

Date: June 02, 2020

To: Students' Union Council

Re: President 2020/21 Report #3

Dear Council,

I hope you have all been staying safe and well. I've been enjoying the sun as much as I can in between zoom meetings! Here are some updates on the past two weeks.

1. Executive Committee

The executive committee has been continuing to work on our executive goals document which we will be bringing to Council for feedback in the coming weeks. This document is the primary document used by the executive team in our year, and is being influenced heavily by COVID-19. Much of this pandemic means that priorities, goals and projects will need to be adapted in order to respond to the impacts it is having on students and our community. We will be presenting our executive goals in the coming weeks to gain some feedback.

2. Internal University

- **Academic Restructuring Working Group (ARWG)**
 - GSA President Marc Waddingham and myself have a seat on the Academic Restructuring Working Group (ARWG) which has meet now to discuss the possibilities of major academic and administrative restructuring
 - President-elect Bill Flanagan is taking lead on embarking on a [new vision](#) for the University of Alberta in the midst of major government cuts to post-secondary
 - In this all, it will be imperative for students, faculty, staff and the greater community to have their voices heard in every aspect of decision making. I am happy to meet with you to talk if you have any questions or comments
 - I would also encourage everyone to attend a [Town Hall](#) which Dr. Bill Flangan will be hosting Tuesday June 2nd.
- **U-Pass**
 - VP Krahn, VP Kidd and I have been working on UPass negotiations preparation with the City of Edmonton as our contract is up for renewal. It is great to see VP Krahn take lead on this and is doing a great job
 - We recently were made known that ETS will be charging fees again this summer, and are working to determine how we will be strategically advocating towards the city on this front
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- **Board of Governors (BoG)**
 - I attended three Board meetings in the past week (Board of Governors, Board Finance Property Committee (BFPC) and the Board Learning, Research & Student Experience Committee (BLRSEC) and am getting used to the BoG culture and advocacy avenues

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- At BFPC we now know that the Investment Management Agreements (IMA) are being delayed till the end of June, which the Minister said would give more leeway to reaching expenditure targets
- COVID has so far impacted the university by around \$4M and will increase in the months to come

3. External Advocacy

- **Council of Alberta University Students (CASA)**
 - VP Ley and myself are in full swing with CAUS after our changeover conference. VP Ley is transitioning into his role as chair, and is doing a fantastic job.
 - We had our priorities planning session with CAUS as well as Alberta Council and came up with some of our priorities for the year which include:
 - Institutional Funding
 - Recession Response
 - Healthy and Safe Campuses
 - Affordability
- **Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)**
 - VP Ley and myself were at the virtual CASA Foundations conference which took up much of the week. This conference normally would be in Ottawa, but due to COVID-19 was in a virtual session
 - The conference was informative including sessions on important topics (Foundations: What is CASA?, Political Climate Update, Board Update & Board and Committee Positions, among others)
 - The board was elected and I am excited to be working alongside VP Ley this year in such challenging times
 - Shout out to two year CASA chair, and former UASU VP External Adam Brown for chairing his last CASA meeting at Foundations. Adam, your work as chair of CASA in one of the toughest years will not be forgotten.
- **AFCA Campus St. Jean**
 - The entire executive team attended the AFCA Campus Saint-Jean Citizens Meeting where we heard the concerns of students and community members on the importance of CSJ to the Francophone community. We are encouraging students to get involved in having their voices heard and we are committed to ensuring the vibrant culture and community of CSJ is kept

As always, I'm happy to meet for an e-coffee with you if you ever want to chat about anything!

Yours Sincerely,

Joel Agarwal, President

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