Date: June 13, 2017
To: Students’ Council
Re: Report to Students’ Council

Hi Council,

My office has been relatively busy this month, and I’ve been traveling fairly extensively. Right now I am again on the road and in Vancouver, so looking forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday. The summer has flown by, however, so has some projects and goals. I have crisscrossed Alberta, so many times now it is hard to count.

CASA Policy & Strategy

From Monday, July 24th - 27th I was at CASA Policy and Strategy in Kananaskis. Over that time I had to come back to Edmonton for the Funding Frameworks, but that will be another section. Overall the conference was very productive, we saw policy strategies put forward, and UASU was in favor of all motions presented. We continue to have a strong presence nationally, and it’s great to see Albertan student needs taken into account.

Funding Frameworks Consultation

On Wednesday the 26th, Conner Peta (CAUS Vice Chair), Josh Mckewon (CAUS ED) and I all attended a Funding Frameworks Consultation hosted by the Ministry of Advanced Education. It was an incredibly important meeting, as we discussed how universities would be funded in Alberta. We followed CAUS’s policy, which can be found online in full, but in short was to push for an accessible, sustainable, and affordable model for students.

Introduction to Government

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On August 1st and 2nd I attended the Ministry of Advanced Educations Introduction to Government as the Chair of CAUS. This consultation is something that happens every year and it brings together all of the student leaders from across the province to give input to the Minister directly. Conner and I were there to give a presentation on behalf of CAUS and answer questions, which overall went very well. We were the only provincial group to have our priorities completed for the consultation, have a solid presentation, and all members on point, so I was thrilled with the advocacy done. My favorite part was a mixer that the Minister attended, where we were able to have some extra one-on-one time.

Edmonton Student Alliance

The Edmonton Student Alliance met briefly on August the 8th. We discussed topics such as the upcoming municipal election, the mandate of the group, and attendance at the International Student Orientation to Edmonton. We hope to see some increased cooperation on the election cycle and will primarily make sure that UASU interests are maintained.

Advocacy Meetings

This month while in Edmonton I was able to meet with MLA’s McKitrick and Woollard, both of which went very well. In Calgary, on August 9th I was fortunate enough to represent CAUS’s interests to Nathan Cooper, the new leader of the United Conservative Party (UCP), with members from all CAUS member institutions. It was a very productive meeting, as it was important to push for student centered policies with this new party. President Banister and I also attended the UCP mixer that afternoon, where we were able to speak with members of the entire caucus. We are doing our best to follow the updates from the UCP and all other provincial politics currently ongoing.

That’s all for now! Any questions, please feel free to email me anytime!

Cheers,

Reed Larsen