

Date: 17/01/2019
To: Students' Union Council
Re: VP(X) 2018/19 Report

Dear Council,

It's crazy to think that we only have about 3 months left in this term! The last couple of weeks have presented some very interesting news that might affect a lot of what we do over the next few months.

1. Updates

- **Alberta government Throne Speech and GOTV:** The government has announced the Speech from the Throne for March 18. This helps us get a better idea of when the provincial election could be called, as in from the day after (March 19) to May 1. If it is called March 19, that means advance polling would occur on campus (in SUB) while students are still on campus. Again, no definitive date but I am hopeful for an earlier call. GOTV Coordinator Raitz has informed me that so far we have roughly 2400 students signed up to pledge, and we are on track for a successful score of 5000-6000 by election day!
- **Advanced Education Budget Consultation:** On January 15, President Larsen, myself and EAA Nelson attended consultations for the 2019 budget with the Minister of Advanced Education, his Chief of Staff, and other student leaders. It was a productive discussion where we discussed what should be next following the success of Bill 19, such as converting tax credits into up-front grants for low and middle-income students. We also discussed deferred maintenance and the growing need for structured provincial investment to address the issue.
- **Ontario post-secondary announcement:** On January 17, the Ontario government announced various measures targeted at tuition and fees. This announcement has prompted a large dialogue across the country. You can find their announcement [here](#).
- **ASC tabling:** As the SU's representative to the Alumni Association, I am a member of the Alumni Student Council which primarily distributes granting money to groups for various projects, but also liaises with the Alumni Council. I spent some time tabling with them at clubs fair on January 16th to recruit new students who may be interested in applying to join. For more information on applying and what ASC does, click [here](#).
- **Campus Saint-Jean International Student meeting:** On January 17th I also attended a meeting between about 60 CSJ international students and their Dean to discuss their education program and how it could be modified to better suit their needs. Dean Mocquais indicated that all new staff working for CSJ in practicum placement will have to take EDI training from the University, which I was pleased to hear.
- **Budget Town Hall:** On January 14, I attended the University's new budget model town hall, hosted by the Provost and VP Finance. They gave an overview of what changes the

model will bring forward, from space rental charges to faculties to how tuition is dispersed based on the classes students take.

- **CAUS Counterparts:** The Executive was in Calgary on January 9 & 10 for a CAUS counterparts meeting that included discussions on Bill 19, open education resources (thanks for VP Bhatnagar for her presentation!), managing mental health as an executive, and more. Overall many great discussions with our counterparts and I look forward to finishing the year with these fantastic folks.

2. Coming up

- **Meeting with MP Dane Lloyd:** President Larsen, myself and EAA Nelson will be meeting with Conservative MP Dane Lloyd to discuss student issues. He has previously reached out to us on the topic of campus security.
- **GovWeek:** Come check out the Provincial Election Forum (12pm on January 24) and the Exec Mixer (5:30pm on January 23rd)!
- **CASA Mental Health Campaign:** From January 30 - February 1, CASA members across the country will be running the #StudentsLetsAct campaign to bring awareness to the federal government on mental health issues. Keep an eye out for broken heart paper cut-outs to write messages on, as we will be sending them back to Ottawa where they will all be presented to the government!

3. Things to Note

- **Antifreeze judging:** I had an amazing time judging the AntiFreeze dance competition on January 11 with the rest of the Executive! Those teams blew us away!

Keep yourselves warm this cold January! I'm not a coffee man myself, so a hot chocolate is always a good option.

Kind regards,



UASU VP (External)

Adam Brown