



2018-2019 WEEKLY REPORT

Week ending December 8, 2018

President's Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the last report I'll write this semester- which has brought me to a state of realization that I didn't want to accept: I'm more than half way done with this term. When I really process it- we'll be in February before I know it, then elections, then as fast as it came, I'll be done. I want to say I'm sad, but I'm not much for lying. The real feeling is one of pride, excitement, and nostalgia. I couldn't be more honored to have this team. Since August we've not only not lost numbers, we've gained positions. The semester saw the Senate not only occupied- but to the point where some needed to sit in gallery, as Pam Norris pointed out to me: "It is a pretty good problem to have". We started the year on turbulent ground, mostly as a result myself. It took me a while to figure out what this role was, and the larger context behind it. However, after mistake after mistake, and many fumbles I've always taken pride that the cabinet has stood behind me every step of the way. The support and dedication they've given Kevin and I is unwavering. I personally believe we've accomplished a lot this year, but it wasn't me. If you know my leadership style it is one of delegation and empowerment. I believe the cabinet was selected for a reason, so I've tasked them with most of our platforms and ideas. My job has become to largely attend meetings, email, show up, and take credit for their work. If it is true that we've made progress- whether in terms of events, connections or relationships, and concrete plans- it has been the result of the cabinet and their commitment to our progress and vision.

I think at some point I'm supposed to answer what I did this week to benefit the student body, well given the event of the last report of the semester, I think I'll take it upon myself to recap the term so far and rather than attempt to justify what I've done for the student body, I'll let the cabinets work speak for itself.

ACTIONS ACCOMPLISHED

Summary of Accomplishments	Date & Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking into office- the logistics and Transition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In our first act as an administration, Kevin and I proposed a student fee decrease of about \$80,000. After that failed, we rewrote the job descriptions with a focus on clearly stated duties and updated the salaries with inflation rates. We allocated the budget to spend the reserve down to 15-20% to match the SFRB guidelines. • We established a Deputy Director of Academics to ensure the Department of Academics had the necessary capability to carry out our new platforms. The Department of Academics' goals included informative registration, lecture capture usage, and ensuring all faculty use canvas. The addition of Rick S. to the Department of Academics added the goal of modernizing the test bank with more recent test and placing it online. • We created a Deputy Director of International Affairs to make maintain connections with international student groups and clubs because international students make up nearly 2,000 students at Colorado State University. We wanted to ensure we were allocating resources to ensure the CSU is a home for everyone • We changed job descriptions dramatically to incorporate more tangible ideas around the ADA Audit, creating a more robust and sustainable food pantry system, and adding a Deputy Director of Community Service on to help with the appalling lack of community service this organization does. • Beyond these, Kevin and I successfully re-negotiated the Collegian's contract. They requested an additional \$63,000, of which \$25,000 was verbally promised by my predecessor. I honored the commitment of ASCSU (which would become a theme I hope you see) and gave them not only the \$25,000- but went up to \$40,000 after discussions with the Collegian and Senate. Through my conversations with Pete from RMSMC, the \$40,000 was going to leave them in deficit spending still, however a restructuring of their staff made it so the deficit became a surplus, and I promised to re-evaluate the remaining years of the contract next semester to ensure the struggle wouldn't need to occur again. They work too hard to have to go through that again. The best part was because of this the two organizations really got to know each other, and we started a blossoming relationship of respect and trust. • Kevin and I re-negotiated the Readership Program on campus to update the amount of papers delivered at each location to better match the demand necessary for each location. With the Help of Bob Shur, we took the contract, which had paper locations with up to 70 percent of papers being left behind and redistributed them to the

highest student concentration areas like the LSC and Library. Now the New York Times is available at around transit center well past 10 am.

