



Office of the Vice President Student Affairs

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July 2020 Report
Contribution Hours: 166.5

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Territorial Acknowledgement

Oki, I acknowledge and honour the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Lethbridge is also part of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III. The Blackfoot name of the University of Lethbridge is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. Thank you for the privilege of working, learning, and living in this place. I am grateful and I am committed to doing my part in responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action in my day-to-day life.

Adapted from: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/indigenous/cultural-protocol> and https://www.uleth.ca/sites/default/files/2019/08/final_territorial_statements_june_2019.pdf

Comments

Most of my time in July has been spent managing the logistics for Fresh Fest, continuing to work with other SU staff to figure out details around clubs, and running online programming. I feel more settled into the VP Student Affairs position now, but it is still not without its challenges. I am grateful for the support of the other SU staff and student representatives as we continue to adapt to these new times.

Fresh Fest

A special General Assembly meeting was hosted in order to approve the budget for Fresh Fest 2020. As of the end of July, the Fresh Fest Committee has now met 6 times

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and we have solidified our line-up of programming. While the full details won't be released until later in August, I am excited to share with you that there has been exciting cross-campus collaboration that hasn't been done before, with one event being nationwide, and another being a partnership between schools in the Western provinces. Goosechase, a digital scavenger hunt app which has been used for New Student Orientation/Fresh Fest in the past 2 years will be making a return this year. It allows new incoming students a unique opportunity to complete missions from their homes, earn points, and win prizes. Please stay tuned to the ULSU social media for updates on what Fresh Fest 2020 will look like!

Clubs

After interviewing several applicants, I am excited to announce the hiring of a Clubs and Student Involvement Assistant, William. This is a part-time student position for the school year where he will be assisting with the development of club resources and also running programming to engage with students. Combining his experience and my experience as club leaders, it is our intention to create additional documents and tips to guide new and continuing clubs. These documents include annotated examples of meeting agendas and minutes, tips on running effective meetings, budget templates, and best practices for event planning. We are also looking into additional workshops and training for clubs throughout the year, such as in video-making and digital designing. Running clubs has unique difficulties, so it is important that the ULSU can provide relevant support beyond understanding our club policies.

Online Programming

July saw a continuation of our ULSU at Home programming, which included bingo, Sizzlin' with Serebryansky, Jackbox Party Games, and a DJ set with alumnus Riley Miller. It is our intention to continue programming throughout the Fall as a way for students to connect with each other and also get to know your student representatives better. I am truly excited and grateful that this has caught on, as it offers the ULSU an opportunity to try things that have never been done before. I do look forward to the day we can return to regular in-person activities, but I hope you check out what we're doing online as well.

Pride Centre

I chaired a meeting for the Pride Centre working group to discuss the capacity of individuals to help out for the upcoming year. This was followed by a brainstorming meeting as we discussed rebranding and restructuring the Pride Centre. There is now a solid group of people who are committed to re-establishing a strong foundation for the Pride Centre to be successful and sustainable. I am optimistic with how this project has been going and if you are interested in being involved with the Pride



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Centre as a club executive, volunteer, or just want to receive updates as this project evolves, please send me an email.

Name and Gender Marker Changes

Several students and I presented our concerns to Kathleen Massey, the Associate Vice-President (Students), regarding how names and gender markers are currently being tracked in the university's administrative system. The issues amount to trans students having unnecessary difficulties and re-traumatization through the current processes. We have formed a working group with Kathleen to follow-up and continue providing input for better processes.

Committee Meetings Attended

- General Assembly - July 7
- Student Support Working Group - July 10
- CKXU Governance Committee - July 13
- Student Experience Transcript Committee - July 14
- Fall 2020 NSO Stakeholder Meeting - July 16
- CKXU Board of Directors - July 20
- Events on Campus University Stakeholders Meeting - July 29
- Online Learning Success Subgroup - July 30

These are some of the meetings that I have attended to represent the student voice. If you have any questions or want to chat more about this report, please send me an email!

With gratitude,
Richard Lee-Thai