

January 4th, 2014

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

Hey Council,

Before I proceed with my report, I would like to acknowledge that our university and our Students' Union are on Indigenous land. Specifically: Cree, Saulteaux, Metis, Blackfoot, and Nakota Siou. They are faculty, staff, students, family, and friends, and they are still here. I acknowledge that we meet on treaty 6 territory. That treaty governs the relationship between first-nations and non-first nations citizens. I am thankful for this opportunity for us to meet on this land today. This statement will be included at the front of my report to council until either the time that my term ends, or Council moves to makes a similar statement available for public viewing.

My work on the Territory Acknowledgment has continued and, hopefully, we will have it codified into Standing Orders by the end of today's CAC meeting. As a result, the above statement may be the last one necessary to be included in my report. Former Councillor Quetzala Carson, Councillor Morris and I will be presenting to Council regarding the statement.

Aside from working on the Acknowledgment, I also attended a General Faculties Council meeting on Monday. The meeting covered a number of important issues, and saw a good deal of student participation which is always a good thing. Of special significance was President Kusmu and Vice-President Chelen's presentation on the Fall Reading Week proposal. The proposal was not voted upon at the meeting – only discussed and questions answered. Nevertheless, the proposal was very well received by students and faculty which gives reason for optimism regarding the proposal.

Another important highlight was an update on the status of the Lougheed Leadership College by Martin Ferguson-Pell and returning Provost Carl Amrhein. The presentation highlighted some changes to the proposed College that have been made in light of feedback from stakeholders. However I feel that not

enough change has been demonstrated to make the College compatible with the culture of the University of Alberta. Many staff and students, myself included, continue to have concerns with the definition of “leadership” that will be enshrined in the spirit of the proposed College. It remains unclear what understanding of leadership will be utilized. When I asked a question to this end, Feurgeson-Pell reassured me that they are utilizing a definition of leadership that is as broad as possible, however the fact remains: the proposed College may not adequately incorporate some types and styles of leadership. For example, leaders are needed in the political and business sectors, but leaders are also needed in the realms of social, environmental, and economic justice. The current vision for the College does not really account for these types of leaders. In fact the proposed structure of the College is in many ways at odds with such leadership – the intuition is highly elite, hierarchical, and will almost certainly serve to reinforce the status quo instead of challenging it. The College will only serve to award even further privileges to those who likely already have many, which is at odds with a vision for true leadership, which would “uplift the whole people” instead of a select and privileged few.

Nevertheless, it is doubtful that the vision for the College will be dramatically altered to account for this shortcoming. One can only hope that some space will be given for alternative visions of leadership – critical ones especially – so that the College will appeal to a fully comprehensive body of students, instead of appealing to only certain groups.

Indira will be presenting to Council tonight regarding the College, and I will have another chance to express my concerns with the exclusive and problematic vision for the College. Hopefully she will be open to our concerns and will take them to heart as she and future administrators continue to set up the College.

In Solidarity,

Brent Kelly

Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative 2013-2014 | University of Alberta Students' Union
P: (780) 999-8867 | **F:** (780) 492-4643 | **E:** bog@su.ualberta.ca