

June 2nd, 2015

To: University of Alberta Students' Council 2015/2016

Re: Vice President Student Life Council Report

Hi Council,

My apologies again that I am missing council for the second time... Everything that requires me to be out of town just somehow gets scheduled on Council Tuesdays! Boo!!! But **VP Hanwell, Councillors Zhang, Duan, Kwan, Lewis, Wang** and I are missing all of you. Hopefully we will see you guys soon in our committee meetings once we are back!

Council and Governance

I was excited to attend **CAC (Council Administration Committee)** with **VP Bondarchuk** this week! We had some good discussions surrounding council engagement and team building activity suggestions. I strongly encourage you all to come out to CAC and provide your input sometime.

Access and Communications

Received a pleasant phone call from **Lauren Mickel (VPSL of MacEwan University)** to discuss about our **2015-2016 plans**. We are definitely looking for more opportunities to collaborate with other institutions in the upcoming year. A conversation has already been initiated with our senior managers on extending invitations to other Alberta institutions to participate in this year's **Alberta Student Leadership Summit**. So far, I have received responses from **SAIT, SAMU, and University of Lethbridge** expressing their interest to take part. More updates will be provided as the summer progresses!

I have also initiated ongoing meetings with **Executive Directors of Community Social Work Team, University Health Centre, and Counselling and Clinical Services** in order to obtain statistical documents on student traffic, student use of services, and amount spent on initiatives/improving programming. In order to lobby for **continuing provincial mental health funding** (cheers to **President Khinda and VP Hanwell** for taking the lead), it is critical that we have sufficient data to present to the government to show that the fund has helped many students. Both **Community Social Work Team and Counselling and Clinical Services** had already responded. They will be compiling the data and forwarding it our way possibly by the end of June.

Health and Services

Incase you haven't had the opportunity to check it out - The **new pharmacy location** is now opened! It's definitely much more visible and accessible for students. Loving the new location.

There were some interesting discussions surrounding a new external mental health service while **VP Bondarchuk** and I were at the **Student Care Montreal Stakeholders' Conference**. **Psyvitalati** is an online psychology network that was just launched in **British Columbia and now Alberta**. Students will be able to use their health plan to cover their telepsychology visits (appointments via videoconference). We haven't had the opportunity to do a test trial with the program yet, but I am definitely excited to see how it works. There some scientific papers on telepsychology that are available in most academic research databases just incase some of you are interested in learning more about the methods and effectiveness.

Did you know that **Unwind Your Mind** is offering mini grants up to **\$1000** for campus members (students; staff; faculty members) to participate in program/initiative coordinating? If you have some ideas on enhancing the programming of Unwind Your Mind and would like some support, you should totally apply. There is currently no deadline for the application.

Events

The annual **U of C Wellness Summit** is taking place this Tuesday! Last year was loads of fun, knowledge, and inspiration. Hopefully there will be some exciting conversations taking place regarding how to move forward with the **Provincial Mental Health and Addiction Framework**.

Bonus Surprise

This is the first time I am doing this and I will see how it goes - I will be asking a question by the end of every report, and the first person to send me the correct answer(s) via text/email (not facebook) will receive a special surprise from me at the next council meeting.

Which institutes shared the provincial mental health fund? What was the total amount granted to these institutions?