



Office of the **VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL**

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Report: CAUS Fall Advocacy
Days

From Sunday November 5th to Wednesday November 8th, the ULSU executive travelled to Edmonton, AB for CAUS Fall Advocacy Days/ Counterpart Conference. For the VP Academic's, Op Fi's, and Student Affairs/ Life, being in Edmonton gave them the opportunity to network with their counterparts from the University of Lethbridge, Calgary, Alberta, MacEwan University, and Mount Royal University. For the Presidents and VP Externals, the intended purpose of this trip was Fall Advocacy Days, where we were able to meet with the Minister of Advanced Education and opposition parties to go over our 2017/18 priorities document. This event also coincided with CAUS' 30th Anniversary Celebration, which I had the honour of being Masters of Ceremonies for the Event. CAUS' 30th Anniversary was attended by many CAUS alumni (including ULSU alumni), the Minister of Advanced Education, Mayor Don Iveson (Mayor of Edmonton), the former Deputy Premier, and all of the CAUS' members executives. Mayor Naheed Nenshi also sent a video where he congratulated CAUS, as he was a former CAUS delegate.

Notable Meetings: Dr. David Swann, Minister Schmidt, and 5 UCP MLA's (Hailey met with the Alberta Party MLA Karen McPherson)

Meeting with Dr. David Swann, Alberta Liberal MLA

I met with Dr. David Swann of the Alberta Liberals with some of my colleagues from CAUS. This was my second time talking with Dr. Swann about our priorities document, as I had a phone call with him last month to discuss mental health funding. The meeting went very well, and Dr. Swann agreed to ask a question during Question Period about tuition regulation.

Meeting with the Hon. Marlin Schmidt, Minister of Advanced Education

I met with Minister Schmidt, along with the other four VP Externals, to discuss the progress of the ongoing reviews, including ABC review, tuition review and upcoming tuition legislation and/or announcement, and the funding framework review. We pressed the Minister on tuition,



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and told him that his government needs to take action now, as students do not want their tuition becoming a partisan issue ahead of what will be a very messy and polarizing election in 2019. The Minister told us that a tuition announcement would happen within the next few weeks, and that they were considering changes to legislation. We remain cautiously optimistic.

Meeting with the United Conservative Party (UCP)

As Vice-Chair of CAUS, I met with the UCP along with CAUS' Chair, and the 5 presidents from CAUS' member institutions. 5 UCP MLA's showed up, including Shadow Minister of Advanced Education Wayne Anderson, Prab Gill, Drew Barnes, Mark Smith, and Todd Loewen. We went over our 2017/18 priorities document, and answered their questions. The meeting was a huge success, and it resulted in Mr. Anderson asking Minister Schmidt a question about tuition legislation in Question Period.

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