

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council (for January 19, 2016 meeting)

Introduction

Hey crew,

First things first, I'll be having a job shadow day on February 1st from ~9:30 am until ~4 pm. For the job shadow day, if you are interested in coming please let me know in Council or shot me an email at vp.external@su.ualberta.ca. That said, I would like to set up a lobby meeting that my job shadow-ees that may need to be limited to those who are more serious about considering the election, but the rest of my day should be able to accommodate for more people.

These last two weeks I've spent a bit of time refocusing on what I was doing before the break and the priorities I'll have until the end of the year. Over the last 3 and a half months of my term I'll be focused on the following:

- Mental Health funding renewal
- Completing my role as Director of Advocacy with CASA and Chair of the National Advocacy team
- Developing political policy around the TRC calls to action and updating all SU policies that pertain to my portfolio
- Develop a strategy for further research into Student Experience/Engagement and potentially do some of that research
- Transition the new VPX (both relationships and knowledge)

As with the job, there will be other emerging issues that I will need to deal with, but these will be the things that will stay on my to-do list.

Municipal

Nothing much to report here other than a response to the letter that the ESA submitted regarding Edmonton Transit. The response to the letter assured us that our concerns have been heard and we will continue to be a valued stakeholder. Not too much of a response, but the ESA Chair will be meeting with Councillor Knack again in February to talk more about our relationship.

Provincial

I've been adding a few more names onto the list of MLAs I have met with and have had meetings with MLA Goehring, MLA Shepherd, and MLA Nielsen. These meetings all went well and my main point was to stress that the mental health funding we receive needs to be renewed. All three MLAs understood the importance of both mental health and why this issue is important now. As well, we heard that both the Mental Health report and the online sign-up for STEP jobs will be coming soon.

I will be in Calgary on the 21/22 of this month for a CAUS meeting where we will be talking about our strategy for renewal of mental health funding, our Student Financial Aid paper, and working more on our submission to the government regarding tuition. I will relay back what we discuss for all of you next council.

Federal

I had the opportunity to sit in on a Pre-Budget Consultation with local MP (and former UASU VPX) Randy Boissonnault for the upcoming federal budget. The Director of Research and Political Affairs and I attended the youth session on behalf of the UASU and we talked a lot about post-secondary education. A couple of the questions asked included "If you had \$1B as a government, what would you spend it on" as well as questions regarding building the economy while making sure no one is left behind. It was a great experience especially because the consultation that the federal government is doing is so expansive. We got a few ideas of what we will be submitting as the SU to their online submission site.

Internal Students' Union

I have been working on my final goal – the student experience research that I want to export out to the U of A and government. I just received a brief from our Research and Advocacy Department on measuring student experience or student engagement. One way that it is currently done is through the National Survey on Student Engagement (NSSE) (pronounced ne-see), but the survey is not always a determinant of student success. Anyways, it is a complex system that I would be more than happy to talk about if you are interested but long story short, we are trying to find another way that we can effectively measure student engagement on campus that will add to the NSSE data.

Thanks all, look forward to seeing your beautiful faces! Remember that my job shadow day is February 1st and please let anyone know who may be interested to email me at vp.external@su.ualberta.ca!

Always.



Dylan