

July 7th, 2016  
To: Students' Council  
Re: Report to Students' Council

### **Council Report #5: Better than the Brexit.**

Hello Council,

Feast your eyes on yet another report from the Office of the Vice-President External. This time around we'll recap everything that has happened during the days before and after our nation's birthday! (Also, since the UK has decided to withdraw from the EU. A bold move copper, let's see how it plays out for them.)

#### UASU

##### Meeting Board Chair, Michael Phair

On the last Thursday of June (\*read: RATTIO Night), myself along with the rest of the execs had the opportunity to sit down with Michael Phair, the chair of our university's Board of Governors. I am pleased to say that we had a very productive meeting. Mr. Phair was very receptive to the student perspective and was very willing to listen to the goals our executive has set out for the year. He looks forward to ensuring greater diversity on the Board as well as meaningful discussion around agenda items. I am excited for our organization to be working with him over the course of his term.

#### ESA

##### Edmonton Student Alliance Inaugural Meeting

Nearing the end of last month, the ESA had it's first meeting of the year. The ESA, for those who are curious, is a relatively new organization meant to bring together the student leaders of Student Associations around the city. At our inaugural meeting we had a short presentation on UPass by Jon Mastel our Director of Research and Political Affairs (DRPA), Duncan (SAMU's equivalent of Jon), and Katie the Vice-President (External) at NAITSA. In addition to the presentation, we spent much of our time deciding where we stood on a Terms of Reference. As an organization, we have decided that drafting a TOR is a necessary first step to increasing the strength of the ESA in later years. By giving the organization a clear direction, we hope to give member SA's a stronger voice when it comes to municipal advocacy. We have also decided that the primary objective this year will be UPass negotiations, however if negotiations go well, we may decide on another advocacy goal.

##### Ad Hoc UPass Meeting

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Today, the ESA had it's first Ad Hoc meeting of the year. Member SA's were invited to gather together and discuss UPass negotiations as we prepare to move into the next round of talks. I am happy to say that this was a very productive meeting. Member SA's were urged to bring along their colleagues who play a role at the negotiation table. At the meeting I, accompanied by Robyn and Francesca, were able to have meaningful discussions with SAMU, NAITSA, the UofA GSA, NORQUESTSA and CSA about our stance moving forward. Thankfully, it seems as if ETS is willing to work closely with students as they move forward, and I am optimistic that negotiations will go well!

### CASA

#### Trades & Tech Goals

The Trades & Technology committee has been meeting quite regularly over the past little while. Recently we decided on our three policy priorities for the year. I am happy to say that because I pushed to ensure Student Employment Issues are taken seriously, they have been added to our list of three policy priorities. The three that this committee has chosen to take precedence for the year are (the tentatively named) Student Employment Issues, Supporting Digital Infrastructure, and Credit Transfer and Student Mobility. By putting these on issues on our committee's priorities list we hope to have a stronger argument when the CASA Policy and Strategy conference comes around to get these added to our advocacy priorities for the year.

That's it, that's all folks! I hope you had a good time reading up on my biweekly report! Unfortunately, my office hours will be cancelled for the next couple of weeks, but feel free to shoot me an email! I can't guarantee the most prompt reply, as I'll be away for a bit, but I'll be sure to get back to you when I can.

Keep it poppin',  
Mike Sandare