

Date: 06/11/20

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President External 2020/21 Report 06/16/20

Dear Council,

First of all, apologies for this week's report being on the late additions. It was a completely crazy couple of days on Thursday and Friday, and I did not get out of the office until 7PM. I unfortunately forgot to submit this report that evening. Of course I will make sure my reports are on the main agenda in future.

Aside from that, it has been a rather challenging last few weeks overseeing the completion of both the UASU and CAUS submissions to the Alberta 2030 review, final planning for the CAUS fall campaign, administrative items at CAUS, Week of Welcome activities, and external stakeholder meetings. Fortunately, things are looking up a bit, and I plan to take a vacation in the first week of October.

Alberta 2030 engagement

The UASU submission to the Alberta 2030 review is completed. It was principally drafted by our wonderful Research and Advocacy staff, who did an excellent job. It focuses on the need to expand affordability through improved granting and expanding the capacity of the PSE system, but it also touches on a number of other areas including campus sexual violence response, mental health funding, and student representation in governance. It will be posted on our Public Research page by the time Council meets, and you will be able to read it in its entirety if you want. I would also be happy to email the CAUS submission to any of you who would like to see it. It was drafted by CAUS Executive Director Jon Mastel and advocacy decisions were made through a special session of the CAUS board at our Counterparts retreat.

I have also attended two McKinsey challenge panel meetings and participated in an individual interview with McKinsey consultants, and provided their team some of our research on the efficacy of online learning during COVID-19.

CAUS Office Moving to SUB

After a decision of the CAUS Board two weeks ago, the CAUS office will almost definitely be moving to SUB this December in exchange for a rent of \$12,275/year. The office will move into currently non-revenue generating space and so represents a net revenue gain for us, while also being much cheaper than CAUS' current lease while also having superior facilities. This deal is a win-win for UASU and CAUS.

External Relations Advisory Group (ERAG)

In order to make communications between student groups that have a stake in our advocacy easier and engage perspectives that are sometimes not included in Council, I have been working on creating an advisory group for the VP External. This group will be structured as a subcommittee of the Executive Committee. We will be inviting representatives of the Student Representative Associations that are not Residence or Faculty Associations, including Campus Associations, so the list is AUFSJ (Campus Saint Jean), ASA (Augustana), the Aboriginal Students Council, and the International Students Association (if their SRA application is approved). It will also include six students-at-large selected for diverse perspectives and expertise, and meet once a month at minimum.

ERAG is not meant to replace the role of Council in guiding the executive, but rather to complement it by making sure I have a way to engage with perspectives that may not be present on Council. We will likely be able to open applications in mid-late September and hold our first meeting in late September or early October.

Senate Role Assignment

Assignments for student roles on the Senate were released earlier this week. I will be serving on the Honorary Degrees Committee. Yintong Liu and Veronica Ortiz-Zelada will be serving on the USchool Fundraising Committee (Veronica will also be on the USchool Advisory Committee), and Chris Beasley and Yintong Liu will serve on the Communications Committee and Mental Health Advisory Committee. I'm looking forward to working with all of them.

Lastly in personal news, I got a great deal on a new model plane, a 1:200 scale Canadian Pacific Airlines Boeing 747-200 in the special livery adopted for the 1986 World Expo in Vancouver. Aside from being a lovely office decoration it is a cool piece of Canadian aviation history. I will also be taking a vacation to help out my grandmother in Quebec with some winter preparations in the week of September 27th to October, and I will be trying to relax and decompress as possible while I am there.

Have a great week,



University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President External
Rowan Ley

