

Date: 03.23.21

To: Students' Union Council

Re: BoG Rep 2020/2021 Report 18 - **Budget + Preparation for Next Term**

Dear Council,

Budget Meeting

1. Big picture: the Board was unwilling to budge on financial votes despite the student caucus sharing student views. This said, we have a number of long term advocacy ideas and I am also bringing a debrief to Students' Council, which I've already brought to Augustana's Students' Council, to reflect on the advocacy process and how to improve. Some long term strategies are:
 - a. Telling the student story in Board meetings and through protests to the government that we do not willingly take increases and that they impact our communities negatively.
 - b. Telling the Board and SU Executives to advocate to GoA for stronger non-repayable student financial aid, to get closer to the Canadian average.
 - c. Advocating to Board/GoA for budget deconsolidation from GoA financial books to allow UAlberta to debt finance their own initiatives and generate internal revenue to alleviate tuition pressure.
 - d. Continued research into peer institution funding models and how they offset tuition increases.
 - e. Advocate that UAlberta prioritize investing in students through work-integrated learning opportunities, who may attract scholarship/research donors through their achievements.
2. A key, small win: upon a lengthy email conversation and questioning at the Board meeting, the VP Facilities and Operations **conceded to putting Maskwa House back on the Capital Plan next year**, which will go to Albertan and Canadian governments as part of building grant applications.
3. Lastly, thank you to everyone who filled out the [consultation form](#) I sent out for this meeting! To respond to some feedback given to me:
 - a. **Length:** I welcome ideas on how to make it shorter. My goal is to get thorough feedback from student leaders where possible. In a way, it is meant to replace some of the meetings I could not realistically have with every stakeholder group affected by the agenda items I raise.
 - b. **Limited knowledge:** you do not need to answer questions you don't know anything about; the goal is to gather your concerns and ideas regarding things you and your communities are familiar with; I can emphasize this more clearly in future forms.

Dave Konrad, Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative

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- c. **Due date:** the day before the date of the Board or committee meeting listed in the form's title is when I would like the feedback by, because that allows me to review your thoughts to take into the meeting. I can clarify this in the form.
- d. **Time for Consultation:** I fully agree that as much community consultation should happen as possible; I will do my best to get the form made as soon a meeting's agenda is released. This agenda will generally come out between 10 to 7 days before the meeting, which is why the whole process may seem a bit rushed.

Consultation Planning

1. **Met with Black Students' Association (BSA) President:** discussed logistics around a meeting with a large number of equity seeking student group presidents at once and effective consultation pathways, reviewed my WIP strategic plan for these groups, which I will share with them for review and editing, and maintaining communication with BSA after executive turnover.
2. **International Students' Association:** established monthly meetings with VPX Lucas Marques. Will meet their newly elected Board in a week.
3. **Augustana Students' Association:** biweekly meetings until executive turnover; will discuss with the new team. Anticipating monthly visits to their Council.
4. **AUFSJ:** topical checkins with president until new term, where we will re-evaluate. Anticipate an initial Council meeting then monthly checkins with the president.
5. **Aboriginal Students' Council:** we decided that topical meetings would be best for this past term but according to concerns raised at their forum, this was insufficient; they are currently discussing a different consultation strategy and will get back to me.

Instagram Strategic Plan

1. Have established a layout and am almost finished my planned content outline; right now I have the following. If there are other ideas you'd like to see me implement, **let me know!**
 - a. Role updates (meetings/platform progress): biweekly or monthly? (Biweekly means more detail but less items.)
 - b. Briefing on upcoming meeting content (e.g. Budget Briefing, BoG, Committees); can outline my priorities going in and ask what you would like me to share.
 - c. Briefing on meeting outcomes
 - d. Topics: what student governance has taught me, the challenges of student governance, my consultation process, what does, "Here for Students" mean?, "to change the system I have to know the system"

- e. Explain vague institutional/provincial terms/projects: the Service Excellence Transformation, where we are with Academic Restructuring, what a Performance Based Funding Metric is, what AB2030 means for students

Community Engagement

1. **Augustana Students' Association forum:** many good questions and answers were exchanged! I'm excited to work with the new executive.

Professional Development

1. **The Black Perspective: An Open Panel Discussion on LGBTQA2S+ Matters in the Black Community:** hosted by the UAlberta Institute for Sexual Minority Studies & Services. Along with hearing their challenging experiences, panelists' comments that stood out to me were to the reminder to assume nothing about people and that some people incorrectly believe assimilation is a reasonable kind of inclusion.
2. **No Cops on Campus Collective Question/Answer session:** we discussed a crisis response team as part of the answer to replacing campus police, potential collaboration with the SU, student education education and volunteering and the lack of data around campus policing that could be used to lobby for a police replacement.

Thanks for reading!



University of Alberta Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative
Dave Konrad