



June 9th, 2016
To: Students' Council
Re: Report to Students' Council

**Council Report #3: Back in the office, time to KickStart this month right
(also the story of the battle of MacHall)**

Hello Council,

These past couple weeks have been both exciting and productive. It's odd being able to report in from my office desk as opposed to on a laptop at a conference, but I always enjoy telling you about how things have been going in the world of the Vice-President (External).

I will be splitting this report in to two sections, the first will be on the interesting things that have been going on at the UASU and the second will be what has been going on with CAUS. I hope you enjoy it!

UASU

Meeting the President

On Tuesday the 5th, all of the execs had a short and informal meeting with UofA president David Turpin. During the meeting we each gave a brief overview of our goals for the year, before listening to what he had planned for the institution. I was able to have a quick conversation with him about the issues of access and affordability relating them back to grants, funding frameworks and the international differential fee. Though President Turpin gave some pushback on regulating the international differential fee, it is good knowing the administration's viewpoint as I continue to advocate for issues that matter to students. Regardless of whether we agree. However, the overall meeting was quite productive. I was able to learn a little more about where the administration stands on certain issues, as well as projects such as the Muskwa House that the university hopes to move forward on this year.

Pride Festival

On Saturday I had the pleasure of participating in the Pride Parade alongside our friends at Outreach and the Landing. I am happy to have been given the chance to show support for my friends and fellow students by marching in the parade (as opposed to just watching it) this year! I'd like to say a huge thank you to all of the councillors who showed up to give their support as well, it is exciting to see everyone come together for one another!

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CAUSSFA

This past week I had the opportunity to meet with members of the civil service department directly dealing with student financial aid (SFA). Being our preliminary meeting, much of it dealt with acquainting new CAUS members with the role of the department, as well as providing some insight into what they have been working on for the past year. In addition, we discussed the future submission of a CAUS recommendations paper on SFA. I am excited to be able to take on a portion of the work for this paper.

MacHall

On Friday of last week the entire executive drove down to Calgary to show our support for the University of Calgary Students' Union (UCSU) during the final injunction hearing against their University. For those of you who might be curious, this is because for the past few months the UCSU and UofC have been locked in a court battle against one another for ownership of MacHall (the UofC Students' Union Building). This is because MacHall is an incredibly profitable student owned venture, and the University of Calgary decided to fight to take control of their finances.

It is because of the gravity of the situation that myself, along with the rest of the exec decided to sit in support of the UCSU. Fortunately or unfortunately, this is a precedent setting case. If the University of Calgary is to win control of MacHall, the possibility of other universities claiming ownership of their Students' Union buildings opens up. We hope that the UCSU wins their injunction, and if not, we will be sure to support them as the enter formal legal action to determine ownership.

Well that's all folks! If you've got any questions or comments please let me know and I will be sure to clarify for you.

Keep on keeping on (with the sweet sounds of the free world),
Mike Sandare