Dear Council,

I am once again writing this report to you from our nation’s capital. It has been a very busy and intense few days, but nevertheless I am very excited for GovCamp!

1. **USchool Convocation**: On June 4th, I attended the USchool Convocation ceremony as a member of the platform party on behalf of the SU and University Senate. It was honestly an incredible opportunity to see the impact this Senate program has on elementary and junior high school students in terms of how they now perceive university. Once student remarked in an essay that they had been motivated to graduate from high school, unlike many members of their family, but it was not until USchool that they had considered being motivated to attend post-secondary education. I was extremely moved by that testimonial in particular, as it demonstrates some of the barriers that young Canadians and Albertans face when considering attending university, college or a polytechnic.

2. **Executive media training**: On July 26th, the Executive and External Advocacy Advisor will take part in media training provided by Catherine Keill of Keill and Co., a consultant firm in the Edmonton area. This will allow the Executive and staff overseeing media relations to effectively communicate the messages of student to the public and media stakeholders.

3. **Honorary Degree Reception**: On June 5th, VP Agarwal and I attended a convocation reception for honorary degree recipients. It was an excellent opportunity for us to network with University stakeholders and administration, as well as interact with some fantastic honorary degree recipients.

4. **Senate Presentation**: On June 11th, I presented to the National Finance Committee of the Senate of Canada on behalf of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. This was an excellent opportunity given to CASA and our partners, the Quebec Student Union, to present students’ views on the federal budget to the Senate. This included, in particular, measures lowering interest rates on loans, work-integrated learning funding, parental leave for graduate students, and the value of up-front grants targeted at low and middle-income students. Overall, I think the Senators were very receptive to our asks and recommendations of options government should consider before the federal election. The Senate is often underestimated in terms of its legislative capacity, however many Senators are supporters of CASA and the work we do, and hope to do work that benefits students.
5. CASA Board Retreat: From June 11-13, I participated in the transition retreat of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. This transition covered the intricacies of governance of a national not-for-profit organization, various CASA projects for the year (including Get Out the Vote), and assigning Board members as liaison connections to our membership across the country. I am very excited to work with the incoming Board, and Home Office staff, in advancing CASA’s various projects over the next year that will result in a not-so-normal year for the organization! Below is a photo of the Board of Directors of CASA for the 2019-2020 year, including representatives from (left to right): Athabasca University SU, University of PEI SU, University of the Fraser Valley SU Society, Saint Mary’s University Students’ Association, SAIT Students’ Association, Mount Allison University SU, and finally yours truly from the University of Alberta SU.

6. Personal Announcements / Things to Note: The CASA Board Retreat will likely be the last major bit of travel I will have until the end of July & beginning of August, so I look forward to being around the office and Council committees more during this time. I truly do appreciate Council’s patience with me when I must miss Committee meetings due to travels for responsibilities in representing the UASU at CAUS and CASA. The work we do with our external advocacy groups is extremely valuable to the success of the SU, and I hope to continue to showcase this throughout the year. That being said, I have decided to push my vacation time to mid-July, so please disregard my notice of vacation in June from my previous report.

Let’s have a great GovCamp! Also, SO HAPPY that the Toronto Raptors won the NBA championship!! #WeTheNorth

Cheers,

Adam Brown

University of Alberta Students’ Union Vice President (External)