

**Date:** 11/15/2022

**To:** Students' Union Council

**Re:** President 2022/23 Report #15

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Dear Council,

These last two weeks have been extremely busy, from discussing tuition and fees to heading down to Parliament in Ottawa to advocate for students nationwide. The executive team has been working hard to deliver for the students who elected us. Here are some updates for the week.

### **Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Advocacy Week**

Last week, VP Fotang and I attended CASA Advocacy Week, where we, alongside our 23 member schools, met with MPs, Ministers, and Senators to discuss post-secondary student priorities across the country. This year, CASA had nine recommendations that were put forward for consideration relating to undergraduate students. They included

1. Eliminating interest on Canada Student Loans
2. Doubling of the Canada Student Grant Permanently from 3K to 6K
3. New \$500 Million fund to hire mental health professionals on campuses
4. Modify study permits to also include Co-Op work permits for international students
5. Permanently lift the limit on off-campus working hours for international students
6. Increase investments into the Post-Secondary Student Support Program and modify ISETs agreements to remove ties of funding PSE to labour outcomes for indigenous students.

Overall, it was a very successful advocacy week with great conversations about supporting post-secondary students!



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**Abner Monteiro, President**

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### **Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee (MNIF) Joint Oversight Committee**

VP Fogue, VP Viloso, and I all attended the MNIF Joint Oversight Committee, where we discussed revisions to the MNIF Agreement. We will continue our conversation around the agreement and have more to share with Council soon.

### **Tuition Budget Advisory Committee (TBAC)**

VP Viloso and I attended the Tuition Budget Advisory Committee, where we presented numerous concerns that students have raised regarding a potential tuition increase and how they would be impacted. We discussed the installment fee, late tuition fee interest, the potential of a less volatile measure of CPI to give students more predictability, and the formula for calculating international student cohort tuition. The university has agreed to look into these and has expressed interest in trying to remove some of these barriers that students face as costs rise.

### **Academic Planning Committee (APC)**

A few weeks ago, I attended APC, where one of the key discussion items was regarding the Student Financial Support Report 21/22. I asked several questions regarding why some students still have an unfunded shortfall. We will be looking further into how the university calculates a moderate cost of living for needy students. The university also said that a new student awards system will be rolling out that will simplify the awards application process even more.

### **UASU Awards Night**

I had the privilege of attending the UASU Awards Ceremony, which has not been held in person since 2019. It was so great to celebrate with all of the award winners who have worked extremely hard and given so much back to our campuses. Congratulations to all of the award winners, and I wish you all the best in the future!

Cheers,



#### **Abner Monteiro (he/him)**

President  
University of Alberta Students' Union

