

Date: 2022-07-22

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President External 2022/23 Report #4

Dear Council,

Below is a brief update of essential activities in the last two weeks.

CASA

CASA Board of Directors Retreat

Last week, I attended the CASA Board of Directors board retreat. Among other tasks, this three-day retreat was time for the board to get together and discuss its priorities, begin drafting our action plan and which we will present to the membership at our Policy and Strategy Conference, and discuss what our advocacy priority shall be for the year. We also received presentations from former CASA executive directors on the history of CASA and what being part of a board for a non-profit means. Beyond work planning, this was also an opportunity to better get to know the other members of the board through team bonding activities.

CASA Meeting with Employment and Social Development Canada

This past Thursday, I and the CASA executive director met with Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) to discuss what CASA's advocacy for the year looks like. ESDC is the government department that deals with the Canada Student Financial Aid (CSFA) program specifically Canada Student Loans (CSL) and Canada Student Grant (CSG). This meeting was a quick check-in to discuss the priorities of CASA's priorities are in regard to student financial aid. While we are still drafting our priorities we were still able to communicate with ESDC what concerns we have heard from students and members in regards to SFA.

Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues

One of my platform points was getting more student involvement in Community Leagues. Last Tuesday, I met with the Executive Director, Community Activator, and Administrative Assistant of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL). They are an umbrella group that represents and supports the Community leagues in the City of Edmonton. They also engage in advocacy and research. The main topic of discussion was seeing opportunities for collaboration and support, as well as other avenues for joint advocacy in regards to issues within the community that equally affect students. I will have more information for the council on this initiative. However, if you are interested and want to support getting more students involved in your community leagues then do not hesitate to contact me.

Cheers,



Christian Fotang

Vice President External

University of Alberta Students' Union