Dear Council,

It has been a wild couple of weeks, but I am very glad to be home for the next week-ish. Much has already been accomplished in getting our external work off on the right foot, and there is still much to come!

1. **International student article**: I was interviewed by [Global News](https://globalnews.ca) and BBC Canada on the topic of international student work and barriers in Canada as Chair of CASA. This followed a student in eastern Canada who is facing potential deportation for working over the 20-hour limit that international students are allotted during the school year. It is crucial that the federal government consider the [Canadian Alliance of Student Associations’ asks](https://casalinks.ca) to remove barriers to work, work-integrated learning, and citizenship for international students.

2. **House of Commons Committee presentation**: As I mentioned in my last report, I was invited by the HoC Standing Committee on Finance to present on the federal budget and how it benefits students. The presentation went quite well, and I was able to highlight measures such as the lowering of interest rates, the creation of more work-integrated learning placements, and the adding of more graduate and doctoral positions. I was asked by a Conservative MP if we wanted to see interest eliminated from student loans and if this budget went far enough in doing so, to which I responded that we would absolutely like to see it eliminated and that hopefully this budget puts us on track to get there. I was also able to attend Question Period thanks to a friend of mine that works in Parliament.
3. **CAUS Changeover**: President Bhatnagar, EAA Nelson, former President Larsen and I attended the Changeover conference of the Council of Alberta University Students in Canmore from May 10-14. The conference comprised of networking with the new delegates from other members, advocacy training, and familiarizing ourselves with CAUS. It also included the elections of the CAUS Chair and Vice-Chair, who are University of Calgary Students’ Union VP External Sadiya Nazir and University of Lethbridge Students’ Union VP External Bailey Harray, respectively. I am very much looking forward to working with them both, as well as new CAUS Executive Director Jon Mastel, as we engage in some strategic planning and policy-making for CAUS over the coming year. Finally, we began to determine our advocacy and research priorities for the coming year. Once the document is finalized, I will submit it to Council as an information item. On a lighter note, President Bhatnagar and I slayed in the CAUS Jeopardy challenge!

4. **Preparing for Foundations**: From May 24 to June 1, President Bhatnagar, EAA Nelson and I will be in Ottawa for the CASA Foundations Conference. I will have further updates upon our return!

5. **AUSU meeting & podcast**: On May 17th (tomorrow) I will be meeting with Athabasca University Students’ Union President Brandon Simmons to discuss the CASA Foundations conference. I will also be featured in a new podcast that AUSU is putting together to discuss CASA and its value to students. Stay tuned!

6. **Personal Announcements / Things to Note**: As part of my goal to make the VP External role more accessible to students, I am using my Instagram account to post stories of what I get up to in this role. Give me a follow @adam.brown1 to see a more frequent update on my job-doings! I have also coined the phrase “Yato that potato”, just wanted to put that out there. It’s like “get that bread” or “yeet that wheat”, but inspired by my travels to Prince Edward Island.

   Again, I will not be setting more frequent office hours until my travel schedule calms down a bit, so if you would like to meet to discuss your goals or my own, please email me!

   Cheers,

   ![Signature]

   University of Alberta Students’ Union Vice President (External)
   **Adam Brown**