- Kevin and I reviewed the Institutional Fee Plan, the highest rule of Student Fees at CSU next to the Board of Governor's guidelines. Although the meeting is historically a formality, Kevin and I spend two hours carefully reading the plan before we offered our suggested changes. There were lines in the document that were unclear and were updated because of our recommendations. The Plan mentioned a Student Fee Appeals Committee that Kevin asked and received a spot on in order to make sure a student's input and vote was a part of the process. Thanks Again to Bob Shur for the assistance in making sure our recommendations were shared and included.
- Kevin and I restructured the office to increase the amount walkways between the desks. The Directors stations were each updated with cabinets and double the desk space to fix the problems of limited storage and space to work the Directors had last year. In addition, the blank spaces on the walls were updated with paintings and historic photos of CSU and ASCSU and installed white boards in the collaboration area for Directors to brainstorm ideas.
- These tasks coincided with our interview process for cabinet. We advertised the new positions and interviewed over 70 people for 20 cabinet members.
- On the Last night of Senate, I made the mistake of bringing legislation to the floor, this coupled with Senate Leadership elections made it a long night. The Result was the first slate vote (that I know of) of an executive cabinet. Out of the 20 (ish) members we ratified all but one.

- **Summer and the Term begin**

- Summer was training. With the Finance Department behind due to last year and our Slice accountant out, we learned quickly how to maneuver obstacles.
- Against the advice of almost everyone I called an emergency Senate Session in the first 2 weeks of Summer to put the ratification question to bed. In the end it was extraordinarily civil, and although my motivations were questioned- the Senate eventually understood that I needed a yes or no so I could find a person to fill the position as to hit the ground running in the fall.
- The Administration came on board and we began to go with not only moving in but creating plans for major initiatives like U+2, some new ideas around Restorative Justice, and the surprising curve ball of Tailgating.
- For U+2 we made major ground immediately. In our first meeting with Dr. Frank I expressed to him my frustration that the occupancy survey went out over summer when I felt that many students weren't home, and it was more difficult for me to launch a successful marketing plan to mobilize and educate my peers about the survey. Dr. Frank quickly become one of my respected colleagues when he listened intently and simply said something along the lines of I'll talk with the Mayor. Later

in the week I received Notice the Survey was moved to September. Yuval and I quickly began our plans for the survey starting from scratch as we knew nothing. To his credit only, he's become an expert and by the end of summer, had questions added to the survey around housing efficacy- to get a sense of how many unoccupied rooms are in Fort Collins to could be utilized to not only offset the housing prices, but better increase our sustainability efforts as a town.

- Several weeks into the Summer I learned that ASCSU oversaw the Student Tailgate lot. I had never been to a tailgate or football game, therefore naturally I started with reading the reports from last year and asking questions. After understanding the current tailgating structure, I began my revisions immediately. I think to Joe Parker's surprise I didn't care much to talk about Re-park at the Game Day committees, I was committed to running through with the group my ideas for the student lot. After about two meetings, and some compromise, we settled on naming the section "The Pre-Game Kickoff". The next meeting Claire and I arrived with a full PowerPoint that detailed what we felt were the problems around the student sections and offered a complex plan of improvement. The registration hurdle was a hassle, moreover, to make it less burdensome we updated our website to allow for student orgs to register once for all 6 games, and then changing once school started to student by student. After that we made plans for parking passes and logistical planning for food, a DJ, and water.
- Over the Summer, our Marketing team updated the ASCSU website by fixing the broken links, uploading the correct files for the most recent versions of ASCSU's Constitution and bylaws. The marketing team began updating the social media. Marketing quickly took us from under 300 followers on Instagram, to over 2,000 by September- which in addition to creating a snapchat and twitter and routinely posting content and engaging with followers.
- Over the Summer, our team, under the leadership of our Director of Campus Engagement Sam, recruited potential members at Ram Orientation, a record breaking 470 students. Around 100 members came to our first meeting just to hear about ASCSU and the organization's retained around 40 of those students to this day, which is a record-breaking number for us.
- Our Deputy Chief of Staff organized our retreat at the mountain campus to set organizational goals, establish the tone for the year, and motivate the organization to a level we are still riding off today.
- Kevin and I ended the summer with the news that we would not deliver speeches as tradition for the incoming Student Body President and Vice President at convocation. As a testament of the leadership and commitment to students Dr. Frank and his Administration, upon hearing our grievances, Tony soon ensured the speeches would take

place. Furthermore, Convocation set the tone of collaboration and trust between ASCSU and Admin that I cherish every day.

