

November 3rd, 2014

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council (for November 4th meeting)

Dear Council,

I am submitting my report on the day of the meeting because I have some really recent developments that need to be reported on! I will also not be in Council today since I will be representing UofA students at the Conference Board of Canada's PSE Skills Summit in Toronto, along with President Lau. If you have questions about the content of my report, please email me before or ask one of my fellow Executives during Council.

Rally to Prioritize Post-Secondary Education

On October 27th and 28th, the members of CAUS met in Edmonton. We discussed a number of issues, but the most time sensitive is this – **we have collectively decided to host a rally at the Legislature!** After lobbying on the topic of market modifiers for roughly three months, we needed to ensure that students and the public understand the impact of tuition hikes and that this is only happening because of government underfunding. November 17th is significant for two reasons: it is the first day of the Fall sitting, meaning that is when the Speech from the Throne happens! It is the first day of governing so it's quite a symbolic day for everyone involved. Second, November 17th is the date on which the Ministry of Innovation and Advanced Education said the decision regarding market modifier proposals would be made.

However, this rally is about more than that – it's about telling the government that we want them to prioritize post-secondary education. Our institutions and students have been hit hard by reduced funding, and students especially so. Our courses have been cut, we've seen quality deteriorate, yet the price tag keeps rising. Our rally doesn't necessarily just have to be against tuition hikes. It is also *for* showing that students' interests *are* Alberta's interests. We have the lowest post-secondary participation rate in the country and it's time to change that if Alberta truly wants to sustain itself as a leading economy. Students from the University of Calgary, Mount Royal University, the University of Lethbridge, and MacEwan University will be joining us!

Right now, time is a big concern, seeing as we have only six business days until the rally. Despite that, I'm confident we can get large numbers of students out **but I'm counting on your support!** Many of you have approached me over the year so far expressing concern about things like tuition, fees, and underfunding. Now's your chance to engage your constituents and get them to come out and take a stand!

The details of the day itself will be sent out shortly, but stay tuned for a Facebook Event page and posters. The Faculty Associations and other Student Representative Associations will be notified on Wednesday. If you want to volunteer to do outreach (such as poster and class-talks), please email our Advocacy and Outreach Campaigns Officer at aoco@su.ualberta.

I'm dropping everything else for the next two weeks to focus on this so there is not much else to report. My time will be spent doing significant outreach to inform students about the rally. Right after the rally, I will be flying to Ottawa.

Cheers,



Navneet Khinda

Vice President External 2014-2015 // University of Alberta Students' Union

Chair // [Council of Alberta University Students](#)

P: (780) 492-4236 // E: vp.external@su.ualberta.ca

Twitter: [@uasuvpexternal](https://twitter.com/uasuvpexternal)