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Report: September 2023

Message from the President

Hello Pronghorns!

It is September, welcome or welcome back to campus! I am so happy to report what the September days were looking like for me and the rest of the ULSU. It was a very busy month, but I hope you all enjoyed it.

Meetings, Events, and Tasks Breakdown

During the month of September, I had the privilege of attending the following meetings and events listed below:

- First Year Move-In
- New Students Orientation
- Welcome Week
- Fresh Fest
- Horns Triple Header
- Welcome Back BBQ
- Student Service Fair
- ULSU Annual General Meeting
- Student Success Week
- Sisters in Spirit Vigil
- GFC Orientation/Meeting
- Arts & Science Council
- CAUS Board
- President's Chat Alberta
- ULSU Executive Breakfast
- Strategic Planning committee meeting
- Welcome back BBQ
- ULAA General Council
- Sexual and Gender Based Violence Prevention review
- Senate Retreat
- CASA E-plenary

- Mental Health Wellness Committee
- Indigenous relations committee
- Senate Executive
- Public Professor
- Gender Based Violence prevention working group
- General Assembly Orientation
- Library Advisory council

First Year Move- In

Team ULSU was able to help first years who were moving into residents. We had the chance to connect with the new students as well inform them about what they have access to here at the UofL as they make Lethbridge the home for the next few years.

New Students Orientation (Lethbridge & Calgary Campus)

The Executive Council and GA members had the opportunity to welcome new students to our campus community by partaking in the Welcome address from the President, campus tours, student panel and for the very first time we had a session geared towards educating new students about the ULSU services and a breakdown of what we do, this was hosted VP Academic, Brittany Allen and President, Maleeka Thomas.

Welcome Week Events

- **Student Service Carnival**
Students were able to visit all the student support services, clubs and levy groups that are here on campus and learn more about how they can gain access to the service offer to students.
- **Iniskim Welcome**
We had our annual Iniskim welcome in collaboration with Iikaiskini, students and community members. Protocols were followed and Elders providing blessings and prayer as we head into the new school year. We also had performances from Indigenous Dancers, Singers and drummers.
- **Drag night**

In collaboration with Q-space, our 2SLGBTQ+ club and advocacy group on campus to host a fun and inclusive event at the zoo where we had performance for some amazing drag queens.

- **Plant pot painting**

This event was to ensure that students had a space to get creative and take home some free plants to make their new home beautiful with plants. This event was also hosted to provide students a space to relax and take a breather from the bustle of first week.

- **Water Fight and Slip and slide**

We host our first water fight and had the opportunity to have fun with students as well as community members. Chancellor Terry Whitehead, and Board Chair, Dean Gallimore was in attendance and had the chance to connect with new and returning students while having fun.

- **Free BBQ**

With food insecurity being one of our biggest issue this year, the ULSU hosted a free BBQ event and was able to provide over 250 students with free a BBQ lunch.

Fresh Fest

The ULSU was able to host our largest Fresh Fest Outdoor Festival yet, where we had over 2100 students, volunteers and community members in attendance.

Horns Triple Header

We were able to collaborate with Pronghorn athletics to host a face painting and sign making booth at the Triple header.

Welcome Back BBQ

The ULSU worked with the External Relations team at the Welcome back BBQ. We had booth and was able to provide students we goodie bags as well as free gift cards to the bookstore and the ZOO.

Student Financial Assistance Consultation

I was able to meet with the SFA team to discuss long term approach to Student Financial Assistance through an EDI lens. I had to privilege of leading this meet with a discussing how team SFA can ensure adequate funding to student to access Post Secondary Education, talked about what measures can be put in place to aid in the removal of barriers existing for vulnerable

and underrepresented students across the country as well as discuss what supports can be put in place to support students experiencing difficulties in repayment.

Student Service Fair

Along with over a hundred on campus services and community organization, the ULSU was able to talk student government with those who are interested in being apart of the ULSU along with sign students up for volunteering.

Annual General Meeting

The ULSU hosted our first ever AGM. We had students and campus community members involved as we discussed plans for the upcoming months. In this meeting we also held our first year By-elections

Student Success Week

The ULSU in collaboration with the Student Success center and the library hosted a Student Success Week and was able to provide students with information on sourcing and citation as well as how to prepare for exams.

