

Date: 08/09/2022

To: Students' Union Council

Re: President 2022/23 Report #07

Dear Council,

I hope you are doing well. As I will be away next week for a conference during our council meeting, I highly encourage you to submit written questions if you would like to know more about anything in my report or otherwise. You can submit written questions as an information item to the council late additions using the [Council Submission Form](#).

Alberta Student Grant for Full-Time Students (ASG-FT)

As many of you know, the Ministry of Advanced Education has quietly cut the [Alberta Student Grant for Full-Time Students \(ASG-FT\)](#) by 33%. This means a loss of up to \$1000 per student per year in grant funding for some undergraduates in one-year and transfer programs and some apprenticeship and graduate students. Additionally, they have changed the bar for eligibility based on income, meaning that if a student makes even \$1 over the \$33,180 threshold, they qualify for \$0 of funding.

Students who rely on and budgeted for this funding only found out months before the start of this semester through their financial aid letters, and I know all of us are very frustrated to see this change come at a time when inflation is high, the cost of living is rising, and tuition has increased. Both the [Council of Alberta University Students \(CAUS\)](#) and the [University of Alberta Students' Union](#) have issued press releases on the grant cuts and addressing the broader issue of fixing the grants deficiency in Alberta and our unbalanced student financial aid system.

The government in the past has acknowledged and committed to changing this by 2030, but we need those changes now. Creating austerity and scarcity in grants like the ASG-FT isn't good enough to support low-income students.

I have been doing media interviews to bring this issue to the forefront, and the Students' Union is currently coordinating with CAUS to see what action we can take against these cuts. I will update the council as soon as we have more information on a way forward.

Edmonton Student Alliance Meeting

Earlier this week, I attended the Edmonton Student Alliance (ESA) meeting, which is our municipal advocacy/lobby group. In the meeting, we discussed our annual plan and priorities for this year, brand revitalization, having an advocacy week, and developing a longer-term strategic plan.

Abner Monteiro, President

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Academic Integrity Policy

Last week, Gurleen and I met with Chris Hackett, Director, Student Services - Student Conduct & Accountability, to discuss changes the university will make to the Code of Student Behaviour and the transition to creating a new set of Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures under [UAPPOL](#). Chris is early in the process and wants to ensure that students are a part of it since they will be the ones to go through this process. As you will see on the order papers, he is coming to the Students' Council to hear our concerns and what we would like to see from the academic integrity process.

Policy Committee Presentation on our Priorities

Last week, the executive team attended the Policy Committee and presented our goals for the year and how they align with our political policies.

Campus Food Bank Tour

Last week, the Executive team got the opportunity to tour the Campus Food Bank and get a closer look at its operations. I was grateful to see how much work goes into ensuring students have access to food and the renovations they are making to the space to give students the best experience possible when using the Food Bank.

Meetings

- Christian and I met with [Edmonton Global](#) to discuss how we can highlight and support youth and students' impact on our region and support each other's advocacy regarding development in the Edmonton region.
- I met with the ISA President, Dhir Bid, to discuss their priorities for the upcoming year and our priorities. We also discussed international tuition and plans to engage the provost to develop a better consultation pathway for these proposals in the future.
- I met with the AUFSJ President, Taylor Good, to discuss their priorities for the upcoming year and our priorities. We also discussed translation and how we can ensure that francophone students can access important information from the SU/University.

Cheers,



Abner Monteiro (he/him)

President

University of Alberta Students' Union