

Date: 2023-03-17**To:** Students' Union Council**Re:** Vice President External 2022/23 Report #18

Dear Council,

After a short leave of absence I am glad to be back. I want to also thank all those that decided to put their name forward and run for executive and BoG races. My heartiest of congratulations to the incoming VPs. I encourage council members to promote and share friends to run for council.

Chancellor's Pride Parade

This monday, I and the other executives attended the Chancellor's Pride Parade. This parade marked the start of UofAs Pride Week. It was great to be among members of the University community in displaying pride for 2SLGBTQIA+ students. Queer visibility is important but just as important is ensuring our campus community is safe and open for all queer students. While much more needs to be done, it was a great day to be reminded of the progress that had been achieved and to fight against rising homophobia and transphobia. In attendance were also MLA Janis Irwin, President Flanagan and many departments and offices of the University.

Tuition Protest Info Session

With more awareness and justified frustration and anger towards the proposed tuition increases, it was important to get more students mobilized and attend the protest info session. It was great to see the creativity and hard work students were putting to fight back against tuition increases. I continue to ask for Council's support in spreading the message and inviting the friends and classmates. I am grateful for all the info shared so far.

Meeting with Minister Rajan Sawhney

It has been clear that more support is needed for International students. From rapidly rising tuition to slow processing times and supporting pathways to PR after graduation. This is why CAUS met with the Minister of Trade, Immigration and Multiculturalism, Rajan Sawhney. During this meeting I raised the importance of the Minister putting pressure on the Federal government to extend the pilot program on work hours as well as ensure that the issues of visa processing are not repeated like this year. Additionally we also discussed the need to improve Alberta Provincial Immigration Nomination Entrepreneurship stream to provide expanded eligibility for International students that does not require having to own a business.

CASA AGM

Next week, President Monteiro and I will be in Halifax for CASA's AGM. As Chair, this is when the Board of Directors provide an overview to members about CASA's year and if we achieved the goals we set out to achieve from the start of the year as well as a discussion on progress made on the advocacy topics we made a priority for the year. I also look forward to the passing of the first phase of CASA's EDI strategic plan and the passing of minority language outside of Quebec policy.

As always, thank you for taking the time to go through this report. I look forward to your questions and comments.

Cheers,

Christian Fotang

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Vice President External

University of Alberta Students' Union