

May 18th, 2023

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Report to Students' Council 2023/24

Report by:
Christian Fotang
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Chris Beasley



PRESIDENT REPORT

Chrstian Fotang

Hi Council,

Firstly, congratulations to those elected into committees and thank you for putting your name forward. I cannot wait to see all the work your respective committees achieve this year as the work begins. below is a review of my activities and those that the VPs have been up to over these last two weeks!

CAUS Changeover

Last weekend, former President Monteiro, VP Beasley, and I attended the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) Changeover conference in Canmore.

COUNCIL OF ALBERTA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

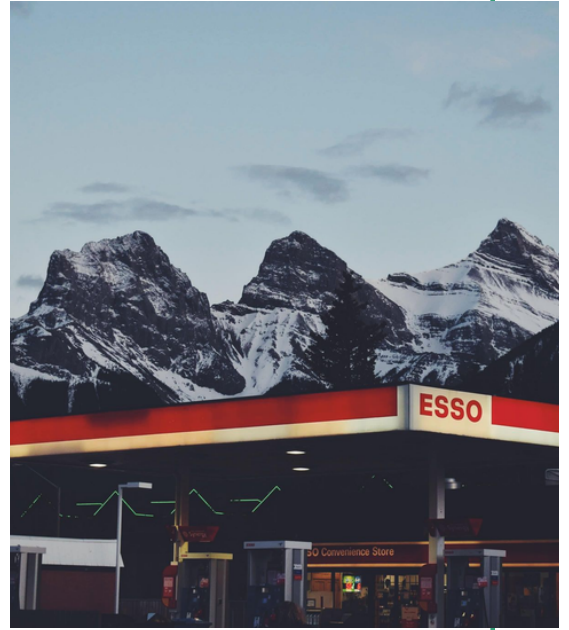
CAUS is an advocacy body comprised of 5 public University student unions/associations, namely, the University of Lethbridge SU, MacEwan University SA, Mount Royal University SA, and Athabasca University SU. This 4-day conference focused on transitioning newly elected student Presidents and VP Externals with an overview of the history and function of CAUS through presentations, workshops, and discussions. For example, in his former role as CAUS GOTV Co-ordinator,



PRESIDENT REPORT

Christian Fotang

VP Beasley gave a presentation on the Get-Out-The-Vote campaign, what projects remain, and where we must now focus our efforts. We also had an opportunity to share our platforms and the issues on which we ran. Presentations from Healthy Campus Alberta, Technology Alberta, and Janet Brown were sources for great conversations around mental health, improving work-integrated learning opportunities, and seeing Albertan's attitudes to the current election period. The highlight of this week was seeing our **VP External now be elected as Chair of CAUS. VP Beasley's appointment as Chair is a huge achievement, and I am immensely proud of Chris,** who has become the spokesperson of hundreds of thousands of Alberta University students.



CHANGEOVER CONFERENCE

VP Beasley's passion for Alberta politics, commitment to students, and a deep sense of service has prepared him for this role, and I cannot wait to see what he achieves in this role and where he leads and guides CAUS. I would also like to congratulate Prabhjit Grewal, VP External of the Student Association of Mount Royal University (SAMRU), who was elected Vice-Chair for CAUS. I wish both them and Chair Beasley the best of luck, and we will be cheering them on.

CANADIAN ALLIANCE OF STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS

2023

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Foundations Conference

Since Sunday, VP Beasley and I have attended CASA's Foundations conference in Ottawa. This conference focuses on giving newly elected student leaders nationwide a transition and overview of CASA, how federal advocacy works, and sharing the issues that matter to the students on our campus. We've had presentations on the landscape of federal politics, CASA's policy structure, and the National Indigenous Advocacy Committee. We have heard from keynote speakers such as Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. During our opening plenary, I was proud to welcome Trent Durham Students' Association (TDSA) as a new member of CASA.

Sincerely,

Christian Fotang



VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

PEDRO ALMEIDA



Dear Council,

These are a couple of the items on the academic portfolio that have been of discussion over the last weeks as the executive team has worked to get settled into our new roles. Please reach out if there are any questions or if you want to chat further about any of these points :)

DEAN OF STUDENTS (DOS) SELECTION

COUNCIL OF FACULTY ASSOCIATIONS

I have **begun the process of reaching out to the faculty associations and other SRAs to discuss our goals and priorities for the year and how the UASU can best support the students they represent.** Alongside this, the information collection process of executive members in each of these associations has begun, which will allow us to have the information necessary to conduct Council of Faculty Associations (CoFA) meetings in the near future.

Michael and I participated in a question period for candidates for the Dean of Students position. **We focused on asking how the candidates hope to provide different support for students** in this new role and to ensure their plans for supporting students were rooted in regular consultation.