- **Entering Fall Semester**
 - Let's start with U+2. From week one Yuval, and the "U+2 tackle team" would hit hard with my direction that "I want aggressive, in your face marketing". Our marketing team would design pamphlets, flyers, buttons, T-shirts, and graphics for the LSC monitors to be released leading up to and during the survey. The Newspaper ran ads weekly, Yuval organized 3 successful canvassing efforts in which we knocked on over 700 homes. Sam would organize speeches for the FSL community, and we would even purchase time for a plane flyover to advertise the movement- the results of this team's efforts would help obtain 1,300 of 6,500 surveys returned, making it statistically valid. Over the course of the semester Yuval and I would meet with city leaders, he's attended almost every city council meeting and we would travel to Denver to meet a lobbyist to get advice on next steps. We've been in communication with a lawyer and have a draft law ready to be updated for me+ three.
 - Tailgating would see a remarkable start of over 1,000 students. The plan was executed nearly flawlessly. The following games would see steep decline in attendance. The failure haunted me to the point of going to Georgia to see a different culture. Coming back, we implemented a new plan with the help and strong partnerships of IFC, Athletics, and Jodi Donovan. The last game would see a huge turnout with most agreeing on 2-4 thousand students. Most importantly, we managed to obtain a better space, a successful registration site and plan, and partnerships where I feel comfortable handing this off to the next administration knowing it will be easily executed because of the work we did this year. Moving forward- we are creating a 7-year plan to present to Joe Parker on ideas to improve student participation in the game.
 - International Dance days, an event put on by our Deputy Director of International Affairs, Linzhi- would prove to be a great start to what I envision being a long-standing tradition of ASCSU. She, with collaboration with COSA, would organized international students to teach native dances from around the world. I estimated an attendance around 100 students. There were about 8 different teachers that facilitated different dances. I was called to the stage to show my dynamic movements off. Directly after she started taking notes to give to our successor, to ensure the success and improvement of the second annual International Dance Day. Her notes included suggestions to secure a better room and marketing strategy. I was extremely proud to see her so successful. This new position- which saw little guidance, has been paved for the next person. She's already working on out "international Days" next semester and we'll be visiting Golden to see how there's is operated

- On October 18th we rented The Skeller out to honor the ASCSU 1968 administration and their efforts around “student liberation”. They would end their year with the famous “Beer-In”, and we got to market our plans around bringing the pitchers back. The event was a success to us, many ASCSU students would join, and a lot of history students- and lovers of the Skeller. We even had Dean Withers from the College of Liberal arts join. The 1968 team would hold a small cabinet meeting with our cabinet and really inspired those there to keep pushing and remember why, and more importantly who, we are here for.
- Presidential Search is going well for the next President of CSU - Fort Collins. We started out with 3 listening sessions and that would turn into 7- one of which was in Denver. I would attend all but one in which I had a class I couldn’t miss. Because of Kevin mostly, the student focused listening session would be the fullest it was out of any of the sessions. The feedback was excellent and I’m hoping this team that has been formed will make our school proud.
- Along with U+2 we would also hold our Voter Registration Drive. In collaboration with New Era we’d register about 20 ASCSU reps to register students to vote and I personally would register 3 on the plaza. The marketing materials for this were also fantastic and CJ and Blake did amazing.
- This Fall ASCSU hosted an Identity Awareness Symposiums. Although we over estimated attendance a little, of the about 80-100 to show up- a positive message was delivered. We also learned a big lesson around collaboration and communication. All in all, it was good event and we were asked by the attendees to host another one next semester. If our director goes that direction, we’ll have a plan of improvement to better collaborate.
- This year we also had Dr. Kaplan come to CSU in collaboration with Student Legal Services. Dr. Kaplan is a world-renowned expert on NATO. We scheduled him in several classes with the main speaking event open to anyone. I came into the room in the new Warner extension late from another meeting and I was thrilled to see that I couldn’t find a seat. In terms of cost per student, this would be one of the most cost-effective event we’ve ever had. The entire event, Dr. Kaplan’s 2 days here, marketing, and Driving him around in a golf Cart (Thanks to Mike Ellis) would only cost ASCSU less than \$400, while he would be speaking to more students than that.
- Grill the Buffs was also continued this year and Liam did an amazing job.
- In addition, although it wasn’t the most beautiful float, we participated in Home Coming this year too. Kevin and the team had a blast and compensated for our less than perfect float with personality. It was an honor to participate and we were happy to a part of the long-standing tradition.

