

**Date:** 22 Nov 2018

**To:** University of Alberta Students' Union Council

**Re:** VP(A) 2018/19 Report #14

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Dear Council,

Life has been wildin' lately, there has been lots of changes to my life recently and sometimes everything can get quite overwhelming. I can 100% feel myself burning out, but I gotta keep chugging along and I am so thankful to have a team I can call my family that are so supportive. Thanks y'all for your constant love. Read ahead for some updates!

### **1. Faculty Associations**

#### **Student Leaders Summit 2018**

One of my platform points was to "**Strengthen Faculty Associations**", and the Student Leaders Summit was envisioned to support our upper level student representatives. The one-day summit went amazing, and I was so honored to be surrounded by such intelligent, smart leaders. It brings me so gratitude to know how strong our representatives are, and I am looking forward to continue working with y'all! We had about 8/32 Councillors come out, all other 4 Executive members, and our Board of Governors Representative was not present. Nonetheless, I am determined to continue to push Councillors to connect with their FA's!!

#### **Alberta Pharmacy Student Associations (APSA)**

APSA is having a variety of governance issues all arising at once, and I have been working extremely close with their Executives to help support them. The Reading Week issue came to a boiling point on Monday at GFC Exec.

1. We got this issue put as a Discussion Item at GFC Exec, which is chaired by President David Turpin. Working with the APSA President, we collected 88 letters from Pharmacy students calling upon their faculty reconsider new options, and listen to . You can view this entire package [HERE](#) including the letters.
2. At this meeting we determined the motion to approve the 2019/2020 Academic Calendar was a flawed motion, because the original motion stated that ALL Pharmacy students would be losing Fall Reading Week, but we determined it was in fact only PharmD students.
3. Because of this, a new motion to approve a new 2019/2020 Academic Calendar for Pharmacy will be approved. There may or may not be a Fall Reading Week, but the Faculty has promised to do real student consultation and attach items which will address and respond the mental health concerns amongst others.
4. The Registrar's Office and the President spoke in support of our questions and our concern that the Faculty of Pharmacy did not properly concern students. We have clearly outlined to the entire campus that the Students' Union will not stand for this, and I honestly thank APSA for being so supportive and patient with this whole file.

#### **FAMF Renewals**

The Engineering Students' Society and the Law Students' Association will be the only FA's pursuing a FAMF this year.

### **2. General Faculties Council Meetings / University Meetings**

#### **GFC**

GFC is going to be a wild meeting. Here are the key items coming forward:

- COSA Terms of Reference
  - This item is being brought forward for early consultation. COSA is a consultation

- committee that will involve a huge amount of student representation. I'll be presenting alongside the GSA VPA and Tammy Hopper, Vice-Provost (Programs).
- Proposed Changes to the MD Program – Admissions for Aboriginal Applicants
  - Removal of the quota for Aboriginal applicants.
  - This is a **HUGE win** for the FOMD (being the first UAlberta Faculty to respond this positively the TRC) and for years of VPA advocacy around “Indigenous Content Incorporation”
- Creation of a new Digital Scholarship Centre
  - The DSC aims to be a flagship interdisciplinary resource that both encourages digital scholarship methods and develops them. Examples include GIS/geodata, data visualization, OER development and makerspace elements – all valuable across many disciplines.
- New Budget Model Discussion
  - In the new budget model, faculties will get funding based on what teaching and research they currently do, rather than on historical resource allocation. Curious to hear what GFC has to say and will update at our next meeting.

### **3. GovWeek Planning Committee**

Remember that GovWeek will be from **January 21st-25th 2019**. The GWPC is making amazing traction, and I'm excited to hear a lot of your ideas and thoughts! I will be doing a presentation to Council soon. There will also be re-brand of the marketing - stay tuned!

### **4. Open Education Work**

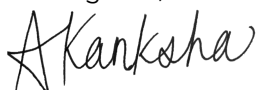
- At GFC we worked to submit our feedback to the Tri-Council Draft Data Management Policy and we were able to integrate language around 'open'. This is huge movement forward for open data.
- We are in the midst of creating an Open Education Champions Website at the SU!
- I've also been doing a lot of phone calls with counterparts across the country who are looking for some advice such as Carleton University and the University of Manitoba!
- The Open Education Advo Group is in the final stages of solidifying its ToR's and Strategic Plan

### **5. Meetings of Note**

- UASU VPA/RO - University Calendar Review/Feedback Meeting
- SU VPA + Pres / Provost
  - Discussed Pharmacy, GOTV, Capital Plan, Indigenous Initiatives, & other ongoing projects.
- Provost's Digital Learning Committee
  - Future of Blended Learning and a UAlberta Digital Strategy
- Festival of Teaching and Learning Committee
  - Talked about how to better integrate undergraduate research.
- Aboriginal Students' Council will be pursuing a DFU! They are hoping to be on the ballot for the upcoming year, and it is amazing to see this work being done.

My office hours for the Fall semester are going to be Friday's from 12PM-1PM or by email request! Let me know if you have any questions regarding my office hours. Thanks for reading my report!

Kind regards,



UASU VP (Academic)

