

Date: Nov. 16, 2017
To: Students' Council
Re: Students' Council

Hi Council,

Apologies for having this report in the late additions. The past 2 weeks have been a whirlwind and my office has been feilding a lot from Ottawa. I hope to cover most of the big updates in this report but please follow up on any items of interest.

Tuition Announcement



Tuition Announcement - Mount Royal Nov. 30th

The [tuition freeze](#) has been announced for the 2018/19 academic year and will include backfill funding for universities. Backfill funding has been something that myself, past generations of executives, and CAUS have pushed for since the introduction of tuition freezes and the lack of such since 2016/17.

"Students are thrilled to see that the government has heard them and ensured that post-secondary education remains affordable and accessible. The Council of Alberta University Students thanks the government for freezing tuition while ensuring institutions are funded appropriately so that budgeting restraints do not impact students." - Reed Larsen ([Gov. Release](#))

This announcement, although a win for students, means that the tuition review itself will be ongoing and we expect further announcements in the early new year. President Banister and myself have pushed that the tuition freeze is not a solution, especially for International students, and we will continue to push on all fronts for financial accessibility, affordability, and predictability.

"There have been multiple instances of international students being priced out of education because of increases above even 10 and 15 per cent at some institutions," Larsen said." - [Metronews](#)

I have several stakeholder meetings lined up regarding next steps and will update council as we hear more information.

CASA

President Banister and I have spent the last week in Ottawa for the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations advocacy week. It was overall a very productive week, as President Banister and I are considered strong lobbyists, we mostly where placed in high-intensity meetings. Highlights include being the first meeting of the week with MP Eglinski, doing a takeover of the CASA Instagram page for a day, and meeting with my representative MP Duncan.

If anyone has interest, you can review CASA's lobby document [here](#). Highlights for the Ualberta context would be increasing funding for the Post-Secondary Student Support Program for indigenous learners and streamlining the international student co-op and work experience permits.



MP Eglinski - First Meeting of Advowee17

Items to Note

- President Banister and I met with University administration on phase out of physical cash payments. Was very productive and straightforward conversation on new technologies, including credit payments, coming to tuition payments.
- UASU Executive Town Hall tomorrow at 12:30 pm
- Senate Plenary from Thursday - Friday this week
- Vacation days from Dec. 13 - 16th

Personal Note

On a final personal note for this weeks report, this has been the single most stressful, yet fulfilling, week of my entire undergraduate education. Backfill funding is something myself, and dozens of amazing people campaigned on, sometimes for years. The announcements of tuition were wonderfully handled form hundreds of miles away, without CAUS home office staff, instead of with an amazing team of Alberta student leaders and dedicated staff. To anyone, from those students who went to the announcements, to the fantastic staff everywhere, thank you so much for your continued patience and hard work. Without you, these victories that ensure a PSE system is student-focused, would not occur. So in close, I really would highlight to council the incredible work done by the staff at the University of Alberta Students Union and across Alberta to ensure that such announcements can happen, continue to happen, and build an accessible, affordable, and predictable future for PSE in Alberta.

Cheers,



Reed Larsen