

September 20, 2016

Dear Council,

I can hardly believe GovWeek is already here! After months of planning the 62 events and sessions finally came together. I hope you will join the rest of the SU exec and I in taking in as many of the opportunities as possible.

1. GovWeek

The GovWeek Schedule is now live! You can find it at www.govweek.ca. Keynote speakers include Minister Marlin Schmidt and Mayor Don Iveson. Highlighted sessions include Council 101, EPSB Chair Michael Janz, and Textbook Broke Alberta. Use #GovWeek to stay in the loop online!

GovWeek Advisory Group (GWAG)

GWAG met once before GovWeek started to discuss the surveys we will be distributing to GovWeek participants and organizers, as well as advertising strategies.

2. Meetings & Committees

COFA

VP Ghossein and I attended both Advocacy Working Group and Member Services Group COFA meetings this last week. At the Advocacy Working Group we discussed their goals, what they hope to get out of COFA, GovWeek, and the proposed Interdisciplinary Conference. At Member Services Group we discussed their goals, mental health initiatives, combating sexual violence, and the last class bash.

Vacancies

I am currently looking for a student rep to volunteer as a Green and Gold Student Leadership and Professional Development Grant Adjudicator, as well as on the Information Technology Advisory Committee. If you know of anyone interested in sitting on those committees, please tell them to contact me! At council I will also be moving to appoint 4 Councillors to sit on the PAW Strategic Operating Committee.

Academic Governance

These past few weeks I have had the start up meetings for GFC CLE, GFC Exec, and ASC. All of these are sub-committees of GFC. At GFC Exec, President Rahman presented the SU goals for the year, and we built the GFC agenda.

4. Other Exciting Endeavours

Interdisciplinary Conference



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I have had several meetings with campus stakeholders to discuss the upcoming interdisciplinary conference. Most notable, I met with Martin Ferguson-Pell from the Peter Lougheed Leadership College who have very supportive of the initiative.

SU Podcast

One of my goals this year was to help start a Students' Union Podcast. As an avid podcast listener myself, I feel it is important to try to communicate with students in a variety of ways. Last week, we filmed our first episode which is set to release during GovWeek! The podcast will follow Council-Tuesday schedules and at the end of every segment we will go over what will be covered in that night's meeting. In this episode I will be interviewing Michael Janz, past President of the SU and current Chair of the Edmonton Public School Board. Please stay tuned as we launch Voice of the Union!



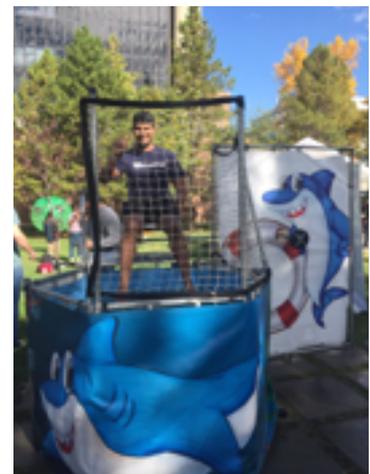
Faculty Association Dinners

Last week, the SU executive and I had dinner with APSA and FAUNA which are the Faculty Associations for Pharmacy and ALES respectively. It was great to go over their goals and see how we could help them. Importantly, both executives have vacancies that need to be filled in the upcoming by-elections. I have recently emailed all Faculty Associations and Councillors that have vacancies in their faculty whether that be on GFC, Students' Council, or their FA Exec.



Events

The rest of the exec and I have been busy attending many campus and community events in the past week weeks! These include "Mosquers" which was film festival dedicated to muslim film, that was an amazing event and it was a real privilege to watch the films. We also helped prepare food at the annual SU BBQ at Campus Saint Jean, this event has been going on for a number of years and this year we had an excellent turn out. Some of our SU Exec volunteered to get dunked at BSA and ESS events which happened on campus! Lastly, I attended the SUB Block Party which was held on the last day of Week of Welcome. It was a really spectacular event and most of all I loved the fireworks!



Thank you for reading this report and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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Banister*