

Date: 09/21/21

To: Students' Union Council

Re: President's Report 08/24/21

Hi Council,

I hope you are all well, or at least well as possible in a very difficult time. I share the anxiety that many of you feel about the situation in Alberta hospitals and the continuing impact of COVID-19 in our communities. Please reach out to VP Dixon or I at any time if you want to discuss COVID safety on campus and how we are working to protect vulnerable members of our community while maintaining a quality learning experience.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

The Executive team has spent September 30th reflecting on ways we can support truth and reconciliation both in our professional and personal lives. Personally, I have taken some of this day to read the copy of the TRC's final report that I keep in my office-- a practice I hope to pass on to future Presidents. The Executive also attended the Indigenous Law Students' Association's walk and run at



Kinsmen Park. I want to recognize the exceptional work of the ILSA and President Anita Cardinal-Stewart in organizing the event and raising money for Indigenous-led organizations that support residential school survivors. The UASU is contributing to those organizations as well. All proceeds from the Daily Grind on the 30th will be donated to the Indian Residential Schools Survivors Society. While I don't have that exact number yet as of writing this report, it will be significant.

It is also important for us to continue our work in solidarity with Indigenous communities and students beyond the 30th. We commit to continue working in the spirit of truth and reconciliation in all areas of our work, particularly the policing policy, childcare strategy, and others.

Rowan Ley, President

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Students Who Parent Strategy Group

VP Dixon and I have been working on assembling a Students Who Parent strategy group to develop a plan for supporting students who parent in the next few years, particularly relating to childcare access on campus. We didn't rush to hold meetings in the summer or September due to the federal election, as the federal election created significant uncertainty about what the structure of childcare funding in Canada would look like over the coming years. With the current government staying in office, we now believe we have enough certainty to convene the working group and begin our work. I expect to hold our first meeting in the next few weeks.

Exceptional Tuition Increases

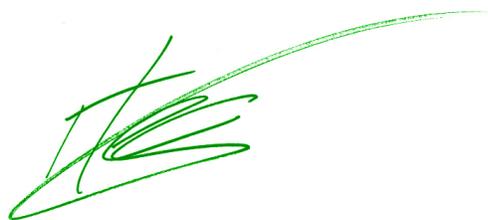
VP Monteiro and I have continued to meet with affected Faculty and Department Associations to offer our support. We have met with every FA and DA affected in the last three weeks, and arranged a meeting for all of their Presidents to share information and work out an advocacy position moving forward.

I anticipate that I will receive a copy of every proposal very shortly for discussion at the GFC Academic Planning Committee next week. From what I know already, some proposals have been improved-- but not necessarily to the extent we would need to see. The difference in the quality of proposals between June and now shows the impact student advocates can make. We will have much more extensive updates for Council later in the month.

Board of Governors

I participated in the Board of Governors' Finance and Property committee meeting this week where we discussed the University's 2021-22 financial outlook. Please ask me if you have any questions regarding the impact of cuts, tuition increases, and staff reductions on the U of A's financial position. I will also be attending the Research, Learning, and Student Experience Committee next week.

As always, get in touch if you have any questions or concerns!



University of Alberta Students' Union President
Rowan Ley