



Office of the Vice President Student Affairs

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September 2020 Report
Contribution Hours: 198.5

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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

While I said that August was the busiest I had been so far, September was even busier. With the execution of a 5-day Fresh Fest followed immediately by Clubs Week, I had 2 consecutive 50-hour weeks. Things have slowed down since then, but I am still feeling the effects of burnout. I am trying to pace myself so that I can work sustainably for the rest of the year. With the announcement that the Spring semester will also be primarily online, I have begun to think of what the rest of my portfolio, and particularly Last Class Bash, will look like.

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Fresh Fest

Fresh Fest 2020 went from September 8-12 and featured a series of social and educational events. This included a nationwide online concert that was paired with in-person watch parties at The Canadian Brewhouse and Hudsons Canada's Pub, A Conversation with Angela Davis, First Lecture, speed friending, GooseChase, as well as various presentations. This was the result of many hours from the Fresh Fest Committee and I am grateful for the collective effort and creative thinking that went into this year's activities. It was successful in the sense that the people who did come to the events had a good time and left feeling more connected to the community. However, a particular challenge with hosting a mostly virtual Fresh Fest is attendance and getting the word out. This was the case with Students' Unions across Canada that all saw lower attendance than usual for their Frosh Week/Orientation Week programming. This was definitely a learning experience as there are many things that went well and could be improved.

As part of the organizing committee for A Conversation with Angela Davis, we will be co-hosting a second speakers event in January. This is a partnership between the Students' Association at MacEwan University, University of Alberta Students' Union, University of Regina Students' Union, University of the Fraser Valley Student Union Society, and the Students' Union of UBC Okanagan. I am excited to continue this unique collaboration - stay tuned for more information!

Clubs

A virtual Club Rush Week was hosted from September 14-25. This consisted of directing people to our Clubs & Greek Life List on the website, which contains profiles of all the ratified clubs and interested people can apply directly to clubs. Our Clubs & Student Involvement Assistant, William Baliko, also helped to build and moderate a Discord server. Discord is a communications platform where we created a channel for each of the currently ratified clubs. Interested people could visit each channel and interact with the club executives, similar to visiting a club's table during a regular Rush Week. Seeing the success of this platform, the Discord server will remain active for the whole year. You can join it by visiting: <https://discord.gg/NqTMuMD>

September also contained the first Clubs' Council of the year, where William and I delivered an orientation presentation to clubs. Part of my focus this year is providing clubs more support in the form of optional training sessions. We were fortunate to have Cat Mulvihill deliver a training on The Four Tendencies to club leaders. This is a model that describes how people respond to expectations and is a helpful tool for teams to work better together. Several more club training sessions are planned for this semester.

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Online Programming

Our ULSU @ Home series was paused in September for Fresh Fest and Clubs Week. However, I have been planning some more online programming for the Fall semester. The main project will be a series of TEDxULEth Watch Parties where we'll be re-streaming the videos from the TEDxULEth 2020 event, and inviting the past speakers to offer some reflections and answer questions. Stay tuned to our social media for these events.

Pride Centre

Elections for the Pride Centre were finalized and there is now a new team of individuals who are passionate and dedicated to re-establishing the Pride Centre. I attended their first executive meeting this month and will continue supporting them as needed.

General Assembly

The first General Assembly meeting of the Fall occurred and it included the election of the First Year Representative. Congratulations to Elisha Wong! Also a congratulations to Brady Hornung for being ratified as the Chair for the General Assembly this year.

Committee Meetings Attended

- General Faculties Council – September 14
- Arts and Science Council – September 16
- Pride Centre Executive Meeting – September 24
- Campus Women's Centre Collective Meeting – September 24
- Student Awards Committee – September 25

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