

January 30, 2014

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council (for February 4th meeting)

Introduction

Hello Council,

These past weeks have been incredibly busy with the Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee campaign, the CASA Wall of Debt Campaign, and other tedious things that have made me refer to my office as "home" by accident more than once. Without any further ado, I'll get into what's going on.

Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee Awareness Campaign:

As many of you may be aware, the UASU is currently holding a Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee (MNIF) awareness campaign with the goal of spreading general understanding to the undergraduate population of how the University assesses what a student charges the University.

The campaign largely focuses on the Common Student Space, Sustainability, and Services Fee (CoSSS fee), and how this is essentially the Universities method to overstep the tuition cap in order to make the institution more revenue. Some fun facts about the CoSSS fee are that it doesn't pay for student space, sustainability, or student services, and instead pays for things like waste removal and University of Alberta Protective Services.

The campaign launched this past Monday with the putting up of posters on most of campus, and some lawn signs throughout the Quad to Tory path. More posters will be put up next Monday, and it seems that a good portion of the lawn signs have become the latest victim of the weather.

Some big successes of the campaign so far have been a story on the front page of the Metro and general notice by students over social media (which is AMAZING). Next week we'll also be putting out a Rick Mercer Rant style video talking about the issue of MNIF's, which will hopefully prompt the campus do help the Students' Unions efforts to fight these fees. SUTV ads will also be put up next week.

CASA Wall of Debt Campaign:

Something else that has taken up much of my time over the past couple weeks has been the final set up for CASA's "Wall of Debt" campaign. After CASA's last plenary in Ottawa, it was decided that the National Advocacy Committee (of which I Chair) would be tasked with the responsibility of coming up with options for a campaign as well as date options, move an endorsement, and then host a town hall in which the entirety of CASA could voice their opinion on which campaign was best to conduct.

This was a very trying task, and I'm very happy to announce that CASA has finally reached a decision. With that being said, there is also a bit of bad news that comes to light. The dates decided upon at the town hall were both weeks of the upcoming Executive election, with a further caveat being added that institutions that could not conduct a campaign on the set date much do it either a week before or after the campaign. This means we can either host ours during reading week, during the election, or not at all.

This decision will likely be coming to Executive, however I would say its highly likely the U of A will not be

participating in this particular campaign. This has nothing to do with resentment towards CASA, and entirely to do with us not wanting to take attention away from the election. One of the downfalls of being a part of such a big organization is that no one date will work for our schools, and in this case we were one of the institutions that would have difficulty making this happen. I would appreciate input from Councilors on this matter.

Miscellaneous:

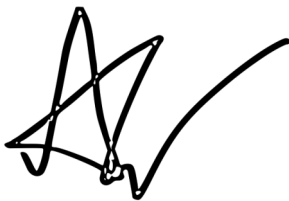
There are a couple of other minor things that I would like to update Council on. The first is that for those of you who didn't hear or get the opportunity to make it out, Justin Trudeau was on campus and stopped by the Students' Union Building to meet some students. Some individuals were unhappy that Mr. Trudeau didn't speak or take questions while here, however I have been informed his schedule was very tight. I've extended another invitation to host him if he is interested, and we're hopeful he'll take us up on that. Additionally on this topic, and while I cannot say who at this point, there will be another prominent MP coming to campus in the coming months to give a talk and take questions. The hint I'll give you is that he's an Ontario Conservative MP.

The Executive and I will be off to Calgary tomorrow for a brief roundtable with the Students' Unions of the Universities of Calgary and Lethbridge. I'm sure this will be a very good opportunity to learn more about the initiatives our counterparts across the province are engaging in. I will provide Council with more of an extensive update in my oral report.

Also, the Alberta Committee on Transfers and Admissions is looking for a student representative to help with the development of an app. There will be four two-hour meetings over the span of the summer. They have requested that it be someone not running in an upcoming election. Please let me know if you're interested.

Lastly, Students' Union job opening will start to be available soon. If you aren't planning on running, please check out www.jobkin.ca to see the great employment opportunities the SU offers. At this point that is all I have to report.

Thank you for your time,

**Adam Woods****Vice President External** 2013-2014 | University of Alberta Students' Union**Phone:** (780) 492-4236 | **F:** (780) 492-4643 | **E:** vp.external@su.ualberta.ca**Twitter:** @uasuvpexternal or @AWoo_ds



Office of the VICE PRESIDENT (EXTERNAL)
