<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-09/1</td>
<td><strong>SPEAKERS BUSINESS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-09/2</td>
<td><strong>PRESENTATIONS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-09/2a</td>
<td>Council of Alberta University Students presented by the Executive Director Beverly Eastham and the Chair of CAUS Romy Garrido.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-09/3</td>
<td><strong>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-09/4</td>
<td><strong>BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-09/5</td>
<td><strong>QUESTION PERIOD</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-09/6</td>
<td><strong>BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-09/7</td>
<td><strong>GENERAL ORDERS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-09/8</td>
<td><strong>INFORMATION ITEMS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-09/8a</td>
<td>PRESIDENT Report. Please see LA 15-09.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-09/8b</td>
<td>VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL Report. Please see LA 15-09.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
August 24th, 2015  
To: University of Alberta Students’ Union Students’ Council 2015-2016  
From: Navneet Khinda, POTSU 2015-2016  
Re: Report to Students’ Council (for August 25th, 2015)

Snapshot
1. CASA GOTV Conference  
2. SUDS Conference  
3. Upcoming residence issues  
4. Miscellaneous  
   a. Governance Review Task Force  
   b. Student welcome video for President Turpin  
   c. SUB Art  
   d. Speech writing  
   e. Exec retreat  
   f. Time Capsule  
5. Looking ahead: Orientation + WoW

CASA – Preparing for Get Out the Vote
Earlier last week, VP Hanwell and I were in Ottawa with the rest of our CASA peers to get ready for our respective GOTV campaigns. The first day was a series of sessions and discussions presented by Apathy is Boring and Day two consisted of learning the various intricate details on how to use Nation Builder properly. We are ecstatic about throwing another fantastic campaign together for our beautiful campus!

In the words of VP Hanwell, “untold democratic riches await you”. We would absolutely love to have Councillors volunteer to help get out the vote! Some of you may already be walking around and visiting your friends/constituents during Week of Welcome – if you could get them signed up to pledge to vote, that would be fantastic. If you’re interested in volunteering, send an email to vp.external@su.ualberta.ca

WE NEED YOU! Honestly, we do. And I know for a fact that for the majority of you, your main goal this year was to engage with your constituents and actually talk to them. This is the perfect excuse to help you do that 😊

Student Union Development Summit
Right after CASA, VP Hanwell and I flew into Vancouver to join the rest of our wonderful team just in time for the SUDS conference. It’s hosted by the University of British Columbia’s Alma Mater Society – their equivalent of a Students’ Union. There are a variety of sessions on topics relevant to all portfolios but one of the biggest strengths of this conference is the networking and bonding opportunities. Many of the delegates that attend don’t work with us in CAUS or CASA so it allows us to meet and work with a broader array of student leaders.

While both conferences were useful and fun, I won’t hesitate in saying that it was a very exhausting week.
Residence concerns
I have spent a large portion of the past few days focusing on some emerging issues in Lister Hall. Due to various university decisions over the past four years, the Lister Hall Students’ Association has been suspended for the next two years. VP Kwan and I are working with Lister students and the Dean of Students office to explore potential solutions so that students are not left without representation for those years. Stay tuned for updates if/when the situation evolves.

Throughout the week …
There are a lot of other things going on simultaneously. I went to the first meeting of VP Rahman’s Governance Review Task Force where we set out a timeline for what we want to discuss this year. Super exciting stuff!

I’m also working with the GSA on creating a “welcome video” on behalf of U of A students for President Turpin’s Installation Ceremony in November. Making a video, especially a good one, is a long process. Fingers crossed on this one. Related to the arts, we have an internal Art Committee of sorts to figure out what we’re going to place on all the blank walls we have now! Hopefully we can get some lovely and unique pieces up soon.

As the entire university community gears up for back-to-school, I’m trying to stay on top of speech writing. Also, be sure to catch some of the events happening. Check out www.uasu.ca/WOW as well as www.athletics.ualberta.ca/schedules for all the upcoming Varsity games. (Hint hint, we should organize and go watch a game together!)

