June 23rd, 2016
To: University of Alberta Students’ Council 2016/17
Re: Vice President Student Life Council Report

Hi Council!

On June 21st, VP Paches and I attended the Mary Robinson Special Conferral Ceremony. Mary Robinson is the first female President of Ireland and served as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from 1997 to 2002. She delivered an inspirational speech in which she honoured MP Jo Cox. Mary Robinson was instrumental in advancing issues on human rights, good governance and climate justice and I highly encourage you to look into her life story and endeavours.

In other news, every two weeks, one member of the executive committee writes a blog post, which is then posted on the Students’ Union website. This week, I chose to write a brief post about mental health on campus and a little about what I was planning on doing on that topic. You can find it here: https://www.su.ualberta.ca/governance/executives/blog/

ADVOCACY

Residence Life Task Force
On Friday the 17th, President Rahman and I had our first Residence Life Task Force meeting with the Dean of Students and the Deputy Provost. We talked about the different topics that we would talk about as well as the timelines and the processes that we need to determine (interviews, membership, etc.). Our next meeting is going to be in July (with the new Dean of Students) and we’ll be having bi-weekly meetings from then onwards.

Lister Representatives
We have re-opened the applications for the Lister Representatives Positions- the deadline for the new applications is July 4th. We have one to two positions to fill and have offered the positions to 3 students already.

HEALTH AND SERVICES

I have been meeting with our staff from the Peer Support Centre as well as the Associate Dean of Students, the Community Social Work team to chat about their visions for the year. They are
Office of the VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE

currently working on the ACCESS project (focused on the prevention of mental health concerns, starting with first year students) and I have been discussing what my role would be within that project.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Campus Food Bank
I had my first meeting on the CFB board. We talked about ideas for their annual fundraiser, which could be replaced by a celebration of the 25th anniversary. I got to meet the board members, talk about staff additions and changes as well as the search for a new database that would offer more options to the way that the numbers are currently tracked.

UPASS
VP Paches and I will be involved in the upcoming negotiations around the UPASS. We have attended internal meetings where we communicate our negotiation targets with the University. In our next UPASS meeting with the City and the different stakeholders (MacEwan University, etc.), we will be determining the timeline for the negotiations.

Finance Committee
We approved some changes made to the structure and the procedures of student group granting and the adjudication of SU awards after having listened to presentations from SU services staff about the rationale behind the changes.

MISCELLANEOUS

A reminder that my office hours are 12 p.m to 1 p.m on Fridays so stop by if you want to chat or have any questions. If that doesn't work for you, you can also e-mail me at vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca and we'll find a time to meet and chat.

Thank you for taking the time to read my report and thank you for demonstrating an excellent level of dedication and engagement so far. I look forward to our next meeting!

Cheers,

Francesca Ghossein
(Submitted electronically)