



STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

6:00PM

[Zoom](#)

We would like to respectfully acknowledge that our University and our Students' Union are located on Treaty 6 Territory. We are grateful to be on Cree, Dene, Saulteaux, Métis, Blackfoot, and Nakota Sioux territory; specifically the ancestral space of the Papaschase Cree. These Nations are our family, friends, faculty, staff, students, and peers. As members of the University of Alberta Students' Union we honour the nation-to-nation treaty relationship. We aspire for our learning, research, teaching, and governance to acknowledge and work towards the decolonization of Indigenous knowledges and traditions.

LATE ADDITIONS (SC-2020-10)

2020-10/1 SPEAKERS BUSINESS

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87262173363?pwd=ampka2ZjRGIObkVNajVUb0VjSEZHU T09>

Meeting ID: 872 6217 3363

Passcode: 468882

2020-10/2 PRESENTATIONS

2020-10/3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

2020-10/4 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORT

2020-10/5 OPEN FORUM

2020-10/6 QUESTION PERIOD

2020-10/7 BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2020-10/8 GENERAL ORDERS

2020-10/8a **KIDD MOVES TO** discuss Campus Sexual Violence.

See SC-2020-10.13

2020-10/9 INFORMATION ITEMS

2020-10/9a Executive Committee Reports

See SC-2020-10.01-04.11

2020-10/9b Board of Governors Representative Report

See SC-2020-10.12

2020-10/9c Addressing Sexual Violence and Harrassment at the University of Alberta

See SC-2020-10.07.13

Date: 06/11/20

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President External 2020/21 Report 06/16/20

Dear Council,

First of all, apologies for this week's report being on the late additions. It was a completely crazy couple of days on Thursday and Friday, and I did not get out of the office until 7PM. I unfortunately forgot to submit this report that evening. Of course I will make sure my reports are on the main agenda in future.

Aside from that, it has been a rather challenging last few weeks overseeing the completion of both the UASU and CAUS submissions to the Alberta 2030 review, final planning for the CAUS fall campaign, administrative items at CAUS, Week of Welcome activities, and external stakeholder meetings. Fortunately, things are looking up a bit, and I plan to take a vacation in the first week of October.

Alberta 2030 engagement

The UASU submission to the Alberta 2030 review is completed. It was principally drafted by our wonderful Research and Advocacy staff, who did an excellent job. It focuses on the need to expand affordability through improved granting and expanding the capacity of the PSE system, but it also touches on a number of other areas including campus sexual violence response, mental health funding, and student representation in governance. It will be posted on our Public Research page by the time Council meets, and you will be able to read it in its entirety if you want. I would also be happy to email the CAUS submission to any of you who would like to see it. It was drafted by CAUS Executive Director Jon Mastel and advocacy decisions were made through a special session of the CAUS board at our Counterparts retreat.

I have also attended two McKinsey challenge panel meetings and participated in an individual interview with McKinsey consultants, and provided their team some of our research on the efficacy of online learning during COVID-19.

CAUS Office Moving to SUB

After a decision of the CAUS Board two weeks ago, the CAUS office will almost definitely be moving to SUB this December in exchange for a rent of \$12,275/year. The office will move into currently non-revenue generating space and so represents a net revenue gain for us, while also being much cheaper than CAUS' current lease while also having superior facilities. This deal is a win-win for UASU and CAUS.

External Relations Advisory Group (ERAG)

In order to make communications between student groups that have a stake in our advocacy easier and engage perspectives that are sometimes not included in Council, I have been working on creating an advisory group for the VP External. This group will be structured as a subcommittee of the Executive Committee. We will be inviting representatives of the Student Representative Associations that are not Residence or Faculty Associations, including Campus Associations, so the list is AUFSJ (Campus Saint Jean), ASA (Augustana), the Aboriginal Students Council, and the International Students Association (if their SRA application is approved). It will also include six students-at-large selected for diverse perspectives and expertise, and meet once a month at minimum.