Sisters in Spirit Vigil

Team ULSU volunteered with the Sisters in Spirit Vigil with Indigenous community members and Elders.

GFC Orientation/ Meeting

This GFC meeting (September 11th) marks the Third GFC my term and first of the semester I was a part of as president. In GFC meetings we have the opportunity to discuss and vote on academic and operational changes to the university.

PS: All GFC meetings are open to non-voting members unless otherwise stated. So, if you wish to attend a meeting you are welcome to contact governance@uleth.ca to attend as a guest.

Arts & Science Council

This meeting was to discuss the necessary changes if any to the faculty of Arts and Science needed to be made as well as the update and changes to the different departments in the faculty of Arts & Science. I was in attendance alongside the ULSU VP-Academic, Brittany Allen, VP Student Life Yewoe Sackey-Forson and a few of our Arts & Science reps.

CAUS Board

This CAUS Board meeting we discussed our advocacy efforts moving forward especially with the announcement of the SGBV Survey results.

Presidents' Chat Alberta

Student Union and Student Association Presidents from the CAUS represented schools had a meeting to discuss what unique issue or collective student body is facing and brainstorm solutions.

ULSU Exec Breakfast

We met to the university admin to discuss students' needs and the ULSU Advocacy priorities.

Strategic Planning

The university is now in a strategic planning process, and we met to discuss the process for consultation. Students are a guiding light for our institution, and our experiences, aspirations and needs should be at the forefront of our strategic plan. We are not just recipients of education; we are active contributors to our university community. Our perspectives and collective vision should shape the activities we undertake in the future to build a university experience that is academically enriching, supportive, inclusive and aligned with the needs of the diverse student body.

Welcome back BBQ

The ULSU worked with the External Relations team at the Welcome back BBQ. We had booth and was able to provide students we goodie bags as well as free gift cards to the bookstore and the ZOO.

ULAA General Council

This was the first University of Lethbridge Alumni Association meeting I attended for the year. Here we discussed plans for the upcoming year and much more.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence Prevention review

Sexual & Gender Based Violence prevention is a top priority for the ULSU and we are working with both internal and external stakeholders to review the results of the provincial survey to ensure that effective solutions are put in place to aid in helping survivors and put measures in place for preventing.

Senate Retreat

This retreat provided us with an opportunity to understand the unique needs and nature of our university community and discuss what initiatives the senators at the UofL can engage in, in order to achieve set goals.

CASA E-plenary

We were able to meet and discuss as well as approve policies for CASA, those policies were working on by the CASA Federal Policy committee and the Director of Policy. The policies then went through a process of approval through a GBA analysis review by me as the Director of Equity Diversity and Inclusion.

Mental Health Wellness Committee

Mental Health Awareness week is upon us, so we are in crunch mode as we plan initiatives and activities for the week.

Indigenous relations committee

A committee ran by the Indigenous rep for the ULSU, I am grateful to be a part of the IRC meetings in which we discuss priorities for Indigenous students on campus.

Senate Executive

We met to discuss and approve the upcoming senate meeting agenda.

Public Professor

Public Professor is back, and the first presenter was our new president Dr. Digvar Jayas. He presented of the recent trends in the food industry.

Other Activities

- One-on-Ones with ULSU council and staff

Projects in Progress

- Working on a Food Kiosk to combat food security
- Campaign for food insecurity and food bank referendum
- Housing Survey to ensure the necessary data is collected to present to the provincial and federal government
- Indigenizing ULSU policies
- As Director of EDI working on developing an EDI Strategic Plan
- Student Financial aid & affordability conversations

- International Student Housing Cap response documentation to present to Federal government
- Student discount to aid in affordability crisis.
- Work Integrated Learning opportunities

Challenges encountered

One challenge I encountered this month is managing my time well with all the activities going on.

Goals for Next Month

- **Continue to connect with all GA members to hear their goals and initiative and provide assistance as well as build positive team relationships.**
- **Continue to fulfill my duties as President**

This Month's Wins

- o **Met with the Federal Student Financial Aid team**
- o **WIL project in collab with the university and city is coming**
- o **First Annual General Meeting**

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to reach out. I am available via email, phone call, or in-person/virtual meeting.

su.president@uleth.ca / (403) 329-2221

Kind Regards,



Maleeka Thomas



Office of the **PRESIDENT**
