

August 24, 2014

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council (for August 25, 2015 meeting)

Introduction

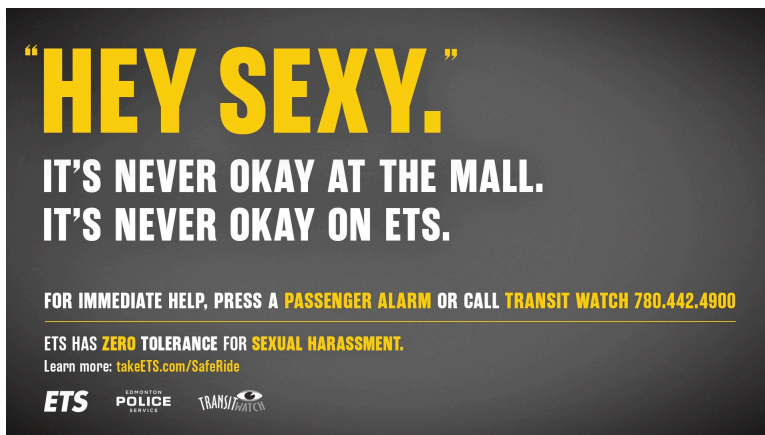
Howdy folks,

Sorry again for sending this in late, conferencing took a bit out of me, but we all made it back alive and well(ish). 50% of my last two weeks have been at two different conferences and the other half has really been catching up back at home. See below for all the deets!

Municipal

Not much happening here, but one thing is that we got to see the outcome of the City Council meeting that the ESA presented at with WAVE Edmonton. In case you haven't seen, ETS has shown the campaign that they will be rolling out to combat sexual harassment on transit. The ads are the first from a host of safety related ads that will be coming out over the next several months.

It's great to see that ETS is taking the issues that riders have seriously, and was able to engage students in the process, a large portion of their ridership. As well, this was a long term project for the Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton Committee (WAVE) and they have been incredible in pushing for this initiative. If you're interested in the work they do, I would definitely suggest checking out the committee.



Provincial

Not a lot is going on provincially, but I do want to thank Councillor Angus for volunteering to work with Transfer Alberta on the new tool they are testing for transferring schools!

I will also have met with MLA Dang as of Tuesday afternoon to talk about International Student Fees, which I'm very excited about. Mr. Dang knows quite a bit about our advocacy priorities from being around the SU and hopefully we will be able to talk about regulation of the fees, or at least transparency.

Federal

Loooooots of stuff federally. One of the conferences I was at was the CASA Get Out the Vote conference in Ottawa where we went through how to use the software we have bought for the campaign and how to organize our campaign through Apathy is Boring. The first day there we had a full day working with Apathy is Boring, a non-partisan organization doing voter mobilization for all youth in Canada. The second day we worked with our creative vendor, Groundforce Digital, and went through how to use NationBuilder (where we store contact info) and our website. The last day we went over CASA stuff mainly; we had our plenary meeting and approved a super cool research paper of student financial aid.

In terms of GOTV, we are in full swing now and will be going hard until the election trying to collect pledges to vote. Myself and Ranya, our campaign coordinator, have set the goal of collecting 7500 pledges. I know, it's a lot. And we need your help. If you would like to be a volunteer for the campaign please fill out this Google form <http://goo.gl/forms/UScr0Y3RYA>. We are going to need all the help we can get, but councilors can really be some of our best volunteers. If you are interested in a leadership role as well with the campaign please let me know.

Most of the last week and this week will all be prepping for GOTV for WoW!

Internal Students' Union

The second conference that the whole executive went to was the Student Union Development Summit (SUDS) in Vancouver. We all had a great, though tiring time at the conference. The conference is run and hosted by the UBC Alma Mater Society, which represents all UBC students. They just opened their new building called The Nest which is absolutely beautiful, and we were lucky enough that most of the sessions were held in the building.

I went to sessions that mainly dealt with my position, including how to persuade government (from an old CASA staffer!), and a great session run by Elections Canada on the requirements for students to vote in the election, what Elections Canada is doing for this election, and the effect of new legislation (Bill C-23) on student voters. They have designed a lot of information packets that I will be using for the GOTV campaign that will really help students understand what they need to register to vote which I was really happy to see.

We also had an executive retreat on Friday which was really great, and a good respite from the job. All that dawned on me is that we are 1/3 of the way done our terms! Pretty amazing when you think about it, but I'm glad it's gone so well so far.

Anyways, that's about all on this end.

Know yourself,

