

Date: 06/28/2022

To: Students' Union Council

Re: President 2022/23 Report #04

Dear Council,

I hope all of you have had a great past two weeks. Please see the report below on several developments in my portfolio. As always, please message me if you have any questions!

Board of Governors Meeting

Last week on Friday, June 17, 2022, the Board of Governors met for the last time this governance cycle. Items of note that came to the Board for approval and discussion included:

- Indigenous Institutional Strategic Plan
- New University of Alberta Innovation Fund
- Fall 2023 International Tuition Fee Proposal
- Revisions to the Sexual Violence and Student Conduct Policies

The International Tuition Proposal has been an item that we have advocated strongly on in collaboration with the International Students' Association to highlight the significant negative impacts this increase will have on international students. The Board approved the increase despite strong opposition from students and one other board member; however, some important commitments were made that will start addressing many challenges students face due to continued rising costs. Commitments included working with the UASU and GSA to establish a more robust consultation process, a commitment to increasing emergency financial aid support if necessary and addressing issues of food insecurity and mental health support at the Board level. There was also a request that we evaluate the application process that international students go through to receive emergency aid to make it as simple and accessible as possible.

Students Needed for a NEW University-Wide Teaching Survey

The Centre for Research on Applied Measurement and Evaluation (CRAME) is helping design a new Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) questionnaire for students to provide perceptions of their instructor's teaching. This questionnaire is essential for improving the quality of teaching at the U of A. Currently, the University is looking for 6-10 students from various faculties and years who could engage in "think-aloud sessions" CRAME is running. The purpose of a think-aloud is to hear how students make sense of possible questions. The sessions would individually focus on making questions clear and reducing ambiguity in wording. You would need to be able to meet with a graduate student associated with CRAME for about an hour via Zoom (or in-person) before the end of July and simply share your thoughts out loud. Your responses will be held confidentially and anonymously. If you are interested, please let me know ASAP!

Abner Monteiro, President

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Launch of the Indigenous Strategic Plan

Today is the formal launch of the Indigenous Strategic Plan developed in the Office of the Vice Provost of Indigenous Programming and Research. This plan reflects an essential step in the University of Alberta's commitment to reconciliation in post-secondary education, research and addressing the historical legacy of the residential school system and Canada's colonial history in a meaningful and lasting way. I commend Dr. Glanfield and her colleagues for all the tremendous work in developing this plan. It is a thoughtful and comprehensive plan in which every one of us can find ourselves. As student leaders on this campus, we play a crucial role in doing what we can to further these goals. I am excited about where this plan will lead our university and am committed to doing my part in fulfilling it. If you want to read the plan, you can find it [HERE](#).



Presentation to Vice Provost Council

On Monday, I was invited to Vice-Provost Council to present the UASU Executive Goals for 2022/2023. It was a fantastic opportunity to speak directly with all the people the executive team will be working with to achieve our priorities for the year. The group also provided great feedback to consider as we plan for the year ahead.

Announcements

- Dr. Steven Dew will step down as Provost and Vice President Academic, effective June 30, 2022. Dr. Verna Yiu will take over as Interim Provost for two years, effective July 1, 2022. You can find the full announcement [HERE](#).
- Dr. Wendy Rodgers will step down as Deputy Provost effective July 1, 2022. Currently, they have not announced a replacement.

Cheers,

Abner Monteiro (he/him)

President

University of Alberta Students' Union