

Date: June 21, 2017
To: Students' Council
Re: Report to Students' Council

Hi Council,

The last couple weeks have been a whirlwind for me. Besides some personal developments, I have been largely in the office, which has seen me try and get a lot of internal projects, research, and meetings done.

Mid Year Managers Meeting

The Executive and I spent the day at our mid-year manager's meeting last Friday, and I found it to be incredibly useful. There were still a few folks I had not met, as well as some student employees, in the room, which made for some great discussions. The executive and general manager gave updates and so far it looks like we are ready to have a fantastic year.

Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) - In Person Meeting

I chaired my first full in-person meeting for CAUS this Monday in Calgary, and overall it went well. We have selected our research direction for the year, the international student experience in Alberta, adopted new communications and travel policies and set our meeting times for the rest of the year. I will have two sessions of importance coming up on behalf of CAUS; 1st a meet and greet with the Advanced Education Ministry and 2nd a Funding Framework Review meeting. CAUS remains very strong, and our member institutions appear to be bonding very well.

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

A very preemptive report, however, President Banister and I will be heading to CASA policy and strategy conference from July 24 - 27. If you've any interest in federal advocacy or our union's priorities for that meeting, please contact me anytime. Items to keep in mind would be topics such as Student Financial Aid, Indigenization, and Internationalization.

Mental Health Funding Announcement



Minister Marlin Schmidt Making Announcement

By far the biggest news of the week was the announcement regarding mental health funding for post-secondary institutions. This portfolio has been a priority for many student leaders over the past few years, mainly since the first funds were announced in 2013.

I can confidently say that the announcement was good news, for UASU members and students across the province. A short version of the wins:

- Increase in funding from 4.6 million province wide to 8.9 million in first year (**increase in funding a UASU & CAUS advocacy priority for over 3 years**)
- 25.8 million to be allocated over 3 years (**sustainable and long term funding a UASU & CAUS advocacy direction over past 3 years**)
- No decrease in existing services
- Focus on collaboration with Alberta Health Services to create an integrated and long term system for campus mental health (better triaging and supports for students everywhere)
- Funding Healthy Campus Alberta Community of Practice
- Reviewing Student Aid Policies to "better support students experiencing mental health concerns"
- Granting opportunity for Indigenous post-secondary students mental health.
- 24 hour virtual care

News Release & Information:

<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=47143BE408224-AAB2-7176-D584AF992BD423D8>

Although the announcement was great news, our advocacy is not quite finished, as we still will hear individual institution allocations of mental health funding in late summer and early fall. From the comments made by the government, the University of Alberta is in a very good position. We still need to ensure student input into the allocation of those funds, in the development of services, and in the accountability process for those funds. I implore anyone with interest in this area to take a look at the submitted information item and ask any questions you may have.



CAUS Vice Chair Connor Peta, Minister Schmidt

That's it folks! As always, feel free fire me any questions, or request information.

Cheers,



Reed Larsen