

Date: 01/12/20

To: Students' Union Council

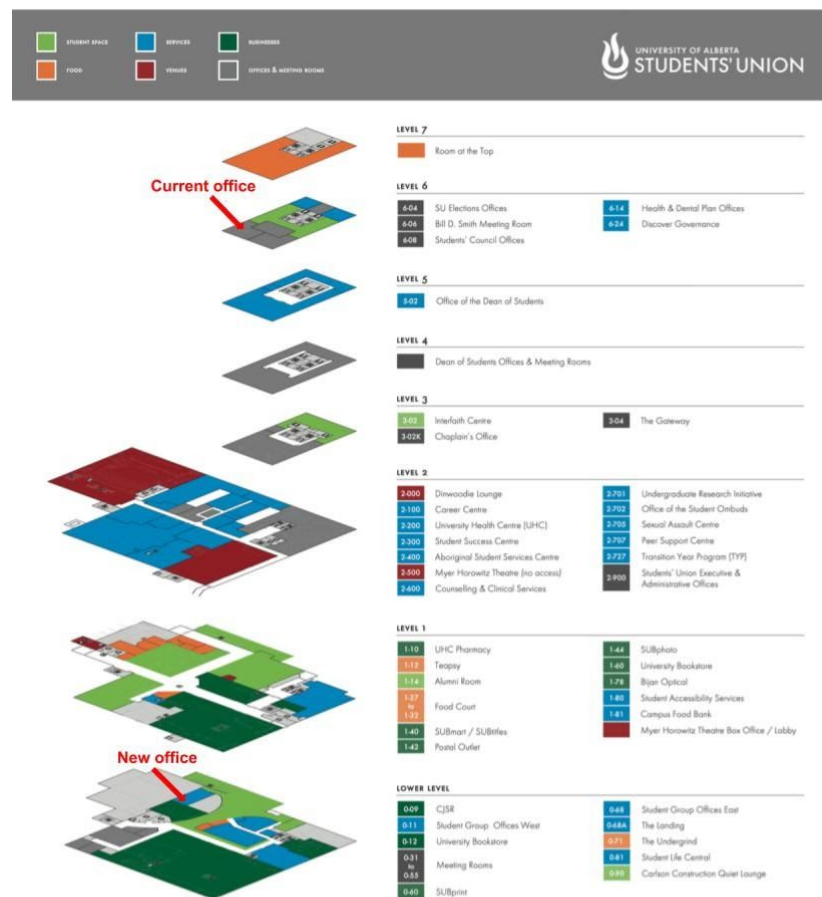
Re: Vice President External 2020/21 Report 11/17/20

Hello Council!

It is very satisfying to finally be in the last month of this cursed year. I hope you have all been coping well with the winter and spending extended amounts of time at home. I have personally rediscovered my old love of Minecraft and am working on some modern terracotta buildings in my spare time! At work, it has been a busy few weeks. We are working hard to reduce the impact of COVID on students as much as possible, and I think there are more wins on the horizon.

Council Office Space Shuffle

As many of you know, Students' Council has an office space on the 6th floor of SUB. Unfortunately, due to SUB accepting two new tenants, we will have to move this office. The two tenants in question are Elev, the student housing company, and the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), of which I am the Chair. CAUS will be occupying the old Council office. This change is necessary and beneficial to the UASU for several reasons. First, it will result in \$12,500 of revenue every year in rent paid by CAUS. Currently that space does not generate revenue. At a time when students expect fiscal responsibility, this revenue is appreciated. Second, it will allow us to run CAUS events in the SU building, which means revenue for UASU and better events for CAUS. Last, this represents considerable savings over CAUS' previous location, and as CAUS is funded by member fees, CAUS' savings are UASU's savings. The Council office is the only space in SUB



that meets CAUS' particular privacy and location needs. CAUS is taking possession of the space this month.

I understand that having an office space for Council is very important, and I sincerely apologize for the inconvenience of this move may cause. The Executive is committed to making sure there is an office space for Council, and we have identified a space in the office block next to the Landing to move Council to, as well as an adjoining office for the BoG rep and Speaker. In many ways this new space will represent an improvement-- it is closer to a gender-neutral washroom, is closer to food options, and is closer to other student groups. I do recognize, however, that the loss of the sixth floor view is tough. Again, sorry for this change. Unfortunately it is necessary for us to use SUB as efficiently as possible.

Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health Town Hall

I went to a town hall on post-secondary institutions and COVID with Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Marcia Johnson. Dr. Johnson was able to answer several questions from students. A few highlights:

- Students will be near the bottom of the priority list for COVID vaccines. We can anticipate getting them between April and October 2021. Obviously this creates a lot of uncertainty about whether Fall 2021 will be able to proceed fully in-person, which is a big source of anxiety for many of us given how badly online delivery has gone. We will be working to get clarity on this, but right now it's anyone's guess.
- The government is considering measures to deal with anti-vaxxers, but mandatory vaccines are off the table. There is a small possibility of students who refuse to be vaccinated without a legitimate health reason being banned from in-person classes, but that is a last resort.
- It is unclear if students in practicums in frontline sectors (mostly ed and nursing) will qualify as essential workers and receive the vaccine early. I think probably yes, but we will work to keep people informed as more information is available.
- Except for those with comorbidities, all students are likely to receive the vaccine around the same time. Where you live is unlikely to have much impact on timing.

Good luck with your exams!



University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President External
Rowan Ley