- The Board of Governors is going extremely well. I got copies of previous Student Body President's report and didn't like them that much, so CJ, Claire, and I completed started new. I think the graphics and organization of the report showed the degree of professional I aspire to represent my school with.
- SFRB is also going well. Kevin has brought a keen sense of responsibility to the board. My understanding is the board is nearly full however he continually recruits members for the board, even if not as voting members and only to engage in discussion. My feelings from him is that not many fee directors know if they are going to propose fee increases or not, so he seems eager to dig in next semester will a very engaged board. Kevin has set a standard with the liaison program to fee directors, trying to ensure that each budget is completely understood.
- Earlier this year Off campus life came to talk to me about Ram Ride. Essentially, they were promised funds last year and needed that promise to be carried over to this year. It was for an App Josh and Michael had pushed for. After some questions and discussions, I was happy to make sure they acquired the funds needed. It is also important to keep the word of the organization- not just my own personal one
- The first platform Kevin and I ran on was "reduce the cost of parking", it does look like this will happen- although not nearly to the extent I had hoped for. Many compromises had to be made. For example, I requested that the parking meters be turned off after 4:00 and not charge people for parking during free times. 12,000 dollars was made last year in what I deemed "unethical advertisement". Although the meters can't be re-programed cheaply, we settled with resigning to better display the free time. We also secured price reductions in the Moby lot and research lot hourly rate.
- ASCSU collaborated to host this year's Book Festival. With funding from my team and the Senate we were a large sponsor in the event. I was out of town that weekend, so Yuval took my place in introducing Former Gov. Riddler. Yuval explained that the entire event was a massive success and I think we set up an amazing partnership with Fort Collins libraries moving forward.

- **Finishing up The Fall**

- One issue this team has begun to face is the issue of noise tickets. In Fort Collins noise tickets are a criminal misdemeanor, which is somewhat strange for a city to have for this offense. The issue with this is the reality of the situation: it's mostly college students getting these tickets. After receiving a thousand-dollar citation, a student then leaves this world class education with a criminal record. Job applications often ask, "have you been convicted of a crime?". Although most background checks don't check municipal charges, a student feels obligated to mark the truth and this, I believe, adversely effects job perspectives. One needs to go no further than CU Boulder

to see a system that is better for students and city. Boulder City incorporates the Restorative Justice program at C.U to offer deferred sentencing or judgements. This allows students to use the program to “undo the harm done to society” through classes, community services, etc. Once the student completes this process, they go back to court and the court drops the charges- thus, never convicted. We’ve visited Boulder to talk to those who run the system for both the prosecution and the school. We now understand the system and got another win in the fact that the person we met with was just hired for our restorative justice system. We got some good advice from the Boulder Court on who we should talk to and will get some data on the program’s success soon. Next semester, we anticipate that we will fully develop our plan and proposal for the expansion of our restorative justice system to incorporate noise tickets among other charges.

