Hey Council!

Welcome to my report, and welcome to school! I hope you have all been enjoying the time back on campus. For those of you on North Campus, I hope that you enjoyed the Week of Welcome festivities. Huge thanks to all of the staff, students, volunteers, and councillors who helped make WOW 2018 a success. Over the last few weeks, I’ve spent time helping out at residence events, presenting to new and returning students, and preparing for everyone to come back to campus.

1. Residence Advisory Committee (RAC)

The first RAC meeting of the year was held on Wednesday, August 29th. It was a very productive meeting, and we discussed a few important topics. First, Residence Services has completed a Request for Information (RFI) concerning internet connectivity in residences. Some residences are currently outfitted with technology capable of supporting an Internet Service Provider (ISP) other than UWS. Currently, they are looking into a service provider who would be able to provide premium internet service to students in their rooms above and beyond what is offered by UWS. One of the difficult parts to navigate is how internet connectivity factors into deferred maintenance in residences considering substantial renovations are needed to support an ISP in many residences including Henday and Kelsey Halls in Lister Centre. Another important item we discussed was cannabis in residence and how we are going to track the impacts of cannabis legalization in residences. There may be a need to adjust policies and procedures within residences depending on the outcomes of legalization.

2. Students’ Union Mental Health Committee

Our mental health committee is back up and running for the 2018/19 year. We are excited to continue work that was started by former VPSL Ilya Ushakov towards the creation of a Students’ Union mental health strategic plan. Stay tuned for focus group dates to get involved. If being involved in this project is something that interests you, please don’t hesitate to reach out and we’ll loop you into the conversations.

3. Closing thoughts

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I am absolutely thrilled to see campus life buzzing again. Looks like it will be another awesome year for UASU.

Welcome back,

Andre Bourgeois
VP Student Life