September 29th, 2016
To: Students’ Council
Re: Report to Students’ Council

Council Report #10: Governance, Consultation and EMPloyment

Hello Council,

I hope you’ve been well! It’s funny just how fast September has gone, a couple blinks and it’s already October! I am sure all of you are settling into classes and back to the university grind. The past couple weeks have been busy at the UASU and I am happy to be back giving all y’all my report! So stay tuned for what’s in store.

Provincial
CAUS Calgary Meeting

On Friday Sept. 30th (I can hardly believe it’s already here!) Fahim, Jon (our Director of Research and Political Affairs) and I are headed down to Calgary for our CAUS in person meeting. We will likely be talking about the Minimum Wage Consultations each of the SA’s have done with their Students’ Unions, policy updates, as well as planning our advocacy conference in November! I will be sure to update you on every that went down when we next meet!

Minimum Wage Consultation

I would like to say thank you very much to the students who provided their feedback in the Minimum Wage Consultation Feedback form I sent out last week. I would like you to know that I take your feedback very seriously and thank those of you who voiced their comments on both the consultation proper and the process through which it was addressed. I have considered the feedback given and will be sure to continue to take it into consideration as we move forward in the future. I take pride in transparency and collaboration with my peers on council, and will continue to provide my open honest thoughts to all questions, hypothetical or otherwise. As stated in the consultation form, I have taken the feedback given not as an “official” or “unofficial” stance of of the SU, but instead as a mechanism to help me make the most informed decisions when representing our institution’s students to our fellow student leaders and external bodies. As stated in the form, with the feedback given the Vice-President (External) will not predetermine a position, nor imply that a position (official or otherwise) of Students' Council has been made, until an official position has been made by council. I will be sure to update Council on the position of CAUS. In the event a vote

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from council is required (e.g. should CAUS takes a stance on this subject that requires our Council's approval), the Vice-President (External) will introduce a motion to Council. CAUS will be discussing the Minimum Wage Consultation at our meeting on Friday, and I will be sure to let council know what I find out!

UASU

GovWeek

I would like to begin by thanking and congratulating our Vice-President (Academic) Marina Banister for all her work putting together an incredible week-long celebration of governance. I am happy to note that over the past week I have had conversations with a number of students who have told me about how the events taken place during GovWeek have helped their understanding of governance and have inspired them to become more involved in governance bodies in both their university and community. I would also like to thank Minister of Advanced Education Marlin Schmidt for sharing his thoughts on student involvement in governance, as well as for coming out and interacting with students during our events. I would also like to thank MLA David Shepherd for coming to play music and engaging in meaningful conversations with students, alongside Member Estefania Cortes-Vargas, MP Kerry Diotte, MP Michael Cooper fellow elected officials who took time out of their day to speak to students here on campus. I also thank the Political Science Undergraduate Association for all their hard work helping put together the Celebration of Governance After Party; in addition to Brennan Murphy, Dennis Franz and other SU staff for pulling this event together; and the band Abandon Your Town for coming out and playing as well.

Turban Tying Event

I am absolutely proud of the Sikh Students’ Association and the Sikh community for pulling together the recent Turban Eh! turban tying event in the Students’ Union, as well as all the students and community members who came to our SUB Stage to take part. I am so happy to see people from all walks of life banding together to stand against racism and intolerance here on campus. The posters put up around campus were an unacceptable and cowardly show of discrimination. However, the response made by students to create dialogue and dispel harmful myths makes me proud to be a representative of the University of Alberta student body. Together, we are strong.

EMP FEST

I am happy to announce that the Employment Festival is soundly moving along. Applications to the advisory committee will be released during the first week of October and will be open to students, university folk and community members at-large. I have begun working with our marketing department on a first identity and hope to have finalized
branding by the end of October. I will continue to keep council updated on EMP FEST progress.

I am planning on holding this festival because it seems that over the past few years more and more students have become increasingly concerned about the usefulness of their degrees. While the Students’ Union’s mandate does not ensure that each student will have a job after graduation, we can help to provide the tools and resources they need to get off on the right foot. There are multitudes of events/sessions/workshops/competitions that have to do with employment that happen throughout the year. The goal of a week long festival is to compress these activities into a few days, in order to make them more visible, giving students the opportunity to attend these events and define their own path.

There are 5 pillars that the festival is centred on, they are:

- To showcase the diversity of employment
- To help students define a career path post PSE
- To ensure students are aware of the resources available to help them find employment
- To provide students access to professionals in a diverse range of fields
- To highlight the versatility of skills learned and how they can apply to other career fields

The festival hopes to target students in 3 general demographics: those early in their degree, those in the middle of their degree and those at the late part of their degree. For those early in their degree, EMP FEST hopes to help these students explore different career paths and define how they plan to use their degree in the future. For those in the middle of their degree EMP FEST hopes to help students manage their workplace expectations, as well as to help them fine-tune their marketable skills in order to help them become more hirable. For those in the latter part of their degree EMP FEST will work to connect them with employers and professionals in their field to help them as they seek to begin their career.

Welp! I hope you enjoyed the 11th edition of the Report of the Vice-President (External). It still astounds me how fast the year is going by. But thinking about all the rest of the year has in store makes me excited evermore! I am looking forward to the month of October and hope that all of you are as well!

Hearken! Together we move forward, evermore,
Mike Sandare