Hi everyone,

I hope you are all doing well in the lead up to finals session. Finals are always so stressful. If you need to, you can learn more about the supports available on campus at UASU Cares, and if you ever want to take a break, I’d love to buy you a coffee and chat :)

I’d also like to give a BIG shout out to Rowan M, Vaughn and Julia for their events this weekend. The events were really successful, and I’m proud of y’alls continued work to make UofA a better place!

Here are some of the things I’ve been working on for the last two weeks:

Public Letter About Sexual Violence

I know y’all have heard a lot about this, so I will keep it short, but I wanted to update yall on what happened following that letter! On the 17th, we released a public letter calling on the University to meet 10 demands that we believe will help address sexual violence on campus. Since then, we have:

- Met with the provost’s office and discussed the university next steps. They will be working with other uni staff to see what they can commit to publicly. We will get another update on the 3rd about the process of this work
- Student reps in residence met about how to improve SV communications and response in residence
- There was a lot of media attention following the letter, and I did multiple interviews from the 17th to the 19th. This was important because it has helped us accomplish the goal of drawing public attention to the issue.
- We have planned future direct action efforts that we can use to put pressure on the university / AASUA

Despite this progress, we still have a long way to go! You can help by promoting SV resources, especially those found on Instagram at ibelieveyou_uofa and the Sexual Assault Centres website.

Sexual Violence Responder Training
On the 23rd and 24th, I attended the First Responder to Sexual Assault and Abuse Training. This training was intense, but it was also incredibly informative, and I know that it will help me support the survivors who come to me in the future. If you have any questions about this training or what I learned, please let me know! I’m obvi not a trainer, but I would love to pass on some of the information I learned.

Campus Food Bank Strategic Planning

On Saturday the 20th, I spent most of my day in the Campus Food Bank (CFB) Strat Planning meeting. The CFB board (which I sit on) is going through the long process of reevaluating our vision and mission, goals and objectives and creating an action plan to improve the CFB’s ability to serve our community. This process will take a couple of months, but so far, it’s been really exciting, and I can’t wait to see what our board decides to do with the CFB in the future!

RTC Safety and Logistics Committee

I haven’t given yall an update on the RTC committee in a while, so here it is: the committee continues to discuss how best to respond to COVID-19 on campus. We are currently chatting about what restrictions will look like for the winter semester to meet the provincial government’s requirements while allowing students to “return to normal”.

Meeting with the Augustana Students Association

On the 19th, we spent the day at Augustana. It was really fun, but it was also very informative! We committed to working on a few projects. Following these meetings, I am working with ASA to address SV on this campus, and we have set up meetings to see how we can provide more supports to Augustana students. We also talked about the importance of mental health and wellness supports, and I will chat with their representatives more about how we can improve these services.

Policing on Campus

We finally have a development! On the 19th, we met with the University and discussed the list of questions we have about UAPS. They were pretty apprehensive about the questions, but after chatting about them, we agreed that UAPS would send us a list of answers to our questions within the next two weeks. After that, we will be able to keep working on the policy and finalise it ASAP!

Best,
Talia Dixon

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