

Date: 03.09.21

To: Students' Union Council

Re: BoG Rep 2020/2021 Report 17 - **Recruitment and Bursaries**

Dear Council,

Working Groups (WG)

1. **Member Orientation Plan:** discussing with admin and members of the Governance Committee to shape up orientation material for new members in September. I want to see content concerning Indigenous reconciliation and institutional governance. **If there is content you look new and pre-existing Board/committee members should see as they start/continue their roles, let me know.**
2. **Recruitment Advertising:** discussing how we advertise for recruiting to fill committee external member spots after annual turnover. Choosing diversity after establishing competency is important but we need to consider who defines competency. This will be a great piece to consult student stakeholder groups about.

Meetings

1. **Reputation and Public Affairs Committee**
 - a. Connecting with Associate VP Government and Community Relations on faculty unity including Faculty Associations and faculty administration.
 - b. Raised need for principles around tuition/funding regarding student wellbeing (taking loose ideas from UASU tuition policy) to set a precedent for the Board. VP External Relations said she'd follow up.
 - c. Raised need for Maskwa House prioritization in conversation about the new Community Engagement Consultation Plan, which involves 1-3 year plans for future engagement initiatives, some of which appear to incorporate new building developments. Was told there are no new capital projects anticipated at this time.
2. **Governance Committee**
 - a. Raised need for diverse recruitment. Upon questioning, the Public Agent Secretariat does not seem to be an option? Administration is looking at university hiring policy for paid staff and seeing if that can be applied to the Board and its committees.

Projects

1. **Environmental Scan:** I tried it for the first time last week and will try to improve it going forward. Let me know if you have any ideas! **Personally, I thought it was incredibly useful for me at BRPAC because I had concise, detailed info about what students were experiencing in their communities which allowed me to share about specific experiences.**

2. **International Student Bursaries:** met with Chanpreet twice to discuss the need for transferring merit based financial aid into need based aid. All of this aid discussed comes from the 7.55% offset from 4% increase in international student tuition for the program model¹. We went to the Vice-Provost & University Registrar about it. She said:
 - a. Current split between merit and need based funding is 70/30, respectively. Most merit based funding for next year is already locked up in multiyear scholarships and accepted incoming international students.
 - b. We established the need for need based funding in our current pandemic situation and ongoing communication.
3. **Cheap Brews and Student Dues Podcast:** was invited by Aulden Maj to speak on a talkathon hosted by himself and others, including Christian Fotang! We discussed:
 - a. Largest environmental impacts facing us right now, how to engage in change-making, how to stay committed to solving problems, how to package stuff better, and the future of energy infrastructure in Alberta. (follow them at @cbsd_podcast on Instagram!)

Professional Development

1. **Sexual Assault in Experiential Learning Terms:** I was thankful for the opportunity to hear from the Sexual Assault Centre and reflect on intent vs. impact, the magnitude of emotional impact from assault and the need to talk about these issues.
2. **Bridge Between Cultures: Black History Month Collective:** this was great. I got to hear some black artists perform music and poetry, and hear speakers talk about their internal barriers to success. There were SO MANY good points made and I was clearly reminded how critical it is that UAlberta has the voices of marginalized people groups at their highest level of decision making.
 - a. I am sitting with the Black Students' Association's President two weeks from now to discuss a strategic plan around issues concerning marginalized students in my platform after which we plan to have a larger meeting involving leaders of marginalized student student groups to coordinate advocacy and inform me of what they want at the Board.

Thanks for reading!



¹ Model dictates UAlberta has to give set tuition rate to int'l students for their entire 4 year degree instead of changing rates every year.

University of Alberta Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative
Dave Konrad