Provost's Task Force on Artificial Intelligence

For new members, this task force is guided toward collecting information on how the University community engages with artificial intelligence and how this can affect both teaching and learning. We discussed current progress in discussion on artificial intelligence in places such as the Festival of Teaching and Learning. Furthermore, we talked about ways to make information on artificial intelligence in the university context more widely accessible and available to students, which will be a topic of conversation moving forward in these meetings.

GFC Executive Committee

The GFC executive committee met this past week. We were updated on the work done by the Committee on the Documentation of Indigeneity, we put together the agenda for the GFC meeting on May 29th (notably including the Embedded Certificate Framework discussed in the item below) and we were also instructed about how voting on the Clean Air Strategy will be coming to GFC in the fall.

Meeting with Vice Provosts

I had the first of my monthly meetings with the Vice Provosts, where we discussed the embedded certificates framework that is coming forward to the GFC Programs Committee. We discussed the consultation process that was undertaken for this project, how different faculties have reacted to it, and the revisions that were made since it was last brought to the Programs Committee. Further conversation was also had in regard to the next steps surrounding embedded certificates. We also discussed other projects being undertaken, such as incoming changes to SPOT surveys, and future projects such as the Syllabus Management Tool.

Best,

Pedro Almeida

Meeting with the Open Publishing and Open Education Librarian

I met with the Open Publishing and Open Education Librarian to discuss the role of the library in relation to the Zero-Textbook Cost program and gain context into plans for ZTC this year. Further meetings have been scheduled with the Registrar's Office to discuss ZTC plans further.

VICE-PRESIDENT EXTERNAL

Chris Beasley

Hello Council!

Happy to be writing my very first council report! It's been a busy few weeks so I will go through the two conferences that have dominated my time. As always, I invite any and all questions on my activities serving you all!

CAUS Changeover

President Fotang and I attended the Changeover conference hosted by the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) in Canmore from May 10th to the 13th. At the conference, we met and built strong relationships with delegates from all other CAUS schools (MacEwan University, University of Athabasca, University of Lethbridge, and University of Mount Royal).



CAUS Changeover (cont.)

Knowing how amazing all of our counterparts are, I am excited for the year we have ahead of us. We discussed mental health advocacy, the provincial election, affordability, and our internal priorities for CAUS this year. I am happy to announce as well that I was elected the Chair of CAUS and will spend this year serving as the spokesperson for over 114 thousand Albertan university students as well as the primary point of contact for the government on issues facing students at public universities. The trust that has been placed into me is a great honor and will allow me to bring forward the concerns that all Albertan students face to the provincial government. We also received presentations from our Executive Director Alexandra Ages, Janet Brown Polling, Healthy Campus Alberta, and Technology Alberta.

Best,

Chris Beasley

CASA Foundations

At the time of writing this report (Wednesday, May 17th), I am attending the Canadian Alliance of Students' Associations' Foundations conference in Ottawa. So far myself and President Fotang have been able to listen to a number of presentations on a variety of subjects. It's also been wonderful to build out our national network for student leaders as well, giving us connections across the country. Particularly useful have been presentations on the federal political climate, the presentation on the history of Truth and Reconciliation by our very own Shannon Cornellson, and the tobacco bundle building ceremony facilitated by our very own Levi Wolfe.





VICE-PRESIDENT STUDENT LIFE

Michael Griffiths

Council of Residence Association

I am getting the ball rolling on setting up the Council of Residence Associations body. I am working with our staff to reach out to the representatives from each Residence Association (RA) and compile a list of contacts for everyone who will sit on CORA. Once this is all set up I will start meeting with CORA as a whole and individually to make sure everyone has the support that they need. Everything is on track to have these relationships set up nice and early in the summer before the school year begins.

Hi Council!

My regrets for not being able to be there in person tonight, Pedro, Christian, and I are away at a StudentCare conference for our Health and Dental Plan, and will better update you at the next council. I'm still getting settled and this isn't an exhaustive list of everything I've done but here are a few things I've been working on in the meantime:

DEAN OF STUDENTS SELECTION

DoS Selection

Pedro and I also had the chance to sit in on QandAs with candidates for the vacant Dean of Students position. We spoke with the candidates and prompted them to think about the role of the Dean of Students in providing support for students. We pushed them to express how their vision for DoS aligns with the needs of students and to consider the importance of having ongoing conversations with students. We also had the opportunity to share our feedback from these sessions with the selection committee for them to consider as they complete the hiring process.

Best,

Michael Griffiths

UASSC

Some small positive updates to share from the safety and security committee I sit on with university folks: James, the chair of the committee is optimistic about where we will be regarding campus security by August. The communication that they have been sharing to senior leadership seems to be getting the message across that this is a priority. It sounds like this will translate to additional funding for important safety initiatives like our Campus Assistance Team.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE (UASSC)

THANK YOU

Do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any further questions or comments.

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