On September 4th, during our Block Party in the new SUB atrium, we will be burying a time capsule. Do you have ideas on what we should put in there to represent students? Please let us know!!!

See you soon!

Navneet Khinda
President 2015-2016
University of Alberta Students’ Union

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August 24, 2014

To: Students’ Council

Re: Report to Council (for August 25, 2015 meeting)

Introduction

Howdy folks,

Sorry again for sending this in late, conferencing took a bit out of me, but we all made it back alive and well(ish). 50% of my last two weeks have been at two different conferences and the other half has really been catching up back at home. See below for all the deets!

Municipal

Not much happening here, but one thing is that we got to see the outcome of the City Council meeting that the ESA presented at with WAVE Edmonton. In case you haven’t seen, ETS has shown the campaign that they will be rolling out to combat sexual harassment on transit. The ads are the first from a host of safety related ads that will be coming out over the next several months.

It’s great to see that ETS is taking the issues that riders have seriously, and was able to engage students in the process, a large portion of their ridership. As well, this was a long term project for the Women’s Advocacy Voice of Edmonton Committee (WAVE) and they have been incredible in pushing for this initiative. If you’re interested in the work they do, I would definitely suggest checking out the committee.

Provincial

Not a lot is going on provincially, but I do want to thank Councillor Angus for volunteering to work with Transfer Alberta on the new tool they are testing for transferring schools!
I will also have met with MLA Dang as of Tuesday afternoon to talk about International Student Fees, which I’m very excited about. Mr. Dang knows quite a bit about our advocacy priorities from being around the SU and hopefully we will be able to talk about regulation of the fees, or at least transparency.

**Federal**

Loooots of stuff federally. One of the conferences I was at was the CASA Get Out the Vote conference in Ottawa where we went through how to use the software we have bought for the campaign and how to organize our campaign through Apathy is Boring. The first day there we had a full day working with Apathy is Boring, a non-partisan organization doing voter mobilization for all youth in Canada. The second day we worked with our creative vendor, Groundforce Digital, and went through how to use NationBuilder (where we store contact info) and our website. The last day we went over CASA stuff mainly; we had our plenary meeting and approved a super cool research paper of student financial aid.

In terms of GOTV, we are in full swing now and will be going hard until the election trying to collect pledges to vote. Myself and Ranya, our campaign coordinator, have set the goal of collecting 7500 pledges. I know, it’s a lot. And we need your help. If you would like to be a volunteer for the campaign please fill out this Google form [http://goo.gl/forms/UScr0Y3RYA](http://goo.gl/forms/UScr0Y3RYA) We are going to need all the help we can get, but councilors can really be some of our best volunteers. If you are interested in a leadership role as well with the campaign please let me know.

Most of the last week and this week will all be prepping for GOTV for WoW!

**Internal Students’ Union**

The second conference that the whole executive went to was the Student Union Development Summit (SUDS) in Vancouver. We all had a great, though tiring time at the conference. The conference is run and hosted by the UBC Alma Mater Society, which represents all UBC students. They just opened their new building called The Nest which is absolutely beautiful, and we were lucky enough that most of the sessions were held in the building.

I went to sessions that mainly dealt with my position, including how to persuade government (from an old CASA staffer!), and a great session run by Elections Canada on the requirements for students to vote in the election, what Elections Canada is doing for this election, and the effect of new legislation (Bill C-23) on student voters. They have designed a lot of information packets that I will be using for the GOTV campaign that will really help students understand what they need to register to vote which I was really happy to see.

We also had an executive retreat on Friday which was really great, and a good respite from the job. All the dawned on me is that we are 1/3 of the way done our terms! Pretty amazing when you think about it, but I’m glad it’s gone so well so far.

Anyways, that’s about all on this end.

Know yourself,