



THE UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE
STUDENTS' UNION

Office of the **VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL**

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Meet & Greet with Brian Jean

On Thursday, June 1st, I attended a Meet & Greet with Brian Jean in Lethbridge, Alberta. This event was organized by the local constituency offices, and Mr. Jean travelled from Edmonton to attend. During the event, Mr. Jean talked about the unity agreement, and answered questions from those in attendance. I asked Mr. Jean about mental health funding, and what a United Conservative Government under his leadership would do to ensure stable and predictable mental health funding. Mr. Jean stated that he was aware of our situation at the University of Lethbridge, and that mental health funding is an important priority for him. After the event, I was able to talk to Justin Ferguson, Mr. Jean's Senior Advisor, and Kimberly Lyall, who is president of the Lethbridge East Wildrose constituency organization, about setting up a meeting and inviting Mr. Jean to campus.

General Faculties Council (GFC)

On Monday, June 5th, I attended GFC with the rest of the ULSU executives. Overall, I believe it was a very productive meeting.

Reappointment Committee

On Wednesday, June 6th, I attended the third and final meeting for the reappointment committee meeting that I was assigned to. I am very happy with the work that the committee did. Due to the confidential nature of the meeting, that is all that I will say.

Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) Teleconference

On Friday, June 9th, me and Hailey had our first teleconference meeting with our CAUS counterparts at MacEwan, Mount Royal, University of Calgary, and Univeristy of Alberta. During this meeting, we discussed planning for the CAUS counterpart conference in Lethbridge in July, picked issues regarding the student experience of international students as a research



Office of the **VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL**

topic for CAUS' summer research student, discussed roles and mandates, and our priorities document. Overall, it was a great meeting.

Lethbridge Unity Town Hall with Jason Kenney and MLA Drew Barnes

On Tuesday, June 13th, I attended the Jason Kenney Lethbridge Unity Town Hall. During this town hall, I was able to talk to MLA Drew Barnes about CAUS and issues that directly impact students. During the Q and A period, I was able to ask Mr. Kenney about the seventh founding principle in the Agreement in Principle, which states, "high quality publicly-funded education that maintains Alberta's successful model of school choice." I asked Mr. Kenney if this point included post-secondary education, and if it did, why was post-secondary education not a separate point? Mr. Kenney responded by saying that it is a broad agreement, and they could not get into specific policy. I then asked Mr. Kenney what he would do to support predictable and sustainable mental health funding for Alberta post-secondary institutions if he was to become Premier, he answered by stating that he supports mental health initiatives, but could not go into specifics. He also said that he wants to focus on the colleges and polytechnics as well. I was able to talk to Mr. Kenney about a follow-up meeting, and I will be in contact with Mr. Barnes about a follow up meeting as well.

Pride Flag Raising

On Friday, June 16th, Me, Sandeep, Tracey, and Cheri attended the raising of the Pride flag on campus. It was great to see that happen, and the turnout for the raising of the pride flag was fantastic.

CAUS in-person meeting in Calgary, Alberta

On Monday, June 19th, Me, Hailey, Sandeep, and Royal drove to Calgary and stayed the night for multiple events, including the CAUS in person meeting at the University of Calgary, the Wellness summit, and the mental health announcement. In regards to the CAUS meeting, we passed our research project, CAUS' 2017/18 Budget, and CAUS' social media and Chair/Vice Chair travel policies. We also scheduled all of our meetings for the upcoming year, and appointed two CAUS representatives to attend the Government of Alberta Funding Framework Review. The two representatives were Reed, Chair of CAUS, and myself, as Vice Chair.



Office of the **VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL**

Wellness Summit 2017: Healthy Campus Alberta/ Mental Health Announcement

The next day, on Tuesday, June 20th, we attended the 2017 Wellness Summit, hosted by Healthy Campus Alberta. Overall, the event was great, and the sessions were very informative. Also, Hon. Marlin Schmidt, the Minister of Advanced Education, and Hon. Brandy Payne, the Associate Minister of Health, were in attendance for an announcement surrounding Mental Health funding. The announcement was a three year, \$25.8 million dollar commitment to Mental Health. As Vice Chair of CAUS, I was able to talk to Bill Moore-Kilgannon, Minister Schmidt's Chief of Staff, and Minister Schmidt about the announcement. Minister Schmidt and Associate Minister Payne outlined seven steps for improving post-secondary mental health, which include:

1. Providing equitable funding to publicly funded post-secondary institutions.
2. Defining roles of post-secondary and public health systems in improving post-secondary student mental health.
3. Integrating on-campus mental health supports with larger regional systems. This includes a three-year transition period, where there will be no reduction in mental health funding.
4. Providing a one-time, two-year grant opportunity to support Indigenous post-secondary students' mental health.
5. Funding Healthy Campus Alberta Community of Practice
6. Improving access to 24-hour universal supports throughout the province.
7. Reviewing student aid policies.

Senate Recognition Dinner

As a new senator on the University of Lethbridge Senate, I was invited to the Senate recognition dinner by Chancellor Janice Varzari. It was a great opportunity to talk to current senators and senior administration.

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Federal Policy Committee

This month, I have had two teleconference meetings as part of my commitment to the Federal Policy committee, which I was elected to serve. We have a number of policies up for renewal, and I look forward to working on them.

Meeting with David Khan and Gwyneth Midgley

On Friday, June 23th, we were able to meet with the new leader of the Alberta Liberal Party, David Khan, and Executive Director of the Alberta Liberal Party, Gwyneth Midgley. During this



Office of the **VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL**

meeting, we discussed mental health funding, student financial aid, and tuition. It was a very productive meeting, and we look forward to future meetings with them.

Lethbridge Pride Parade

On Saturday, June 24th, Me, Ameet, Royal, and Hailey marched in the Lethbridge Pride parade with the Pride Centre. It was a lot of fun. During the parade, we talked to David Khan, MLA Maria Fitzpatrick, and Minister Shannon Phillips.

Meeting with Bookstore Staff

On Wednesday, June 28th, Me, Hailey, Royal, and Ameet met with Becky, Annette, and Kari from the University of Lethbridge bookstore. We discussed Open Educational Resources, and other areas where we could work together. It was a great meeting.

Youth Advisory Council Strategic Planning

As part of my duty as Vice-President External, I have attended strategic planning meetings for the Lethbridge Youth Advisory Council. Overall, these have been very productive meetings.

Meeting with Minister Shannon Phillips

On Friday, June 30th, we met with Minister Shannon Phillips (Lethbridge West MLA) to discuss mental health funding, transit, and other issues that impact students at the University of Lethbridge. Overall, it was a very productive meeting, and we look forward to working with the Minister in the future.

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