

July 11th, 2013

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council (for July 16th meeting)

Introduction

Hello Council,

This report will be relatively brief, however I do have a few updates to provide that have developed over the past weeks.

Municipal Election Campaign:

I met last week with the representatives from the Students' Association of Macewan University, as well as from the NAIT Students' Association to discuss whether or not we wanted to participate in a joint campaign surrounding the Municipal election. The end result was agreement on holding a joint campaign, as well as a rough sketch of what exactly the plan is.

First and foremost, this campaign will likely incorporate the majority of post secondary students' associations across Edmonton. In addition to Macewan and NAIT, the U of A Graduate Students' Association will be a key organizer. We will also be inviting Concordia, Kings and Norquest to participate if they so choose, however the organization of this campaign will largely be left to the U of A, Macewan and NAIT teams.

The plan is to take a three pronged approach. First and foremost, we want to get student issues in the spotlight with the public and with the candidates for both Mayor and Council. We are going to send out joint questionnaires to candidates running in all races, and will post their responses on a website designed for the campaign. The questions will be based on a variety of issues facing students in our city. For example, Grant Macewan currently has a safety issue they'd like to bring up surrounding crosswalks on their campus. We would obviously want to bring up property taxes. All schools will want to bring up issues surrounding the U-Pass. Ultimately this will give students in every part of the city the opportunity to see how candidates for Mayor and in their district fare on student issues.

We will also be holding a Mayoral forum. While we have yet to decide which venue we will choose between all the schools involved, it will likely be held at Grant Macewan. At this point the we have determined October the 8th as the best possibility for hosting a forum. I do realize that this is during a Students' Council meeting, however hopefully we can arrange things so that business is light that day and we could all train down together after the meeting.

In addition I have committed to meeting with all the Mayor candidates prior to the election and all successful city councilors after the election.

CAUS:

The rest of the Exec and I will be in Calgary this upcoming (past) weekend for a CAUS Roundtable. It will be a great opportunity for the rest of the Executive to see how exactly CAUS functions, the type of business we deal with, and ultimately the opportunity to compare notes with individuals of the same position from other Students' Unions. I will provide Council an update on how the roundtable went in my oral report.

I am also incredibly pleased to announce that Beverly Eastham, a past UASU VP External, has been selected as the new Executive Director of CAUS. Beverly started her new job last Monday, and seems

incredibly excited to get started. Her previous experience in Alberta provincial advocacy make her a perfect fit for the position and I can say that I am incredibly excited to see what she will bring to the table.

CASA:

I only have one CASA related update tonight. I had mentioned earlier that the National Advocacy Team and CASA have decided to orchestrate a Canada wide federal advocacy campaign. After discussion at our last meeting and a general overview of all the different topics we could create a campaign on, it was decided to target student debt as our main issue. Each campus will host their own event sometime in the first semester, and while each event may be different they will all have the same theme and message. We are optimistic that a grassroots campaign held across the country will attract media and government attention to the issue of student debt.

That is all I have to report at this time. I encourage you to ask any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time,



Adam Woods

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