

June 24, 2011

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Students' Council

Hi Council,

As you know I will be on vacation for the next two weeks. Unfortunately I will not have much access to email while I am away so I won't be able to respond timely to any emails. If you have anything urgent Andy Cheema will be the chair of the Executive while I am away and hopefully can answer your questions.

COMMUNICATIONS

I have put a lot of time over the past couple of weeks into communications meetings internally. I have been meeting frequently with each of the Vice Presidents, the General Manager, and the Director of Research & Political Affairs. I am beginning to understand better how to work with everyone in the office and how I can be most effective in supporting the executive. This has led to a lot of communication regarding our goals for the year and you will be receiving a presentation on July 12th from the Executive Committee on their final goals list.

BUILDING PLANNING

As part of the planning for renovations to our building and to the Power Plant the executive have decided that it will be very useful to see some examples of other student association spaces that are very successful in Canada; this was a recommendation from last years executive. The General Manager, myself, the Vice President (Operations & Finance), and the Vice President (Student Life) will all be going to Ontario from July 20-22 where we plan to tour 5 or 6 Students' Union Buildings. We did this through our projects allocation fund and this time saves us about half on the trip since myself, the General Manger, and the Vice President (Operations & Finance) will all be in Ontario already (myself for CASA and the other two for a meeting of the Canadian Student Horizon Group.)

THE STRATEGIC PLAN

I have created the beginning of a document to streamline the planning processes of the Students' Union. It relates Executive Goals to Department Goals to the Strategic Plan and I am very excited about the project. I have passed my thoughts on to the General Manager and the Vice President (Operations & Finance) and we will finalize a planning process some time in July.

FALL READING WEEK

The Fall Reading Week Task Force had its second meeting where a format for getting feedback was visualized. The process is going very well with many logistical options for creating the week on the table. The Vice President (Academic) will be taking my place as co-chair for the next meeting as I will be out of town. I think we will be able to make a lot of progress over the summer with the help of our research department and I look forward to future meetings.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

I attended a Board of Governors meeting on Friday, June 17. Some of the major issues that were discussed were:

- The Energy Management Plan – a system where the University borrows money to finance sustainability projects related to energy management and pays back the loan through energy savings.
- The creation of a French Language College program at Campus St. Jean
- The repurposing of Balmoural to build a cyclotron which creates medical isotopes for treatments and research
- The annual report from the auditor.
- The off-campus activity and travel policy.

There are no more Board meetings until September at which time the budget planning process will begin.

EDMONTON ALLIANCE OF STUDENTS

We have recently revived the Edmonton Alliance of Students, which is comprised of the Student Associations of Grant MacEwan, Nait, and ourselves. The three Presidents have decided to meet monthly and for our entire executives to meet bimonthly. This has proven to be a very good use of time and we have already started discussions on how to work together on the U-Pass and Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee regulation. I am very optimistic about the group and believe that this communication forum could play an integral role in these issues moving forward.

If you have any further questions, suggestions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to follow-up with me, either in person at SUB 2-900, by phone at 780-492-4236, or by email at president@su.ualberta.ca.

“Determine the thing that can and shall be done, and then we shall find the way.” – Abraham Lincoln