Date: 10 May 2018
To: Students’ Union Council
Re: VPX 2018/19 Report

Dear Council,

I am very excited to provide my first report to you as Vice President (External) of the Students’ Union. I am equally excited to start working with you this year, and to get to know those who I do not already know!

1. Updates

   We started off our mandate with a transition retreat with the outgoing executive, where I learned more about the operations and work of the SU and bonded with the rest of the incoming executive. Since then, I have been settling in to the office, getting to know our fantastic staff, and preparing for my upcoming conferences (more information on those below).

2. On the political front

   On May 5th & 6th, members of the United Conservative Party (Alberta’s Official Opposition) met in Red Deer for the party’s first ever policy conference. While I was not able to attend as an observer, I did keep track of motions passed that affect the Students’ Union and post-secondary education. The UCP did adopt a policy around making students’ association (such as our SU) memberships optional, which is very concerning to the long-term stability of the Students’ Union. This is something that I will be monitoring, as well as reaching out to members of the UCP (MLAs and those involved in policy-making) to engage in discussions around the value of PSE students’ associations.

   On Monday, May 7th, I attended an Alberta Party Leaders Reception (was offered a free ticket to attend as an observer) at the Chateau Lacombe. I was able to talk with a variety of Alberta Party supporters regarding our donor program and the United Conservative Party post-secondary policies. The response to our donor program was generally positive, as were responses to our UCP concern.

3. To note:

   As I am writing this, I am preparing to start the annual Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) changeover retreat, which will take place in Calgary and Canmore until the evening of Monday, May 14th. I am joined by President Larsen, as well as former SU President
Marina Banister. It is my goal that our Students’ Union’s priorities are incorporated into the CAUS priorities for the coming year in order to effectively advocate to government.

From May 21st to 26th, President Larsen and I will be in Ottawa (Gatineau) for the annual Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Foundations conference. This conference, much like the CAUS changeover, will determine CASA’s goals for the year and elect a new Board of Directors. I am very much looking forward to meeting with our counterparts from across the country, and to use my bilingualism in speaking with members of the Quebec Students’ Union.

While I may be out of the office a fair bit this month, please let me know in council questions, by dropping by my office, or via email (vp.external@su.ualberta.ca) if you have any questions or thoughts on my work.

Kind regards,

UASU VP External
Adam Brown