Hi,

Happy August! I hope you’re all getting stoked for the start of the school year. I can’t believe we are less than a month away from September. Things have been ramping up for the exec.

The Pronoun Campaign
I have gotten many questions about this campaign, so I wanted to give you a detailed overview of the project and give you all the opportunity to get involved!

- I decided to run this campaign in response to the Landing/ISMSS Campus Climate Survey on Sexual and Gender Diversity from 2020. This survey showed an increase in students feeling uncomfortable expressing their gender identity on campus. There are also prominent concerns about being misgendered intentionally and accidentally, which can seriously impact students’ safety and mental health.
- Awareness campaigns are generally effective at changing campus culture and people’s understanding of an issue. While there have been awareness campaigns surrounding pronoun usage, they are now very outdated and were not expansive enough.
- This project aims to educate students, staff and faculty about what pronouns are, how to use them and the importance of not assuming individuals’ pronouns.
- The campaign is being broken down into two parts:
  - First, a classic educational campaign targeting students. This will include posters, pamphlets, online posts and a physical installation. This will take place at the end of September.
  - Second, providing resources to profs so they can create safe spaces in their classrooms. These resources could include: a one-page cheat sheet about what pronouns are / how to use them, a slide to include in their first day of classes/orientation presentations to educate students. This will take place from mid-August to the start of September.

If you want to get involved in this campaign, please fill out [this form](#)!
COVID
As some of you may have seen, we are strengthening our COVID related advocacy. Two of the advocacy efforts that fall under my portfolio and haven’t been addressed yet are residence and supports for international students. Of course, this hasn’t been something I’ve ignored until it’s just extra pressing with the time crunch.

- In residence, I am advocating for:
  - Mandatory vaccinations / mandatory testing
  - COVID strict floors and increased cleaning measures
  - Rapid testing and contact tracing
  - And MUCH more

- International students
  - Helping advocate for academic accommodations/supports
  - Advocating for financial supports
  - Advocating for increased mental health/wellness supports
  - And MUCH more that we are still figuring out

Mental Health
I had a great meeting with the PSC lead. We are working collaboratively to strengthen mental health supports. Some of our ideas include:

- Expanding the PSC into residence
  - We will be evaluating the need for services and getting suggestions for services
  - Implement suggestions for services in the winter semester
  - Creating a long term plan for PSC and residence collaborations

- Days of action
  - I continue to have regular meetings with the committee I’m on to plan mental health days of action.

Other platform points
I am continuing to make progress on my other platform points

- The Aboriginal Awareness Week Advisory Group is having our first meeting on the 10th
- I am working on a year-long plan for EDIT
- I am working with the interfaith chaplains on a religious spaces/prayer space heat map for first and second-year students.

Best,
Talia Dixon

Talia Dixon
Talia Dixon, Vice President Student Life
2-900 SUB  | 780 492 4241 | talia.dixon@su.ualberta.ca