

Date: July 28, 2020

To: Students' Union Council

Re: President 2020/21 Report #7

Dear Council,

The past few weeks have been quite challenging, while being full and productive in many facets. Various projects have been ongoing, and preparation for the Fall semester has been top of mind considering the multitude of student concerns with online delivery due to COVID-19. Along with these challenges, budget effects, academic restructuring, administrative restructuring and general COVID related issues have placed an incredible burden on the campus community that require much time and attention from the UASU Executives. We have been working incredible hard in addressing many of these issues.

Academic Restructuring Working Group (ARWG)

Academic restructuring at the University of Alberta is top of mind, and with the potential for significant reduction in the number of faculties and departments, there are unique opportunities as well as challenges that must be addressed. A few of the concerns which I think are important in considering Academic and Administrative restructuring are:

- Autonomy and identity of faculties must be kept
- Support interdisciplinarity, teaching and research while defining signature areas
- Culture and community of certain faculties / campuses (i.e. CSJ and Augustana)
- Maintaining Indigenous identity in the Faculty of Native Studies while incorporating Indigenous content / pedagogies into new structures
- Ensuring student supports such as academic advising are not diminished

I want to hear from you - what are your concerns with what has been presented by Bill Flanagan and Steve Dew already regarding Academic and Administrative restructuring?

Executive Committee

The executive team has been working intensely on various issues on campus. The executive goals document has been fleshed out thoroughly and we are presenting it to you folks at Council this week. It is challenging to adapt and reassess many of the goals which we ran on since COVID-19 has made it hard if not impossible to achieve many of the goals. The global pandemic has also shifted many of our focuses this year to recovery, and rise of other issues (i.e. academic quality, academic integrity, mental wellness concerns, campus community etc.). We hope you have feedback and or questions on the goals which will be guiding the work we do this year. Some other noteworthy projects that are going on are:

- UPass Negotiations
- EDI Task Force (EDIT)
- Maintenance Grant

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- Fall Semester Fees
- Campus Sexual Violence
 - Met with Bill Flanagan, Dean of Students, and developing an action plan with the University to address policy, systemic, and challenges in reporting mechanisms
- Sustainability and Capital Fund (SCF) kick of - committee membership appointments

External Advocacy

VP Ley and myself were able to attend a zoom call with the Ministry of Advanced Education along with student leaders from the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), Alberta Students' Executive Council (ASEC), and Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC). During this meeting we were able to discuss some of the priorities that students are focusing on, and bring them forward to the Deputy Minister.

CAUS has been extremely productive and have been working on submission ideas for the Alberta 2030 review. We are submitting a UASU submission in addition to a CAUS submission. CAUS is also in the process of planning a fall budget campaign where we are thinking of some novel avenues.

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors has called a "special meeting" for Friday July 24th, so I will update you all on any relevant information.

President Installation Committee

I am on the President Installation Committee where we are working to determine the goals and plan for initiating President Bill Flanagan at the UofA. We are planning an initiation ceremony, as well as events leading up to it, as well as after as part of Green and Gold week. The High Level Bridge will be light up in green and gold colouring!

As always, I'm always happy to meet with you for virtual coffee if you have any questions or just want to chat! Hope you are all enjoying your summer and the sun! If you have read up to here, the first person to email me (president@uasu.ca) will get a little surprise!

Yours Sincerely,



Joel Agarwal

University of Alberta Students' Union President

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