

July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**To:** Students' Council

**Re:** Report to Council (for July 22nd meeting)

## Introduction

Hello Council! Since we touched base last, I've been very busy! Here's a quick synopsis of what's been going on:

### 1. CASA

**1.1** As you know, I came back from CASA's Policy and Strategy Conference last week. Overall, it was great! I really enjoyed strengthening friendships and partnerships with member schools across the nation.

**1.2** Each of the committees had some time to come up with work plans for the year. I'm on the Policy Committee (now called the Federal Policy Committee...) and we came up with five priorities for the year:

- Eligibility requirements for financial assistance through the federal government (parental and spousal income);
  - *To increase access to student aid and to increase and formalize a respect for student independence and individuality*
- Youth Employment;
  - *Issues include unpaid internships, labour market information, etc.*
- Formalizing a position on federal tax credits;
- Interest rates for Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP);
- Policy and Research Templates.

**1.3** CASA has also been working on restructuring its Board and some other internal items. I'm looking forward to reconvening with everyone soon!

### 2. CAUS

**2.1** On Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, myself and some other student representatives from across the province were invited to an event called, *Let's Talk about Supports for Post-Secondary Learners*. It was a consultation-style workshop for approximately 130 people from various sectors across the province. The two areas of discussion were about apprentices and student aid.

**2.2** I also had a few informal run-ins with PC leadership candidates Jim Prentice and Thomas Lukaszuk. CAUS is pretty good at finding the politicians!

### 3. University and Other External Relations

**3.1** The rest of the Exec team and I had a chance to sit down and chat with President Indira Samarasekera. It was pretty interesting and a good way for us to share our goals with one another.

**3.2** Kathryn and I also met with Kim Campbell this week! We had some really great discussion about women in leadership and politics. It sparked some ideas and I'm looking forward to working with Ms. Campbell this year – she is one intelligent and funny woman!

**3.3** William and I met with Don Hickey and Doug Dawson to continue moving forward on the issue of residential property taxes. It was a good initial meeting for me, and we will be following up with each other shortly.

**3.4** I had a meeting with a staff member from the City of Edmonton on the topic of how to increase partnerships between the University of Alberta and the City – specifically in regards to jobs, co-ops, internships, etc.

### 4. Council

**4.1** At Policy Committee, it was decided that for next Council meeting, we would bring forward a second reading on MNIFs and a first reading on Student Loans. There was also discussion about whether or not we should consolidate and make more consistent all of our Policies regarding student financial aid (there are four). I look forward to continuing the discussion on that topic.

**4.2** Cory and I are working on how we can save money when it comes to our Council food budget.

### Conclusion

On Friday, the executive committee will be spending all day at a mini “retreat” strategizing and discussing certain issues. I'm definitely excited for that! I'll also be dragging them all to the Wildrose BBQ taking place on Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30am-1:30pm on the Legislature grounds.

Cheers!



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