- Environmental Modules idea is to add a short module to the entry of CSU or course registration process. The fact of the matter is most of our recycling ends up in the Land Fill. In Fort Collins we can recycle only 3 of the 7 kinds of plastics. CSU has the infrastructure and is lacking the educational piece to compliment it. The idea is possible according to a friend who investigated the pre-registration system for me. However, there is dissent in complicating the registration process. The main argument seems to be that complication of the registration hinders student success. Moving forward into next semester, I have no intention of quitting this. I’ve developed a task force to help me design exactly what this will look like. My hope is that if I can display exactly what this would look like, the learning objectives and outcomes, and prove that it is successful elsewhere I can begin to convince some key players. I expect that once this plan is developed I’ll start garnering student support through letters of support and hopefully we can convince everyone that is don’t run counter to student success, it is essential to student development.
- ASCSU has long had a test bank. Any student can walk into the office, get a packet that lists all of tests we have, fill out a waiver, and have the test emailed to them. I see many problems with this. The First is that the test are outdated, the most up to date being early 2,000s. The second is students study at night- we are closed. I’d like to create an online notes and test bank. A database that organizes all the materials by class, and that students can come in and drop off their study materials or drop a PDF online. Then any student could access the materials anytime from the ASCSU website. I do believe that “Ram’s take care of rams”, and this online database would only further our opportunities to do this. The two questions lingering out there are: is it legal and will faculty support it? All the Professors I know who don’t want their tests online don’t let them leave the class. I’m unsure if notes could be considered the “intellectual property” of the teacher- or if they belong to the student. Rick Miranda was hesitant that once I

place it online it is a form of publishing- which is much different than the system we have now. I have a Meeting scheduled with Jason Johnson to walk through the legal question. Naturally, my team decided to do some research in anticipation of the meeting. Our Chief of Staff and Director of Academics found a university that has an online test bank, however it's only assessible through their equivalent of the E-Id information. I'm hoping our meeting leads to some answers and solutions and we can move forward. Naturally, next semester I'll begin to enter the politics of the faculty counsel and Committee on Teaching and Learning. I think there is a solution that can be reached to please both students and faculty.

- Finally, we end this semester with my number one priority- the housing ordinance. I already touched on what we've done this far and moving forward I realize that I'd be lucky to even push the envelope and discussion forward. I simply won't settle for this, 2007 was when U+2 really started to be enforce. Over a decade later, August 2018, saw the most housing evictions out of any other month in the history of Fort Collins regarding U+2 according to the Coloradoan. Yuval and I have many plans in the making. We want to be prepared for any outcome of this survey. We are working to form a round table of stakeholders to ensure uniformity moving forward. Right off the bat there are some flaws with the survey that we are discussing with Corona. Continuing forward there are several options, petition to get it on the ballot and a vote of the City Council are the most prominent. My hope is by the end of Winter Break we have both roads mapped with a strategic plan to execute. Over Winter break we also hope to talk with the Mayor to get some of his perspective and advice.
- I think the achievement Kevin and I are most surprised by is the unity and relationships of this year. Every day I think that today could be the day that the past resurfaces, but it doesn't. Ben, the Leader of the Senate, isn't just a check to my "power" he's a member of the team. Maddie, who leads the court, is my closest advisor and trusted confidant. Kevin is not just my Vice President, he's my best friend. This team has set the standard in collaboration. We work in harmony, not opposition, to each other. I started the term nervous to go to Senate, now I look forward to going to give my updates and sit in the back the entire time. Normally, only the executive branch is "the team", this year- through no virtue or effort of our own- the organization as a whole is a team, all of us. Branches don't seem to separate us, nor does policy- and I think I'm proud of the office culture we've cultivated this year. Moreover, externally, I'm excited to go to meetings, because I no longer sit among "the Admin", I sit with friends. During the Presidential listening sessions, I kept hearing people categorizing themselves. I'd introduce myself as the student representative, others as community representatives and so forth. People would come forward and say that we need someone who can manage all the

different interests. I've come to realize that this isn't true. What I've learned in this job is these various groups aren't necessarily different interests, since the benefit of one is the benefit of all. The meetings I go have taught me that the benefit of faculty are the benefits of students. That when one group of interest- whether student, pro-staff, faculty, State Classified, or anyone else, the students still benefit. I think Tony didn't manage conflicting interests as much as he understood that their interests aren't competing- that the goal for all of them is the same.

