

**Date:** 08/23/2022

**To:** Students' Union Council

**Re:** President 2022/23 Report #08

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Dear Council,

Here is my report of what I have been working on over the past two weeks.

### **Sexual Violence Audit**

I'm happy to share that at the Student Union's request, the University has [released an audit](#) of policies and practices around preventing and responding to sexual violence. The audit report validates years of student concerns.

The Board of Governors privately commissioned this audit in response to advocacy and direct action by the UASU, student members of the General Faculties Council, and other student representatives. In response to a freedom of information request from the UASU, the University confirmed that the audit report existed and [committed to releasing it](#).

The report validates everything that students and the UASU have said and identifies many of the same problems. While the report makes some big commitments, there are still unmet asks, and a lot of work left. We will continue to work with the Sexual Violence Response Coordinator to ensure that the university commits to the unmet concerns of our community.

### **Exploration Credits**

After talking with the university, we are disappointed to learn that students will not be able to enroll in Exploration Credits this year. Rolling out the new program across every faculty is taking too long to make Exploration Credits work for 2022/23, despite the best efforts of the Registrar's Office.

One of the most significant factors has been the struggle to set clear, strict standards for determining which courses can't be taken as Exploration Credits. We want as many courses as possible to be available as Exploration Credits, but there's been significant pushback in some faculties around which courses can be eligible, and some faculties wanted all their classes for specific years of study to be unavailable as Exploration Credits. We're deeply disappointed that Exploration Credits aren't available this year.

We will push hard in the upcoming governance cycle to ensure that students have as many courses available for Exploration Credits as possible. The University will also run a public awareness campaign on Exploration Credits during the winter semester, so we'll have much more information before registering for Fall 2023 classes.

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**Abner Monteiro, President**

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### CASA Policy and Strategy Conference

Last week, Vice President Fotang and I attended the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations' Policy and Strategy Conference. We attended valuable PD sessions and set the board action plan and advocacy priorities for the upcoming year. I was very impressed with the level of consultation the Board did with the entire delegation to ensure that we were in consensus on our priorities for the year! Next up for CASA will be Lobby Week in November, where VP Fotang and I will go to Parliament to lobby MPs on our advocacy priorities for the year.

### Students' Union Development Summit

Our executive team attended the Students' Union Development Summit, where we got a chance to network with our counterparts across the country, attend workshops on negotiations and advocacy campaigns, and listen to some incredible keynote speakers who talked about leadership, the student movement, and why we do what we do. It was a great weekend, and I got valuable information that will help me as I enter the new school year.



### Updates/Announcements

- The Provost recently [announced the creation](#) of a new Vice Provost of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity.
- The Provost recently [announced the appointment](#) of Melissa Padfield as Deputy Provost of Students and Enrolment, and Kathryn Todd as Deputy Provost of Academics.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Cheers,

**Abner Monteiro (he/him)**

President

University of Alberta Students' Union