

**Date:** 2021/09/17

**To:** Students' Union Council

**Re:** Vice President External 2021/22 Report #11

Dear Council,

I hope you are all doing well and staying safe and responsible amid the rising cases and confusion. Next Monday is election day and for those of you who can vote and have not already voted, I hope you are making plans to do so! Remember to go to [Electionscanada.ca](https://electionscanada.ca) to find out where your nearest polling station is and bring valid ID and proof of address. It is not only your civic duty but your chance to determine our country that will affect massive change in our country. So please be informed and GO VOTE!!!!

#### **Edmonton-Strathcona Candidates Forum**



The Edmonton-Strathcona candidates forum was a success. I would like to thank all the volunteers, and staff who were able to make this event possible. I would also like to thank the councillors who were able to make it out to last Tuesday's event. This event provided the chance for students online or in-person to directly ask the candidates questions. I was most impressed with the politeness of our audience as well as our candidates, there was no interrupting nor heckling. Students asked tons of questions ranging from childcare, and climate justice to diversifying Alberta's economy and how they plan to support folks with disabilities. These forums are always an important platform for students to be informed about the parties and hold their future MP accountable to the

promises they made on the stage once elected. I hope all students in attendance got something out of it and I look forward to the future forums we plan on hosting for the municipal elections.

#### **Senate Student Caucus meeting/New Senate Orientation**

Last Friday, the student members of the UAlberta Senate: Milan Regmi, Tahmid Al Hafiz, and Kyle Daniel and I met to discuss the shared priorities we want to bring forward this year at the Senate. For context, the University of Alberta Senate is an independent body of diverse community leaders and University representatives, whose mission is to inquire into any matter that might benefit the University and enhance its position in the community. We discussed priorities such as increasing focus on mental health, increasing enrollment of Indigenous learners and as the Senate began the process of updating its strategic plan, we discussed reviewing the previous strategic plan and discussing what essential additions can be made to this new plan from the student perspective.

During our New Senate orientation meeting, we got a chance to learn more about the senate from returning senators as well as important programs that are run by Senate such as Uschool, a program aimed to introduce and connect students in grades 4 through 9 from socially vulnerable, Aboriginal

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(First Nations, Métis and Inuit) and rural communities to the University of Alberta.

I look forward to our first plenary session which is coming up soon where we will have more time to actually get into the details of things. If you have any questions or would like to know more about what the Senate does, please feel free to reach out to me.

### **D.I.E Board interview**

This last week, Vice-President Monteiro, Councillors Gardner and Gill as well as tribune Zurkowski and Emily Stolz interviewed candidates for the seats on the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement (D.I.E) Board. Thank you to Chief Tribune Zurkowski for coordinating the date and times for each interview and facilitating the interview process. The selection committee will be making its decision soon and we shall be coming to you with our nominations this meeting.

### **Notable Meetings**

#### Catherine Swindlehurst

The execs met with the University's Chief Strategy Officer, Catherine Swindlehurst. We had the chance to discuss the recent changes to COVID-19 regulations in the province and how that affects our classes. Vice-President Monteiro sought more information on the universities plan to de-densify campus as well as echoing the frustrations many students have over not wanting to return to online classes but also ensuring that academic accessibility accommodations are in place in the event such a shift needs to happen. I asked about what specifically the university has in plan for enforcing the new rules set from the Restriction Exemption Program. She explained that President Flanagan was in conversation with Minister Nicolaides and as announced from yesterday's email, the University will continue under current protocol and starting October 4th, the University will have a vaccination proof program which will be the place for the students to share their proof of vaccination.

#### ASA President

I met with Augustana Students' Association President Roebel to discuss the GOTV mobilization efforts at Augustana. They have been running social media campaigns and offering prizes to students who share why they are voting and using the GOTV Graphic asset library provided by CASA. While they had hoped to run a forum, the changing nature of COVID-19 regulations has been a serious impediment to their plans. We will be meeting again to discuss plans for the municipal elections.

*As always, I look forward to hearing from you and answering any questions you have. I hope you enjoy the rest of your week and are studying well!!*

Yours Externally,



University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President External  
**Christian Fotang**