ERAG is not meant to replace the role of Council in guiding the executive, but rather to complement it by making sure I have a way to engage with perspectives that may not be present on Council. We will likely be able to open applications in mid-late September and hold our first meeting in late September or early October.

Senate Role Assignment

Assignments for student roles on the Senate were released earlier this week. I will be serving on the Honorary Degrees Committee. Yintong Liu and Veronica Ortiz-Zelada will be serving on the USchool Fundraising Committee (Veronica will also be on the USchool Advisory Committee), and Chris Beasley and Yintong Liu will serve on the Communications Committee and Mental Health Advisory Committee. I'm looking forward to working with all of them.

Lastly in personal news, I got a great deal on a new model plane, a 1:200 scale Canadian Pacific Airlines Boeing 747-200 in the special livery adopted for the 1986 World Expo in Vancouver. Aside from being a lovely office decoration it is a cool piece of Canadian aviation history. I will also be taking a vacation to help out my grandmother in Quebec with some winter preparations in the week of September 27th to October, and I will be trying to relax and decompress as possible while I am there.

Have a great week,



University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President External
Rowan Ley

Date: 09/08/2020

To: Students' Union Council

Re: BoG Rep 2020/2021 Report #8 - **Retreat and Events**

Dear Council,

Board

1. **Retreat:** we had a great time on Thursday and Friday with a mix of social mixing and work. Even though separated by COVID-19 we had valuable discussions with an intuitive breakout-room format for more effective discussions. Although I cannot share details of the conversations, trust I am raising concerns you and your constituents bring to me in board and personal meetings. With this said, continue expressing concerns, because I can do my job well when requests are clearly communicated.
2. **BRPAC:** my next meeting is next Friday. I am meeting with AUFSJ tomorrow to directly hear their thoughts about the entire CSJ funding issue, positives and negatives of being on or off North Campus and how I can effectively advocate on their behalf. I want to discuss all of this with Augustana because these changes affect all university communities.

Events

1. I am excited to attend Angela Davis' talk this Friday and the panel about the politics of UAlberta's academic restructuring next Wednesday. Hearing voices of support and critique are refreshing and useful, giving me a more holistic perspective on big issues.

Thanks for reading!



University of Alberta Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative
Dave Konrad

2020-21 - Council Submissions

UASU Students' Council Agenda Submission

Council Meeting Date Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Mover Kidd

Email katie.kidd@su.ualberta.ca

Action Requested Discussion

Discussion

Motion Kidd moves discuss Campus Sexual Violence

Abstract

In light of recent public allegations, executives will provide an update on actions taken so far. Discussion about the topic and actions moving so far. This conversation may bring up sensitive subject matter so please feel free to tune out or leave the meeting, your mental health is important.

Attachments



Addressing Sexual Violence and Harassmen...

Addressing Sexual Violence and Harassment at the University of Alberta

June 30, 2020

Context

- For several years, Vice Presidents (Student Life) have urged the University to hire a dedicated campus sexual violence prevention coordinator with the authority to evaluate and strengthen the University's approach.
- Alix Kemp, a UAlberta graduate, recently wrote a series of blog posts (parts [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)) naming a retired professor as their rapist, and chronicling their interactions with the University's processes and practices. Alix's account points out shortcomings at several levels, and is consistent with what we have heard from students. Alix has provided their permission to share this information with the University as part of our ongoing advocacy on sexual violence.
- Based on student experiences, including Alix's detailed account, the UASU Executive Committee asks the University to take substantive action.

Commit to Operational Improvements

- The University needs to hire a dedicated sexual violence prevention specialist with enough authority and resources to address the University's shortcomings. Dividing some of these responsibilities between Student Care Counsellors with limited authority is not sufficient.
 - Consider the [UBC model](#): a fully-resourced sexual violence prevention and response office with significant authority. UBC's approach is orders of magnitude more committed than what we see.
- The University needs to implement a mandatory workshop for all academic staff, focusing on sexual harassment and violence, consent, professional standards around relationships with students, and what to do when someone makes a disclosure.

