



August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017

**To:** Students' Council

**Re:** Report to Students' Council

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Dear Council,

As the summer comes to a close I am growing more and more excited for September, ready to welcome new and old students alike to campus. It is hard to believe that the nearly one third of my term as VP Academic has passed. I also look forward to the fall as that is when the governance cycle on campus resumes, with General Faculties Council and its various committees holding their first meetings of the academic year.

#### GovWeek 2017

GovWeek planning is in full swing – there are only 31 days from writing this till the GovWeek kickoff on September 18<sup>th</sup>. We had our applications up for nearly 4 weeks and in that time we received applications for events and sessions from faculty associations, department associations, labor groups and university representatives alike, among many more. While the schedule is still going through a few last steps before it is finalized, we will certainly have a full and exciting week on campus. There will be a few large events to note, including the opening and closing keynotes on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> respectively, as well as a municipal debate in the Myer Horowitz theatre on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup>.

The GovWeek Advisory Group (GWAG) has been very active in the planning process thusfar and will continue to be moving forward. GWAG has been instrumental in creating the vision for GovWeek 2017, promoting applications, selecting sessions and adjudicating grants for groups which requested financial assistance. GWAG will also act as ambassadors of the Students' Union during GovWeek, attending sessions and promoting the scheduled activities.

#### Academic Relations Group

I have received a few applications for the Academic Relations Group and will be doing another call for applications going into the fall. Of those I have received I will be notifying the applicants of their application status over the next few weeks and we will hold a meeting to officially kick off the group for the 2017/18 academic year.

As you will remember from prior reports, the Academic Relations Group (ARG) is a group selected by the VP Academic that acts as both an advisory group and as delegates who represent the VPA on a variety of committees and boards as requested. ARG differentiates from the function of nominating committee as ARG members represent the VP Academic, whereas designates selected through nominating committee act as representatives of the Students' Union. Likewise, when there is a call for Student Council representatives, Council does the selection from council members.



### Student Representative Groups

The Council of Faculty Associations (COFA) boards will begin meeting over the end of the month and into September. Most of the COFA boards requested a more professional development centered meeting model, something which will look different at each board. COFA Senior Board – which is comprised of primarily FA presidents – will be holding a strategic planning meeting before receiving leadership training at their *second* meeting at the beginning of October. COFA Advocacy Board will be partaking in a session on advocacy strategies and governance training at their meeting. COFA Finance and Admin Board will have a session centered on accounting strategies and things to keep in mind for the new academic year.

Student members of General Faculties Council will once again be invited to attend the GFC Student Caucus. This is a meeting of student representatives on GFC to contextualize and better understand GFC issues and agenda items as they pertain to students. Of course, this meeting is optional but I strongly encourage as many members of GFC to come as possible. As it stands these meetings will take place Thursdays before each GFC meeting.

I have had the pleasure to meeting with representatives from both the Drama Student Association, the Alberta Anthropology Undergraduates Association and the VP Departmental Relations of OASIS. There are many great plans to strengthen, revitalize and support department associations in the Faculty of Arts this year that truly sound exciting and are a great step in student advocacy on campus. I also had a meeting with a member of the AUFJSJ executive discussing some major priorities affecting Faculty St.Jean for the year including renovations to classroom space, Student Union involvement at Fac, and how we can jointly celebrate francophonie culture on campus. I look forward to working with representatives at the department, faculty and university levels throughout the year.

### CTL New Instructor Orientation

Vice President Ushakov and myself had the pleasure of attending the Centre for Teaching and Learning's New Professor orientation. This was a full day workshop bringing together a number of new professors from across campus to situate them in the university community. I was honored to partake in a panel of students, sharing our thought on what instructors are able to do in their classrooms to improve students learning experiences. It was nice to see so many new professors open to what students had to say and who were genuinely interested in bettering the experience that students will be having in their classrooms.

### Research Projects

Another small update is around the Diversity in Student Governance Report. This will be finalized and released during GovWeek 2017, so stay tuned for the full report. Further, we are making good process in gaining important insights from the past Student Experience Survey, which will go on to influence our businesses and shape some of advocacy to the university.

STRIDE

Since our last council meeting, the summer cohort of STRIDE has had two more meetings. The first centered on public speaking and navigating the gendered aspects of criticism, and the latter focused on campaigning. After each session we have collected feedback from participants which has been used to continuously improve the program and will be used to inform the structure and content of the fall cohort as well. Applications will be going up soon, with the first cohort meeting in September.

My office hours are normally scheduled for Thursdays 3:30-4:30, but stay tuned as I will be posting new fall office hours and the exec and I will be setting office hours at CSJ and Augustana.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shane Scott'.

Shane Scott

Vice President Academic