

Date: 2021/06/1**To:** Students' Union Council**Re:** Vice President External 2021/22 Report #3

Dear Council,

I hope you have all been taking good care of yourselves, staying safe and enjoying your summer. A significant portion of my week was spent at the Canadian Alliance of Students Association (CASA) Foundation Conference.

CASA Foundations

President Ley and I participated in the CASA Foundations conference all of last week. This four day event increased my knowledge of the history, work and structure of CASA. Additionally this conference, although virtual, still enabled me to: connect with our 23 other members SU/SA from across the nation; improved my cultural competency and bystander intervention skills via beneficial training sessions; and increased my knowledge of CASA's policy and advocacy process. It was also important to hear from other SU/SAs about the issues they currently face and their priorities for the year. We also welcomed the University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU) as our newest member. We are excited about the expansion of more members to our Federal family and see this as a recognition of the work and advocacy CASA delivers. .

On the last day of this conference, May 28th, we shall elect the new Chair of CASA as well as the new members of the Board of Directors. I will have more updates for you at our council meeting this coming Tuesday!

Alberta's Open For Summer Plan

The Premier announced a couple days ago on the Province's [three stage plan](#) that will have the province's major health restrictions lifted come early July. Post Secondary is expected to resume in person come Mid-June. I encourage you all to continue to stay safe and get your vaccines if you haven't done so already!

Notable meetings**AUFSJ VPX Counterpart**

I met with AUFSJ VP External Chiara Concini to discuss ways the UASU can assist AUFSJ in the campaign to save Campus Saint-Jean. We discussed the larger role the UASU can play in providing messages of support, increasing our social media activity on the issue, and assisting AUFSJ in building more networks across the country through avenues like CASA and the UEQ. I will continue to keep the council in the loop as this situation develops.

ISA VPX Counterpart

I also met with ISA VP External Gurbani Baweja. This was mostly an introductory meeting to discuss ways we can improve International Student External Advocacy. We further discussed potential points of collaboration between the both of us such as how we can elevate International student issues at CASA via ways of creating a working group/committee or alternatively more Federal advocacy campaigns.

Overall this was very busy, lots of learning, lots of reading and lots of meetings. As we continue to adjust to our roles, I appreciate all the patience and outreach I have received from council members. I have already had the chance to meet many of you at GovCamp and in Committee meetings. I am inspired by the passion and commitment that I am witnessing. I look forward to engaging with even more of you. Please always feel free to reach out to me whenever you can!

Congratulations on making it this far! The first five people to email me with a meme shall receive a gift! (No not you Abner)

Yours Externally,



University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President External
Christian Fotang