Create Clear Pathways for Reporting

- The University must immediately and completely overhaul public-facing content on sexual violence to provide clear, accessible pathways for reporting and disclosure. Alix's [second post](#) gives a detailed account of attempting to navigate this content. After listing several tangible obstacles, they state:

In short: the system for reporting sexual violence committed by professor[s] at the University of Alberta is completely opaque and difficult to navigate. I find it confusing and frustrating at 32. How on earth are undergraduate students, most of whom are between 17 and 22, supposed to navigate this insanity?

...It would be easy to say that the U of A's reporting system is broken. But it's not. It is designed to have the outcome that it has. It is designed to make it difficult for students to report instances of sexual violence on campus. It is designed to make them feel confused, lost, and alone.

The U of A might counter that they have people whose job it is — like my "Student Care Counsellor" — to help students navigate this system. But a) if you need someone to help people figure out your completely incomprehensible system, it's a bad system, and b) telling students that in order to figure out how to file a complaint they need to talk to a total stranger about what happened to them with no up-front information about what will happen as a result, is not a good solution.

Upgrade Policies and Procedural Fairness

- The University needs to create and enforce a policy forbidding sexual behavior or relationships between instructors and their students, or between graduate students and their supervisors. This policy should come with employment consequences. If an instructor has a relationship with a student who they do not teach or oversee, there should be a clear and mandatory disclosure system. If an instructor knows that a colleague has behaved inappropriately toward a student, the third party should have a duty to report.
- Obviously, improved reporting mechanisms and strengthened expectations should protect students. For example, if a third party reports inappropriate behavior between an instructor and their student, the student should be protected from extended questioning, outing, or other negative outcomes.
- Clear reporting requires a strong foundation, and the University's reporting mechanisms fail to sufficiently address the issues we are raising. The University needs to act decisively and immediately to review its entire approach at the

highest levels. Alix states:

Part of the problem, [my Student Care Counsellor] said, is that the University's sexual assault policies have a gap: most of the reporting mechanisms and solutions are geared towards when one student assaults another student.

That's why, every time over the past 13 years that I've tried to look up how to report it, I couldn't find any clear answers. The reporting system at the University of Alberta makes it almost impossible for a 19-year-old rape victim to report it to the University when they are assaulted by their professor. There's no clear process.

- The Sexual Violence Policy makes it clear that disclosure encompasses verbal accounts to any member of the University community "that they have experienced sexual violence." This insufficient framing feeds into the University's lack of clear, accessible reporting mechanisms and expectations. As Alix notes:

I've received some really lovely, supportive messages from people on Twitter who work in the Department of History. The theme to most of the message is the same: they didn't know about what happened to me in particular, but they're not surprised. Many of them were aware that he had other inappropriate sexual relationships with students.

...It should not be required for a student to complain in order to discipline a faculty member who is found to be sexually harassing or abusing students. If another faculty or staff member becomes aware of an inappropriate situation, the university should act to discipline or remove the faculty member responsible.

- The University needs to update the Charter of Student Rights to reflect the above changes to policy and procedure. Students need a clear understanding of their rights under procedural fairness, including, as Alix points out:

The right to participate or not participate in the process as the survivor chooses.

The right to be kept informed about what is happening as a result of their complaint.

The right to clear, accessible explanations of their options, relevant processes, and what they can expect.

Make Substantive Apologies

We believe that the University, at several levels, owes the student body an apology:

- For creating and maintaining an opaque web presence that fails to provide survivors with clear, accessible reporting mechanisms;
- For failing to protect and guide students who have been harassed or assaulted by instructors;
- For failing to act on what appears to be widespread acknowledgement within the Department of History and Classics that Dr. Andrew Gow had, in Alix's words, "inappropriate sexual relationships with students";
- For consistently failing to recruit a sexual violence prevention and response coordinator with sufficient authority and resources to make a difference.