

November 30th 2017

To: Students Council

RE: Report to Council

Hello Council,

I would like to start my report today by reminding us all that we are on Treaty 6 Territory. As we say before every Council and most committee meetings, we aspire for our learning, research, teaching, *and governance* to acknowledge and work towards the decolonization of Indigenous knowledges and traditions. I ask that when reading this we all take some time to reflect on what that means to us and to the indigenous people we share the land we gather on.

Governance

General Faculties Council

General Faculties Council met on Monday November 27th for the last time in 2017. The meeting mainly centered on a presentation from the Faculty of Nursing on their new curriculum and a proposal from the Faculty of Business to remove the English Language Requirement for Business courses that are approved to be taught overseas. The presentation from Nursing was recommended to GFC and was strictly an information item, but was a prime example of an extremely good quality proposal for a curriculum renewal which included extensive student consultation. The Business proposal was recommended to GFC as it is the first program that will be delivered in a language other than english and french, while also have no other language requirement. The President also gave an update regarding a joint GFC, Board of Governors and Senate Summit which will be taking place in January, centering on Freedom of Speech.

Academic Planning Committee

As President Banister was in Ottawa for CASA Advocacy Days, I attended the Academic Planning Committee in her place. While there was not much on the agenda, we had an interesting presentation on a number of Quality Assurance Program reviews that took place over the last year, including in the Faculties of Law, ALES, Extension, Rehabilitation Medicine, and Public Health. This Committee is one of the most powerful committees of GFC and has the power to refer things to BoG.

Council of Faculty Associations (COFA)

We held our first ever Joint-COFA Meeting this week. This was a meeting of COFA which brought together representatives from all FAs and from all COFA Boards (Senior, Advocacy, Finance & Admin, Member Services). At this meeting we had consultation session with UASU Orientation, soliciting some feedback on how to improve orientation and what dates to choose for next fall. We also discussed an upcoming "Faculty Leadership Summit", a meeting being scheduled in the winter semester which will bring together Faculty Association representatives and Faculty Deans to discuss big picture issues at the university.

PLLC Steering Committee

I was able to attend the first meeting of the new Peter Lougheed Leadership College Steering Committee - this is a committee composed of some Deans and Administrators, and is chaired by the President. This committee is going to be responsible for deciding on the short to long term direction of the college. Some big issues on the horizon include selecting a new PLLC Principal, expanding the current undergraduate certificate and creating a broader strategy to situate the PLLC in the UofA leadership landscape. This committee is different than the PLLC Academic Oversight Committee as it focuses more on the high level direction of the committee, which is a lot more broad when compared to the AOC which only focuses on the academic certificate.

All My Relations Community Dialogue

I was very pleased to be able to take part in the All My Relations Community Dialogue, an event hosted by the Native Studies Student Association and Aboriginal Students Council. The event was created as a response to recent racist events on campus and was meant as a way to create a space to discuss these events among many others on campus. It was a very special event featuring many community members, elders, and good food! There are plans to host a similar event in the new year as well.

Open Educational Resource Progress

Over the last few weeks I met with both the OER Interest and Advocacy groups. The OER interest group is beginning to plan Open Education Week in March 2018. This will be a week full of presentations, workshops and events centered on increasing and educating open education on campus. The OER Advocacy group has been working on creating a number of informational comic strips role playing OER use, while also preparing for a presentation on OERs to the AASUA council.

FAB Safety Town Hall

GFC Arts Councillors hosted a Town Hall to discuss the safety and security in the Fine Arts Building. There were representatives from Risk Management, University of Alberta Protective Services, and the Faculty of Arts there to answer questions and to communicate what work is ongoing. Risk Management and UAPS noted general trends in safety on campus and the Faculty of Arts commented on a number of things underway to improve security in FAB. This includes installing physical barriers to close off stairwells that aren't used, installing video cameras, and renovating the "Pit" in FAB so that it is more engaging to students to deter crime.

UASU Got This Campaign

I am spearheading a new campaign that is aiming to get traditionally underrepresented groups to get involved in student politics. The campaign is based on two themes: The first theme has the goal of encouraging traditionally underrepresented people to consider running in the 2018

SU Executive and Council elections. The second theme will focus on supporting any candidates that do decide to run by encouraging a more positive narrative that is rooted in acceptance and a celebration of diversity and equity, calling on our campus to support and encourage all candidates. The aim is to challenge the problematic and often discriminatory rhetoric that many underrepresented candidates tend to experience.

All in all this has proven to be a busy few weeks and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Warm regards,



Shane Scott
Vice President Academic