

November 14, 2013

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council (for November 19th meeting)

Introduction

Hello Council,

This will be a very brief report given that I have been away on vacation for a good chunk of the last few weeks. With that being said, I do have some advocacy updates to provide you with.

Advocacy:

I mentioned at the last Council meeting that I would provide an update on CAUS's mini advocacy day at the Legislature last Thursday. Due to being out of town on Friday, I was only able to attend meetings with Liberal MLA and Advanced Education Critic Kent Hehr and Wildrose MLA and Advanced Education Critic Bruce McAllister. As a whole both meetings went incredibly well. Mr. Hehr agreed to raise concerns surrounding the recent cut of the Summer Temporary Employment Program as well as the broken PC promise of a \$17 million Rural and Aboriginal bursary. The STEP cut was brought up in question period by the Liberals, which we had the privilege of watch.

Mr. McAllister was equally as supportive, especially surrounding our mandatory non-instructional fees issue. We have asked Mr. McAllister to put pressure on the government to regulate fees. I will let Council know if there are any instances of him bringing this issue to the forefront.

While we were supposed to meet with Minister Lukaszuk that afternoon, a Wildrose point of privilege delayed our meeting time by almost two hours, and as a result CAUS had to re schedule the meeting. I unfortunately could not be present for the Lukaszuk meeting, which would take place the next day.

Fortunately Petros was able to attend, and I am told the meeting lasted an hour and a half and went very well. Mr. Lukaszuk mentioned efforts to revitalize STEP, and CAUS was able to have a good conversation surrounding instructional fees. CAUS also met with Rachel Notley, the NDP Advanced Education critic, however I do not have details from the meeting at this time.

Lastly, I met with Minister Hancock on the last day of my vacation (because Ministers are very hard to meet with) and I had the opportunity to discuss STEP, given that the program would have been under his Ministry. For those reasons, it was a very important meeting.

He said that while money is currently tight, the government would love the opportunity to discuss what a good summer employment program might look like. As a result, we have agreed to hold a roundtable on student employment, hopefully sometime early during the second semester.

Overall, it was a very productive week in terms of advocacy. I have many more meetings coming up in the immediate future, and if I am able to skype into the meeting on Tuesday I will try to update Council. Otherwise, I will see you all when I'm back from Ottawa.

Thank you for your time,



Adam Woods

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