

September 21st, 2014

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council (for September 23rd meeting)

Introduction

It's been two weeks of go-go-go! But it's enjoyable as always. Though things with the media died down in the last week, campus engagement really picked up.

Campus/Internal Advocacy

- On September 15th at Policy Committee, the committee voted to consolidate all of our financial aid policies into one policy. We will continue working on this next month, and the first task will be to write the First Principles.
- The Law Students' Association held a town hall meeting on September 17th. There were a lot of tough questions asked and I think those who truly cared about the issue attended and spoke up.
- On September 18th and 19th, I attended the first Plenary Session of the Senate. Each "constituency" gives a report, and I provide a report on behalf of the SU. Given the new Senators in attendance, I took the opportunity to explain what our organization does. I certainly got many approving nods.

Municipal Advocacy

On Saturday, September 13th, we hosted the post-secondary relations breakfast on campus. Councillor Andrew Knack has been taking the lead on this with the City of Edmonton, along with his colleague, Councillor Bev Esslinger. They have been working on ways to make Edmonton a PSE City, which I think is fantastic. The student executives from all of the Edmonton post-secondary institutions attended, so not only did we provide good advice and opinions to the City, it was also a great networking experience. Despite the differences at our institutions, we have enough similarities this year that we can work together to achieve some common goals. We also got some sweet sunglasses ☺

Provincial Advocacy

- On September 12th, my colleague Cameron McCoy (President of SAMU) and I had a meeting with MLA David Xiao. We discussed a couple of CAUS' priorities for the year, which you can [find on the website!](#)
- I'm looking forward to our next Quarterly Roundtable meeting with the Ministry, and as such, our first meeting with all the SA's from Alberta with the new Minister, Don Scott.
- Speaking of the new Minister, he has been very proactive – he's called not only CAUS, but also the individual VPXs. I'm glad to see he is familiar with our pressing issues of MNIFs and Market Modifiers and I look forward to discussing the rest of our major advocacy points soon.

Federal Advocacy

On September 10th, Cory and I got in to the "an Evening with Tom Mulcair" event. Lots of MPs were around, and I especially enjoyed speaking with some of the younger elected members from Quebec. The following evening, we hosted 3 NDP MPs on campus in partnership with the Campus NDP club. Laurin Liu and Charmaine Borg came with Linda Duncan. Throughout the year I'll try and bring MPs from the three main political parties to campus. We had some good discussion and thought-provoking questions were asked.

University Community Engagement

- On September 10th, we hosted a BBQ at CSJ. As usual, I really enjoyed my time there!
- And of course, September 12th was when I got iced for the ALS ice-bucket challenge. Honestly, I had a lot of fun, despite being plagued with the shivers after! You can see the [video on YouTube!](#)

- On September 11th and 16th I blocked off time for office hours, which to my dismay, were underutilized. I'll set up two more sessions and if they aren't well used I will stop setting them up. However, *anyone* is still free to set up meetings with me. I also *really* encourage councilors to take advantage of this time – you can talk to me about running in the upcoming elections, ask me about ongoing issues or just stop by and tell me how I can help. This week's office hours are **Wednesday, September 24th from 12-2pm**. Next week, they are on **Thursday, October 2nd, from 12-2pm**.

Alumni Weekend

On September 18th, I went to the President's State of the University Address. You can [read about some of the highlights in the news](#). Thursday was also the kickoff to Alumni Weekend with the Alumni Awards event. It was amazing to see Jubilee packed full of people cheering on for green and gold. The sock fight on Friday was also hilarious -- 3000 yellow and green socks being thrown at people. I definitely got socked in the face a few times...

On Saturday, Students' Union executives from the 1960s joined us for our own alumni event in recognition of all the changes to the Students' Union Building over the years. It was the 50th anniversary reunion of the student leaders, who at that time were facing their own challenges and opportunities. Hearing their stories gave me a new appreciation for our organization, the students' movement in general, the power of our advocacy, and for SUB.

Following that, we attended a few alumni events: the Golden Grads dinner (for those who graduated 50 years ago), the Harvest Celebration for those who graduated about 25 years ago, and The Wet Secrets concert!

On Sunday, William and I went to brunch with SU alumni, who are now involved in such diverse areas. The conversations were incredibly energizing -- everything from their perspective on the Scottish referendum, to the Northern Gateway Pipeline. Underlying it all though, was a deep connection and shared experience of the Students' Union. It's heartening to know that we have allies all around us, who understand the value of an accessible and high-quality post-secondary education.

My biggest takeaway from the last few days is this -- don't hesitate to take opportunities to listen to those who came before you. At the very least, we gain understanding, and at the best, we create new ideas. A huge thanks to the University community and keep on rocking that green & gold!

I need your input ...

I sit on the **Senate Campus Engagement Committee** and the Chair is interested in knowing how the Senate can better support us not only as Students' Council, but how they can engage campus in general. Let me know what you think! The **next meeting is October 7th at 5pm**. Please attend if you can!

Conclusion

As you can see, it has been two weeks of non-stop hustle and bustle. So, I'm taking the rest of Sunday for myself and then we're back at it again. See you all at Augustana for our next Council meeting!

Cheers,



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