Hi Council,

Hope your summer is going great! Just realized that we are nearly halfway through it already. I have been largely on campus for the past two weeks, so that has been a refreshing change of pace.

MOU Signing Ceremony
The Memorandum of Understanding with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and the University of Alberta signing on June 1st was a historic and symbolic moment for the UofA and its path towards reconciliation. Our Political Policy, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, explicitly states that “University of Alberta Museums and Libraries should work collaboratively with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation” so it was incredible to have our entire Executive team in attendance for that ceremony. As a personal note, Elmer Ghostkeeper, one of the elders in attendance, is a good family friend and it was a humbling moment to be reminded of the work that still needs to occur on reconciliation.

Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) - Chair
As CAUS chair I have started on a few projects. Notably, we will have our first
teleconference Friday, and the agenda is fairly packed. Items to note include some roles and mandates, discussion guides, priorities, and financials. We will have an in-person meeting on June 19th, and most representatives will be attending the Student Wellness Summit the following day as well. I have written updates to CAUS internal policies, been added as signing authority, had two meetings with their Executive Director, and two teleconferences with CAUS central (ED, Vice Chair, Chair). I had a meeting with Student Advocates for Public Health on the impacts of cannabis sales on students in the province. We are currently looking to set up times to sit with our counterparts at the Alberta Student Executive Council and Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council shortly as well. I will be reviewing our website, social media, and materials over the next week to begin developing our approach to communications for the year as well.

Internal Projects
The Department of Political Affairs and Research have begun our summer run of contacting representatives across all levels of government. The provincial government just ended session so we should see some responses trickle in soon. We are moving forward with polling stations in SUB for the municipal elections and will be putting out an internal GOTV campaign. Development of residence materials is in the initial stages, and Vice President Ushakov and I will be collaborating on some projects, including tenants rights and residence, over the summer. I have begun discussions about refreshing our housing registry to be more student focused and hopefully that resource will have more supports for students shortly as well. I am hoping to sit down with some internal stakeholders, including Indigenous, International, and Greek representatives over the summer, but, many meetings may have to wait till folks are back on campus in September. Asides that, I am continuing to keep present on social media, and will hopefully build my outreach throughout the summer to culminate in a larger presence in September.

Augustana Convocation
I got to wear my senator’s robes for the first time! The entire Executive was able to attend, the convocation was an amazing experience, as the setting in Augustana is very intimate and regal.

GovCamp
All of the Executives were in attendance for GovCamp and was largely a great team bonding experience. Was great to get to know the attendees better and some projects and ideas certainly will come be developed from the camp.

Ualberta Evolution
I don’t sit on many internal committees, but this one is probably the most interesting. Right now the University is looking to redevelop its online presence and is reviewing its entire online ecosystem. This committee serves to bring all the campus stakeholders together on this project and thus far have learned a lot about how the UofA’s online structure does work. I will be able to provide more updates in the future, but so far we have just been
briefed on what the current system looks like and what changes people want to see out of survey data.

Peter Lougheed Hall (PLH) Opening
All of the Executives were able to attend the opening of the PLH. It was a fairly large event, but we all managed to talk to many interesting people and represent the SU.

Dean of Students (DOS) Retreat
Tuesday the Executive spent the day on with the DOS and Graduate Student Council (GSC) at a goal sharing retreat hosted by the DOS. We were able to get a high-level overview of everyone’s goals and go over any areas that might work for collaboration. There wasn’t too much for my portfolio, however, differed maintenance and mental health funding continue to be a great priority for most, and I was able to give context to our tuition and affordability stance.

In The News
The UofA and Students Union were mentioned briefly on CBC National on a panel regarding free speech on campus. The UofA saw lots of coverage on deferred maintenance and fish. Safety concerns in residence were on Global Edmonton. A few Executive members have had Gateway interviews and articles. Provincially we are waiting on announcements on a broad range of topics including mental health funding, tuition
reviews, funding frameworks, and others. Federally the new Conservative party leader Andrew Scheer has taken a stance on post-secondary funding, and the New Democrats are currently undergoing a race for a new leader, which all may have impacts on post-secondary institutions and funding.

If you’ve heard of anything else external you’d like to chat about, get in contact anytime.

Cheers,

`Reed Larsen