

Date: 12/01/2020

To: Students' Union Council

Re: BoG Rep 2020/2021 Report 13 - **Defining Consultation and Recruitment**

Dear Council,

Meetings

1. **BRPAC:** I brought up [Bill Flanagan's reaction to Adrian Wattamaniuk's feedback at a restructuring town hall](#), asking how students can be reassured their opinions are actually being considered. Responses were that 70/1500 people in that hour town hall spoke, resulting in a "good conversation," administration is tracking the social response to this event, Bill is human and makes mistakes too, and that he would give a formal apology at GFC in addition to all other measures he had taken up to that point.
 - a. I've had conversations with various student leaders before and after the incident about consultation and students being heard through the restructuring process. I think issues happen when groups do not have similar expectations of each other or do not agree on definitions of processes, like consultation. I'm intrigued to learn more and understand how important it is that university administration knows what student stakeholders expect from them, and up to this point I see many good examples of our communicating expectations. I plan to reach out to some administration to better understand what they think consultation is and how they filter student priorities alongside the myriad of priorities they hold from every other campus stakeholder.
 - b. On another note, Associate Vice-President Government and Community Relations, Alexis Ksiazkiewicz, briefed the committee on UAlberta's recent Community Engagement Consultation which aimed to identify what UAlberta is "doing well, what is missing, and how [it can] improve" by consulting a variety of internal and external stakeholders. Upon questioning, she told me student consultees have had "invaluable" feedback and student associations are on her priority list for future consultation initiatives. This is not to say she or the institution does anything perfectly but I believe many folks in administration care about the student voice. Whether or not they implement what we want, how we want it, is a deeper and valuable question that I and others ask on an ongoing basis.
 - i. I would love to hear from anyone on Council or receiving this letter on what consultation means to them and how specifically they and their constituents feel unheard and how they feel about that.
2. **BGC:** the open session saw a conversation about our recruitment process to the board and its committees being less standardized than it should be. I worry that the current

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method does not support EDI well. Fortunately others and I spoke to these concerns and administration will bring a more standardized approach forward for discussion in the future.

Social Media

1. **Videos:** I plan to make short video updates on summer and fall happenings in my role and what the journey of advocacy has been.

Thanks for reading!



University of Alberta Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative
Dave Konrad