

Report of the VPFA
For Council, October 14th, 2018.

Budget

Budget committee first met for the 2018-2019 academic year on september 28th. As part of my mandate I wanted to ensure that we conducted a fall budget consultation this year to ensure that all students have the opportunity to be heard on how UPEISU spends our students fees. At that meeting we have decided that the best way of getting feedback was to make a survey, which we since have wrote and have made public, however we also acknowledge the importance of person consultations. The survey is now taking responses until october 21st and those who complete it are entered for a chance to win a 100\$ gift card.

In terms of in person consultations we chose very informal process, on wednesday we had pizza in macmillan hall where I had sheets with a single question on it in regards to the budget. We had a number of very informative responses but we all as councillors have the continued responsibility to inform the student body that UPEISU is not responsible for UPEI's wifi, parking, or the price of courses. Budget committee is also working on another casual consultation activity this week coming. Outside of in person consultations I was interviewed by the Cadre and they had produced an article in regards to the current budget situation which I encourage you all to read and share.

Finally I request that all of council fills out and shares the budget consultation survey, it is really important to get as much feedback as possible. The link is here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/Qn1adpMKg1DJzuka2>

Another decision of the budget committee is to meet with as many students and student groups as possible. It was very important to me to reach out to groups to hear and understand their unique needs and how UPEISU funding can assist them. I have met with a couple groups and got some very good feedback, and am having continuing conversations with a couple other groups and individuals. If you or a group you know of have ideas about how UPEISU could better spend their money and the surplus we're seeing this year, please let me know and I will try to arrange a meeting between you and as many of us on budget committee as possible.

Real cost of education

In the summer I was contacted by Kevin Wong, VP Finance as Mount Allison Student Union. Mr. Wong was producing a survey to try to quantify the real cost of education. This survey includes all costs related to education at Mount Allison and the cost of living in Sackville, New Brunswick. He wondered if we would also like to produce our own survey along the same lines for UPEI and Charlottetown. Seeing that it would be really beneficial to have these figures for our advocacy efforts, we worked together to create the survey and it is now open. I encourage you

all to fill is out and if you can share it on social media as we need as many results as possible to get accurate results.

link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CHMTX5R>

Office Hours

Monday and Wednesday: 9AM-4PM

Friday: by appointment

If this schedule is subject to change I will try my best to notify as many people as I can.

Conclusion

At the moment the budget and midterms are my priorities, and with both coming to an end shortly I will be back on track with my other efforts, including Business Advisory Board, the Cadre, the Sustainability Strategy, and the yearbook.

Best regards,
John Ployer, VPFA