

Date: 04/06/21

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President External 2020/21 Report 04/06/21

Dear Council,

I'm getting a little sentimental as I realize this is my second-last report as VPX. It has been such an honour to work with all of you this year, and I hope that when it's safe to do so I will be able to meet you all in person. On a couple little personal notes, I am starting to get into gravel cycling and I was very excited to finish my first 100 kilometer ride this weekend! I went out to Fort Saskatchewan, saw some unique birds and a beautiful sunset. I am also very pleased that my dad received his first vaccine dose, making the eventual end of the pandemic start to feel within sight.

CASA Annual General Meeting

President Agarwal, Councillor Fotang, and I attended the CASA AGM last week. AGM is always important for us as we connect with student leaders across the country, get in-depth information on the work CASA is doing, and identify opportunities for federal advocacy. I want to emphasize how incredibly important CASA has been this year-- it gets a lot of the credit for the Canada Emergency Student Benefit, expansions of Canada Summer Jobs, and more. CASA is easily the most effective federal student advocacy group and keeping up our involvement is very important. Please let me know if you want any more

details about CASA's finances, operations, or advocacy!

Our conferences pack a ton of work into a week and I know President Agarwal and I were glad to have a holiday Friday. To give you an idea of what CASA and CAUS conferences are like, here's my calendar for last week:

9 AM	CASA AGM 1	Elder Opening Pl	CASA AGM 2	Financial U Budget Pre	CASA AGM 3	From he Incoming 9:30 CAUS	HOLD 9am - 12pm
10 AM		Code of Conduct		What are the Bo 10 - 11am			
11 AM		Board Action Pla		CASA Strategic P 11am - 12pm		Life after Stud 10:30 - 11am, 2	Communications 11am - 12pm
12 PM		Close the Gaps F		Inclusive Brand U		Closing Plenary 12 - 2pm	Call Dr. Lo, 12pm
1 PM		CAUS C 12 - 1p	NAC Up Political	HIST 28 GR over 12:30 - 1pm		Business Group (Retail) 1 - 2:30pm	HIST 285 12:30 - 2pm
2 PM		CAUS Meeting 1 - 2pm	Comms	CASA P 1 - 2pm			HOLD - Exec 1:30 - 3pm
3 PM		Committee Work Onwards. 2 - 3:30pm		Rowan/Jon/Amar		Rowan/Craig: Bus 3 - 3:45pm	
4 PM		Dental Appointment 3 - 4:30pm		Rowan/Nicole 2:45 - 3:30pm			
5 PM				Rough storyboard			AB Student Post- 4 - 5pm
6 PM				CASA Awards Gala 5 - 7pm		Policy Committee 5 - 6pm	Rowan/Logan (RD 5 - 5:45pm)
	Chapter Meeting						

Alberta Student Congress

CAUS hosted the inaugural Alberta Student Congress last Saturday, and I am very pleased to report that it was a success. We had nearly 100 student leaders from across the province in attendance during the day, coming from institutions ranging from small rural colleges to major universities and representing academic units ranging from departments to whole sectors of the PSE system. In the breakout rooms, we discussed a series of discussion questions including how cuts are impacting education in the student leaders' institutions, how students can organize to oppose the cuts, what they are seeing in brain drain from their communities, and much more. We are going through the notes from the event (there are something like 200 pages of dense notes) to compile a detailed report which will be sent out to all attendees.

This event was essentially a prototype-- small, with modest goals and very low costs. At the end of the Congress, there was a near-unanimous vote to host another next Fall. Given the success of this first one, like every sequel, we will have to try to make the next one bigger and better. Having a grassroots-level connection to provincial advocacy is very important for strong and effective student opposition to the cuts, and the Congress is a great way to build those relationships with student leaders from smaller academic units.

UASU/City of Edmonton Youth Council Meeting

Councillor Fotang and I met with the City of Edmonton Youth Council's Projects Committee last week to look into opportunities for collaboration. The CEYC is an initiative of City Council to enhance youth participation in the municipal government. We found that there is a lot of room for us to collaborate on voter registration and get-out-the-vote programs in the fall, among other things. While not all students are youth, there is a pretty huge overlap between our memberships and it makes sense for us to work together.

Good luck with your upcoming finals and stay safe!



University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President External
Rowan Ley