

**Date:** 09/20/2022

**To:** Students' Union Council

**Re:** President 2022/23 Report #11

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Dear Council,

I hope your first month of the new semester is going well! Last week I was away on vacation for my sister's wedding, but there are some significant updates for the Council. Below is an overview of what I have been up to over the past two weeks.

### **Student Leaders Orientation**

VP Fotang and I attended Student Leaders Orientation with the Provincial Government. The orientation covered many aspects of the Ministry of Advanced Education, and we received presentations from different departments. There was also an opportunity to hear directly from the Advanced Education Minister regarding the ministry's priorities for the rest of this year, receive updates, and ask questions.

Of these updates, the Minister mentioned that we are now at the end of the 21% domestic tuition increase over three years, and we will now cap domestic tuition at CPI. The ministry is currently working with post-secondary institutions to determine their needs and set a value for CPI that will be the cap. From our conversations, it seems they will set CPI between 5-6%; however, this is no guarantee. We are concerned about the prospect of another tuition increase coming our way and have already started preparing for lobbying and possibly direct action for the winter semester.

We will engage with the Council in the next few meetings to get feedback on a way forward.

### **SRA Summit**

VP Fogue, VP Kaur and I have worked hard with Student Services to plan for the upcoming SRA Summit. For those unfamiliar, the SRA Summit is where we bring all our Faculty Association, Residence Associations, the International Students; Association and Indigenous Students' Union for issues-based collaboration. We also do several hands-on workshops with them to help them develop the necessary skills to help them and their SRA succeed in advocacy.

### **Tuition Consultation**

I met with the Provost and Deputy Provost of Students and Enrolment to discuss future tuition consultations. For some background, this discussion arose from concerns the Students' Union and ISA raised around the last international tuition proposal. We are in the very early stages of creating a pathway for the consultations. We will be requesting that the proposals come to as many relevant stakeholders as possible to ensure we hear from all those affected.

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**Abner Monteiro, President**

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## Board of Governors Strategic Planning

As seen on the Order Papers, Governor Dorschied and I are here to discuss the student experience. The Board of Governors will develop the new University Strategic Plan over the next year. We will play an integral role in defining the ideal student experience and what the university needs to do to get to that destination.

## Students' Mental Health Challenges

In one of our [recent perks surveys](#), it's clear that students are facing significant challenges regarding their mental health starting this semester. We have taken a few steps to address this by raising it with the Minister of Advanced Education regarding culturally appropriate support and wait times and sharing the survey with the university. We also have a scheduled meeting with the University to discuss what we need to do to ensure students get the appropriate and timely support they are looking for.

Cheers,



**Abner Monteiro (he/him)**

President

University of Alberta Students' Union