

Date: 27 Sept 2018

To: University of Alberta Students' Union Council

Re: VP(A) 2018/19 Report #10

Dear Council,

I hope everyone is enjoying the first few weeks back! With midterms, papers, assignments, extracurriculars, and just life - I'm sure things are getting a little stressful. Remember that we always have your back and if you ever need to talk to anyone, please feel free to let me know or check out the [UASU Peer Support Centre](#). Keep reading for my major updates!

1. ARRC Town Hall

This Thursday, ARRC became the first Students' Council Committee to host a Town Hall. It went extremely well, and people did provide feedback on the Recommendations. Thank you to everyone who came out!

2. Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) Scoping Group

This Committee is working on an ambitious timeline to publish an EDI Strategic Plan and so far it looks fantastic. There are 5 themes to this Strategic Plan; (1) Vision and Leadership, (2) Research, Teaching, Public Service, (3) Workforce (all faculty and staff), (4) Students and Student Life, and (5) Climate. The plan spans over four years, with accountability measures at each level. The largest advocacy points at this Committee were looking at the integration of the **Charter of Student Rights and a Student Census**, both of which were successfully integrated! I cannot wait for the publicization of this report, and I hope it will positively move our campus forward on the EDI file. There will likely be a Town Hall soon in the future, and I will provide Council with more details as they come.

3. Faculty Associations

Faculty of ALES Undergraduate Association (FAUnA)

Over the summer, both Discover Governance and I have been trying to get in contact with FAUnA, with limited success on my end. This is an FA both Discover Governance and I will be keeping an eye out for to ensure students in ALES are represented at all times.

Engineering Students' Society

The ESS elected a new President at their Board of Directors meeting and will not be using the UASU Election software. I did a presentation to their Board regarding our byelections, and they ended up opting to do an internal election at the Board.

4. Open Educational Resources (OER) Advocacy Group

Open Ed 2018 Presentation

Michelle Brailey, a Digital Initiatives Librarian and a member of the OER Advocacy Group, and I are going to be doing a presentation at the **Open Ed 2018 Conference in New York, Buffalo. I will be gone from Oct. 5th - Oct 13th for this conference; thanks to the Provost's Office for funding this for me.**

5. General Faculties Council Meetings / University Meetings

Academic Standards Committee (GFC ASC)

GFC ASC met last Thursday. Overall, the decisions were very focussed on Graduate students, with the exception of: "Item 17: Proposed changes to Admission Deadlines for the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Management, and Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Education (Secondary) Combined Degrees programs in Augustana Faculty Removal of Augustana's January admissions window, for a variety of reasons to do with demand.". Overall, there was no student consultation indicated on this motion

summary, and after voicing my concerns I did vote against this motion, albeit, this motion did pass. I have been in contact with the Augustana Students' Association and Councillor Anderson as soon as I saw this motion, and now to look at how this will roll out.

General Faculties Council (GFC)

GFC met on Monday, and it was the first of the Fall Semester! President Larsen did a fantastic job of presenting the Students' Union 2018/19 Executive Goals. Additionally, we discussed the implementation of Ad Hoc Committee Recommendations, and the Alberta Credentials Framework. We got a Budget Update and I was extremely proud to see our GFC Student Councillors ask the University some of the tough questions we developed at the GFC Student Caucus meeting. We also discussed the Report of the Cannabis Working Group, where we were told by Andrew Leach, the University will be ready for legalization on October 17th. From GFC, the Report will go a Clean Air Working Group, the President's Executive Committee and from there will be rolled out to the campus community. This is an extremely close timeline, and the Students' Union is doing everything we can to keep students in the loop.

6. GovWeek 2018

Dates for GovWeek have been finalized: **January 21st-25th 2018**. There will also be re-brand of the marketing - stay tuned! Applications for GWPC and for GovWeek events will open soon.

7. Internal SU

Nominating Committee

As per Council's request, Nominating Committee met on Thursday where we decided that Councillor Statt, DePinto and Bilak will be sitting on the Students' Union Strategic Plan Steering Committee - congrats! We also appointed several students to various Faculty of Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences Committees including the Deans Committee, the ALES Faculty Council, the Academic Coordinating Committee, and the ALES Appeals Committee.

By-Elections

There are various Council seats and Faculty Association positions open for the byelections. Please do your best to stay engaged and tap some people on the shoulder to run! Voting dates will be Oct 3 & 4.

SU Swag

I think SU swag has great potential to better the brand of the SU. We are hoping to see a retail line launch! Excited to see where this goes!

Thanks for reading this report. As always, please feel free to ask questions! As a reminder, I will be out of the country from Oct. 5th-13th, so I will be slower than normal to respond to emails and requests - thank you for the patience. Other than next week, my office hours for the Fall semester are going to be Friday's from 12PM-1PM and **will be by appointment**. If you want to meet during my office hours, I ask that you let me know by 9AM on that same Friday. Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks for reading my report!

Kind regards,



UASU VP (Academic)
Akanksha Bhatnagar