Dear Council,

Below is a summary of the work I have been up to since our last Council meeting.

CASA

Policy Research Analyst job Interviews

Last week, the staff at CASA's Home Office and I performed interviews for the vacant position of a Policy Research Analyst at CASA. We will be making our decision soon on who we will be going with.

Citizenship and Immigration Committee Panelist

On Thursday February 4th, I was a part of a panel that spoke before the House of Commons’ standing committee on Citizenship and Immigration on their study of the recruitment and application rate of International students in Quebec and Canada, including francophone students from African countries. I was given the opportunity to provide a 5 minute opening statement and would later be fielded questions by committee members (click here to see recorded stream).

I presented to the committee CASA's perspective on the improvements to Canada's study permitting and immigration process that would make it easier for international students to apply and study in Canada. I also suggested additional recommendations that would keep Canada competitive amongst other countries as a top destination for international students to come study. I would like to thank the ISA council, ASA and AUFSJ for assisting in facilitating the connections or conversations that informed my knowledge on this topic and I would especially like to thank the students who shared with me their experiences. The preparation and eventual delivery of this hearing was very educational and an incredible experience. I got to learn more from my fellow panelist and was even more honoured to speak before our lawmakers on behalf of students.

Advocacy Week

CASA's advocacy week is fast approaching (Feb 14th–20th). During this week, I alongside many other student leaders will be meeting with MPs, Senators and Policy makers to advocate for the priorities and concerns shared by students.

We will hopefully be posting on social media asking students to share their concerns and issues they would like President Ley and I to bring before their elected leaders. We also put out a perks survey which has garnered lots of responses already.

Christian Fotang, Vice President External

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Things you can do in preparation for advocacy week:

1. Please! Please! Please! Help share the post when it is released!
2. Reach out to your constituents to hear what their concerns are and share with President Ley and I

ESA

ESA Board Meeting

The Edmonton Student Alliance has been hard at work finalizing setting up meetings with City Council members. This past Wednesday, we met to review the first draft of our priority document and get feedback from membership. This year, we continue to put affordable transit, student employment opportunities and affordable housing as the top priorities for members. Once approved I look forward to sharing our recommendations to City Council with you fellow UASU Councillors.

CAUS

Organizational Review and Transformation Conference

This week President Ley and I have been attending CAUS’ organizational review and transformation conference. The conference has been moving at the pace of conversation from our membership and the conversation has centered around the necessary improvements and immediate reforms that can and should be implemented to strengthen CAUS’ structure and advocacy efforts. While President Ley and I cannot reveal too much of the details at the moment, as these conversations are still ongoing. Once completed President Ley and I will be sharing what direction the board has taken in making improvements to CAUS.

Highlights of the week:

As you will read, the execs all participated in ASLS either through panels or presenting. VP Monteiro and I gave a presentation on leading through challenging times. This was a really fun topic to explore and I had a blast sharing my experience and skills with other students!!

I wish you all the best! And as always, never hesitate to reach out to me for questions.

Yours Externally,

Christian Fotang

University of Alberta Students’ Union Vice President External
Christian Fotang