

Hey there! My name is Thu Phan. As some of you know, I was the VP External for FASA last year. Over the duration I was elected, I am grateful for all the things I have learned and will truthfully admit that I have struggled to utilize the position to the best of my ability. Since it was a newly created role, I had to create a portfolio for the initiatives I wanted to bring to the Faculty of Arts from scratch. So, in that challenging time, I am thankful for all the help that my friends and colleagues have given me. However still, I am happy for the foundations I have built for the role and hope to build upon it if I am re-elected.

In this school year, I created initiatives for students that aligned with my campaign goals of building a student community. Through the Coffee Cart, with the help of my colleagues, we handed free coffee to students in the hallways of ST and were able to talk to students about the pressing issues they faced during their time at the university. Behind the scenes, I worked on the Merch and Mural Competition with our VP Operations and Finance. It started with observations that our Fine Arts program lacked representation in the overall Faculty, and thus, our goal was to promote the amazing talent that this Faculty has. The Merch Competition is at its final stages, and we hope to finish it by this upcoming Fall. However, I admit that I was unable to accomplish the goals to bring our Mural Project into fruition. Therefore, completing these initiatives is the strong motivation for re-running. Other than that, the section below will detail the insights that my position has given me as to the problems facing Arts students on this campus and how I will propose tackling them.

First, I find that in my conversations with university administrators, FASA executives and students in this Faculty, I see that there is a severe lack of a consistent cycle of communication between all three parties. Consequently, I want to build a concrete relationship with our department clubs such as Urban CSA, SLSA, PSA and others. This means, I will be reaching out to these clubs to learn about their concerns and goals for the upcoming school year. In turn, I will provide information on what FASA can do for them. This includes bringing these conversations back to the executives and university admins to build awareness of their concerns. Moreover, a cycle of communication entails my commitment to being transparent on the information I receive pertaining to student issues and will work with our VP Communications to spread the word on our social media. This action plan is in the hope of encouraging our student body, i.e. club executives and members, to build advocacy and build collective action plans for addressing their most pressing concerns. Thus, any solution the university has to student concerns will have the consultation of those with lived experiences (us, the students).

Secondly, despite misconceptions that Arts students are very social, students in this Faculty suffer from a lack of networking events. This is a big problem for the future career goals of many students. Our FASA department representatives have a set budget for each academic year. As VP External, I hope to persuade them to hold more networking events with department professors, leaders and other students. This will help newer students to build their networking skills, make relationships or hear about the opportunities available to them at this university.

Lastly, together with other FASA representatives and executives, I had the privilege to work on the FASA Scholarship this year. From that experience, I wish to refine the FASA Scholarship application so that this scholarship can get more applications and a diverse range of submissions. This action plan will also require that we increase the prize pool of the FASA Scholarship. Therefore, with our President and others, we will begin search for funding from external organization in Calgary. In building those relationships, it will ultimately give us opportunities to create more initiatives in the future.

I want to thank everyone who has read this platform in its entirety and the friends who have helped me during my time as VP External. If re-elected, I will be committed to realizing the action plan I created with the help of the FASA executives, representatives and department clubs. This is my Instagram: [vpexternal2024_thu](#). Reach out :)