



November 22, 2016

Dear Council,

Here is an update on my work in the past week!

COFA Finance

The Council of Faculty Association, Finance and Administration Committee met last week. At this meeting we discussed common goals, financial reporting, as well as the interdisciplinary conference. The meeting had great attendance with representation from 11 faculty associations present!

Department Associations

I have been spending some time working with new department associations, specifically answering questions, providing guidance, and helping strategize advocacy. I think it is very exciting to see more department associations work with their faculty associations to serve their students!

GFC APC

I went to the Academic Planning Committee on President Rahman's behalf last week, as he was in Ottawa lobbying the federal government. It was a very important meeting as we discussed international students tuition. You can read a detailed analysis of the meeting through the Gateway's coverage (<https://thegatewayonline.ca/2016/11/intl-undergrad-tuition-increase/>). The University is trying to increase international students tuition by 3.02% next year. There is also a \$4,000 "sticker price" increase going to be applied (then immediately removed) for international students in graduate studies. The Students' Union is not in favour of tuition increases and I voted against all proposals to increase student tuition, both in undergraduate and graduate education. If you want more information on this please do not hesitate to ask President Rahman or I.

GFC ASC

I had a very full GFC Academic Standards Committee meeting last week. At the meeting we discussed a number of both promising and concerning changes coming through academic governance which will affect undergraduate students. Namely, a change to the minimum pass grade for nursing students, making a complete 3 or 4 year undergraduate degree mandatory to apply to the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and the Faculty of Engineering adjusting the formula for which students can get certain awards and honours. These were only some of the topics among the 16 item agenda (which can be found here if you are interested or want more information <http://governance.ualberta.ca/GeneralFacultiesCouncil/AcademicStandardsCommittee/~media/Governance/Documents/GO05/ACS/16-17/NO-17/ASC-NO-17-Agenda-and-Documents-revised.pdf>). After discussing the various issues with the respective faculty associations, I ended up voting for the nursing proposal, for the engineering proposal, and against the medicine and dentistry proposal. Happy to give a more detailed explanation of how these proposals will affect students in my oral report or in question period.

Thank you for reading this report and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.