

Date: 2022-09-29

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President External 2022/23 Report #10

Dear Council,

Below is a summary of recent activities and duties I have undertaken these past two weeks. I will follow up with a more fulsome report.

BTR

Huge shoutout and thank you to all the councilors and volunteers who were able to make BTR happen. Particularly to our events team and VP Fogue. While we did not break the record, we certainly lifted school spirits and brought a sense of community bag to campus.

Residential School Memorial

I was privileged to have been able to partake in the Residential School Memorial. VP Viloso and the ISU team did a great job organizing and planning the event. This event was a reminder that there is very much still a lot of work to be done in our country and within our institution in regard to reconciliation. I hope that many of you can take the time to pass by the memorial, reflect, and as we often ask ourselves at council, what role we play in the resurgence and revitalization of Indigenous students and Indigenous people in our community.

Senate Plenary

Last week, I attended Senate Plenary. On the first day of Plenary, I had the chance to meet our new student senators but also see the Dean of Faculte St. Jean, Jason Kerry present. Dean Kerry shared his vision for the campus and the bold steps he hopes to take to ensure that CSJ is leading the way and our university in building a strong and vibrant francophonie not only in Alberta and Western Canada but a global francophonie that is ready to tackle the issues surrounding our world.

On the second day of Plenary, I presented the executive goals to Senators. I was pleased by the reception and feedback our goals received. Senators were engaged and wanted to know how they can support us in achieving many of our goals, especially in regard to those that touch on student mental health, accommodations, and affordability.

CASA

E-Plenary

Last week Friday, I chaired CASA's E-Plenary. This was a special meeting to approve a flight of new Political policies, Operating Procedures and ratify new observers. It has been incredible to witness the pace at which we are recruiting new observers and new members. The task of solving and advocating on behalf of students cannot be done alone. It required a bold, brilliant, dedicated, and united student movement. CASA's expansion in Provinces such as Ontario is a testament to our work and the results we are getting on behalf of students. I look forward to sharing more updates with council.

Mental Health Report

Earlier this week, CASA released its report on Student Mental Health two years after COVID-19. For context, CASA partnered with Abacus data and the Mental Health Commission of Canada to survey Post-Secondary students across the country. Some interesting data to highlight is that 75% of students struggled with mental health during their studies, and their mental health worsened during the pandemic. Students also identified more support for their diverse needs. This is important data that will fuel our advocacy, especially amongst MPs and folks within the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions.

Forward Slash

President Monteiro, Councillor Arslan, and I attended Forward Slash, a conference organized by Edmonton Global, an economic development group that helps promote the region. This event was an opportunity to highlight the role post-secondary students play in the region and why retaining and attracting talent is necessary for Edmonton. Beginning these conversations but also finding the solutions for supporting students is incredibly important. Whether it's creating more student-centered employment opportunities, transit safety, or affordable housing, these are all priorities with multiple stakeholders whom we had the chance to meet and continue these discussions with.

As always, thank you for taking the time to go through this report. I look forward to your questions and comments.

Cheers,



Christian Fotang

Vice President External
University of Alberta Students' Union