Dear Council,

I hope all of you are having a great start to the semester! Below is an overview of what I have been up to over the past week.

**Week of Welcome and Presidents’ Address**

Last week we kicked off the Week of Welcome and Presidents’ Address, where we welcomed all new and returning students to campus! It was a fantastic chance to connect students with their Students’ Union and get them excited about all the amazing opportunities at the University of Alberta. I also had the chance to give President Bill Flanagan a tour of the Clubs Fair to showcase the incredible work that our students are doing to enhance student life, the importance of supporting student groups and the leadership opportunities that arise from them.

To the new students, congratulations to all of you on starting University! I wish you all the best in this new chapter in your life.

**Board of Governors Retreat**

Last week Governor Dorschied and I attended the Board of Governors Retreat at the Augustana Campus, where we started the process of developing the University’s next strategic plan. It was a great opportunity to listen to where priorities are for the university. We will be giving the Board a fulsome understanding of the student experience and why it must be at the forefront of what we do at this institution.

We will engage with the Students’ Council early to get as much feedback as possible as we prepare our case for the Board of Governors.

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CAUS Counterparts in Lethbridge

A couple of weeks ago, the executive team attended CAUS Counterparts in Lethbridge. We got a chance to connect with other student leaders across Alberta, get valuable PD sessions surrounding indigenous student support, creating inclusive spaces, and Get Out The Vote for the next provincial election! It was a great chance for us to coordinate and start to plan our advocacy efforts for the upcoming year.

Executive Goals Engagement

As you will see on the agenda, the executive team is looking to engage with the Students’ Council and know where you may want to get involved in projects we will be taking on this year. Please review the item on the Order Papers and let us know what you may be interested in during the discussion.

Break the Record!

As many of you have probably seen, recruitment for Break the Record is in full swing! We are recruiting students, and the link will go up today for people to RSVP for the event. Please let me or Joannie know if you are interested in being a team captain and helping us recruit people to participate!

If anyone is looking for more information, please direct them to breaktherecord.ca!

Global News Interview on Inflation and Housing

Last week I met with Global Edmonton News to discuss inflation and affordable housing for students. It was a great opportunity to shed light on students’ serious challenges, including tuition, rent, food, and the increasing debt they are taking on.

Cheers,

Abner Monteiro (he/him)
President
University of Alberta Students’ Union

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