

Feb. 2nd, 2017
To: Students' Council
Re: Report to Students' Council

Council Report #18: In the days before EMP FEST

Hello Council,

It's been the blink of an eye and we're already in February! It's incredible just how fast this year seems to have blown by. As I am writing this report EMP FEST is only a few days away, and I hope you are as excited as I am for the festival to take place! So get ready for an update on the Life & Times of Vice-President (External) Sandare.

UASU

EMP FEST

Sooooo, it's only a few more days until EMP FEST, the Students' Union employment festival goes live! The festival is geared towards addressing issues of student employment seen across all faculties. We've got a number of events scheduled throughout the week taking place all across campus. To check out everything that is going on, we have a full list of programming (and a downloadable schedule) available here:

<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/governance/EmpFest/schedule/>.

Keep an eye out for the Keynote events! Since the last time we spoke there have been a few updates on the events - **The Opening Keynote Speaker** (Alan Nursall, President and CEO of Telus World of Science) will be talking closer to home in the **SUB Alumni Room**. In addition, we were lucky enough to **upgrade** the location of the **Networking Night (Student + Industry Mixer)** to the **SUB Atrium** in the Lower Level of the Students' Union Building, this way we'll be able to make the event even more accessible to students! **Career Confessions will still be taking place in Dewey's** and we will have few **EMP FEST drink specials** down at the bars that you should come check out!

More information on EMP FEST can be found on our website at www.empfest.ca. The registration for the Networking Night (which is free for students!) can be found here: <http://www.ticketfly.com/event/1414691>. Come check out EMP FEST happening across campus from February 6th-10th, and #EMPpoweryourfuture. More information can be found on our Facebook page! (found here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/239135166542035/>)

Job Shadow Days

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Well everyone, executive elections are coming up quick! If you're interested in the Vice-President (External) position, you should come talk to me about what it's like! My **last** job shadow day is coming up on **Feb. 6th, 2017**. It will be 9am-5pm and we'll be meeting in my office. Feel free to come swing by anytime throughout the day!

Edmonton Roundtable for the Next Generation of Public Service Talent

Last Thursday I joined a number of involved students on campus as we took part in a roundtable discussion on ways to encourage the up and coming generation of graduates to consider entering public service. During the consultation we discussed the actual and perceived barriers to entrance, and provided our thoughts on ways the government could address them and attract more students/recent graduates to careers in public service.

Understanding Race in the Academy - Steering Committee

I am happy to announce my appointment to the *Understanding Race in the Academy - Steering Committee*. Over the next few months, the committee will be working to address barriers (actual, perceived and systematic) to diversity and inclusion on campus. The committee which includes some well-renowned experts on race and inclusion (such as Dr. Malinda Smith) will be overseeing the research and consultation process that will end in a final report to be presented to the Provost and Vice-President (Finance and Administration). I will be sure to keep council updated on this exciting project that I am proud to be apart of!

CAUS

Student Financial Aid Consultation

Last Wednesday myself, Fahim and Jon had the opportunity to take part in an Alberta Government Student Financial Aid consultation in Nisku. The consultation brought together stakeholders (such as bureaucrats, administrators from public/private/indigenous institutions, advocacy groups, etc.) from across the province. During the consultation we had very in-depth conversations about the sort of changes that could improve loans, grants, scholarships and bursaries, debt management programs, as well as tax credits. At the tables we shared our thoughts on barriers to access, and how Student Financial Aid could be used to address them. I was happy to see the number of stakeholders around the table who were just as vocal about creating an equitable system that allows more students to access post-secondary.

During this consultation, multiple stakeholders (myself included) voiced that we would like to help more students understand tuition and student financial aid, as well as the advocacy that takes place to better it. Because of that, I've been inspired to create some materials to help students at the University of Alberta better understand tuition, student financial aid, and funding! Keep your eyes peeled for some handy informative materials coming out soon!

“In the world through which I travel, I am endlessly creating myself” - Frantz Fanon

Mike Sandare