CHALLENGES/SETBACKS/LESSONS LEARNED THIS WEEK

- Blanche Hughes warned me at our first meeting that I would face criticism. I listened but I didn't truly understand until now. It has become a constant in my weeks. The burden of President is that everything is my fault. Problems anywhere in the organization, or the larger campus, I have some responsibility to address and fix. I think that the bright side of everything being my fault, is that the opportunity to fix it falls in my hands.
- There is this phrase that says, "99 percent of laws are created for one percent of people". I think this directly correlates with what Richard Nixon meant when he said, "The silent majority". Going back to the point above sometimes the criticism becomes an echo chamber, replaying in my head. And at one point I realized that this criticism is the that one percent, the loud minority. And sometimes it is worth remembering that even when there are things I've chosen not to tackle, or I've failed at- there is a difference, and good difference I've made.
- Challenge: My team is leaving for break, and I'm not ready to stop working, and naturally I'll still be here over break doing it- but it'll be lonely. Looking forward to everyone's return from break.

HOW DID YOUR DEPARTMENT PROMOTE THE CSU PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY?

- To Recap the entire semester, one of the things I'm most pleased with is the phrase "I'm here". I'm proud of the presence I've committed the team too. Zack takes events that we get emailed and places them on the cabinets calendar. I've made it my goal to be as present at these as possible. The lesson I've learned about respect, inclusivity and social justice is that being an advocate doesn't always means offering a solution, or writing letters to the editors, or claiming you care, sometimes the most important thing we can do is recognize that ASCSU is one student organizations. Caring, and advocacy is recognizing that there are other groups and events on campus and being present, if nothing else then to show, "I'm here". Our Administration spent a large amount of my time in the past few weeks at events ASCSU didn't put on; Menorah lighting ceremony, Transgender Remembrance Day, India Night, the Native American Pow Wow, The Drag Show, El Centro's talk on voting, and Fraternities Philanthropy's to name a few. The Pillars of Community, to me, embrace this idea of recognizing that it isn't just me and ASCSU, that it is just as important to put on events for others, as it is to show up to theirs. I think encouraging the two hours outside of department or ASCSU was a fantastic idea. Moving into next semester I want to work with Ben to get the Senate at more events by maybe creating

monthly calendars of everything going on. Also, we need to re-think our community service involvement strategy. There are so many people in ASCSU, should be so hard to get them to go to more than just work or Senate.

PLEASE LIST TWO HOURS SPENT SUPPORTING OTHER DEPARTMENTS OR OUTREACH

- I think I captured this above

ACTION ITEMS AND GOALS FOR WINTER BREAK

- Over this next week and break I want to make some solid ground work on a lot of things:
- Plan out Restorative justice program expansion and begin to make the case and PowerPoint. Meet Brooke and the RJ person to discuss plan
- Attend the SVA conference in Florida
 - Get RDF and register for this, plan travel by Friday
- Finish this Requisition already even if I need to wait at people's door
- Talk to Jason Johnson and Update Rick. Try and plan the next steps up to Feb. 3rd
- Clean the office
- Send Cabinet email about Break and updates
- Plan U+2 with Yuval, talk with Mayor and Lobbyist by Jan
 - Try to get results of survey ASAP
- Follow up with Dr. Frank about Comcast
- Get caught up on emails
- Get the Environmental conference scheduled and planned, RFD it by first Wed. of Break
- Email Senate about travel over break
- Create new Reporting system for next semester
 - 2 or 3-page executive summary
 - Have Director reports internal and use them to create a summary that is sent out
 - Too many pages, keep messaging clear
- Follow up with Yuval on Lobbyist Conference
- See if Zach/Claire have interest in management and strategic planning
- Talk with Hannah about College tour. Try to get schedule.
- Email Monica back and talk with CJ (ASAP)
- Check finance system, ensure Controller book and Quali accounts are set up and 100 percent accurate by Jan 3rd
- Make a Document for Cabinet that encourages them to think long term with short term steps
 - Have them list out everything they want to accomplish and map it out with steps
 - Each Department should have a plan to spend their money by April 10th. Anything not allocated and planned out pool into one fund
- Re-organize Cabinet to make it more useful
- Have each Department set up their weekly meetings and ensure Zach, Claire or Kevin is there.
- Go over Retreat Agenda with Claire

- Check attendance- make calls if necessary
- Get ADA audit up and running with list and bylaws