a meeting with Matt Jeneroux next week.

CASA:

As I have mentioned in previous meetings, the CASA National Advocacy Team will be launching a cross Canada campaign focusing on the issue of student debt. This campaign will happen in October, taking place somewhat concurrently with the Mayoral campaign. While the timing of this campaign is not ideal, in order for it to be fully effectively in needs to take place at the same time across all the CASA member schools. One area of flexibility however will be the type of campaign, given that the Committee has decided each school is free to pursue a theme of their choosing so long as it relates back to the general issue of student debt.

After much discussion and thought, it has been decided that the UASU will likely create another wall of debt. While this campaign idea has been used in the past, it has proved largely effective in bringing attention to the issue of student debt while also given image to the magnitude it has reached in Canada. Students with debt will be able to write their name on a "brick" and keep them all on display in quad. It gives a very realistic image

to the issue of mounting student debt, and gives numbers to associate with it. All in all, I am excited for this campaign.

At this point that's all I have to report, however I look forward to providing detail on many other initiatives at Council.

Thank you for your time,



Adam Woods

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