

Date: 06/24/21

To: Students' Union Council

Re: President's Report 06/29/21

Dear Council,

It has been a month of reflection and anger for our executive team as unmarked graves have continued to be identified at former residential school sites across Canada. While the number of murders at those institutions should not surprise anyone, it should galvanize us all to act in our own way to address the horrific legacy of the residential school system. For us at the UASU, we are encouraged to increase our efforts to implement the ARRC recommendations, and to ensure the University implements the TRC Calls to Action, specifically #24 and #28, which address the role of post-secondary institutions in reconciliation. We will shortly have a statement out on the Flame discussing the UASU's role in sharing the national responsibility to make amends for the crimes committed against Indigenous peoples on the land our University sits on today.

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors met for its' final meeting of the 2020-21 academic year last Friday, and approved a variety of items including tuition rates for new programs in the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation, a reduction in a small Masters' program's international tuition, and a variety of minor rural property sales. We received the report of the Board Investment Committee, which was interesting-- the University's endowment considerably outperformed expectations this year as part of the rapid global bounceback of stock and bond markets following their drop last spring. This overperformance was a major contributor to the University's \$35 million budget surplus this year. The Board also approved three metrics to judge the success of academic restructuring, the Service Excellence Transformation (SET) and the College model:

- A \$29M reduction in administrative expense next year
- A series of surveys of students and staff to monitor satisfaction with service quality as the SET process unfolds, without a specific target but allowing the tracking of trends
- A "narrative-based" retrospective analysis in 18 months of how interdisciplinarity has increased, without quantifiable measures. This one is slightly concerning, and we will need to ensure that the narrative of interdisciplinarity sufficiently measures interdisciplinary opportunities for undergraduates, not just research by graduate students and faculty.

Executive Goals

Every year, the executive team works together to develop a comprehensive goals document outlining what we plan to accomplish in our terms. The first draft of the 2021-22 Executive Goals is finished, and we will be refining it with the help of staff in the next week. I am happy to let you know that we will be able to bring a draft to Students' Council at our first meeting in July, complying with bylaw which requires a draft of the goals to be presented to Council before August.

Students Who Parent Strategy Startup

VP Kimani, VP Dixon, and I have been working to put together a task force to develop our long-term strategy for students who parent, including plans to address the daycare shortage on campus. We're optimistic that we will be able to have the group deliver a report this fall, and we can work on implementation plans between then and the end of our terms in May.

Chancellor Garritty Meeting

The Exec team met with the University Chancellor, Peggy Garritty, on Tuesday. The Chancellor is the head of the Senate, the body responsible for the U of A's community relationships. This creates a lot of interesting opportunities for the Students' Union-- our work in the community and the Senate's create a lot of interesting opportunities for collaboration.

Translation Granting

In collaboration with AUFSJ and the Translation Committee, I have been looking into federal grants that could allow us to hire a professional translator to translate our bylaws, policies, and a few other major governance documents. The Department of Canadian Heritage provides a grant that is designed for organizations in almost exactly our situation, with a public interest mandate and a need to translate or interpret content for bilingual communities. I am working with our external engagement manager to submit an application for the grant, and we hope to receive the funds in mid-summer.

As always, get in touch if you have any questions or want to chat!



University of Alberta Students' Union President
Rowan Ley