

September, 14, 2017

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Students' Council

Hello Council,

I hope the first few weeks of classes have treated you all well! Since our last Council meeting was cancelled, I will do my best to recap the last 4 weeks of activity which have proven very busy.

GovWeek

As you are reading this it will be GovWeek! Council is also an advertised event for the week and I encourage you all to join us at RATT after the council meeting to mingle with other students interested in Students' Council. 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. There will be a few large events to note, including the opening and closing keynotes on the 18th and 22nd respectively, as well as a municipal election candidate mixer in the Myer Horowitz theatre lobby on Wednesday the 20th. Our closing keynote will be the honorable Minister McLean, minister of status of women and minister of service alberta.

The GovWeek Advisory Group (GWAG) has also been very active in the planning process throughout the summer. 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 several applications for the Academic Relations Group and will be doing selections 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 – held a strategic planning meeting and will be receiving leadership training at their *second* meeting at the beginning of October. COFA Advocacy Board took part 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 AUFSJ 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

The research project that I have been referring to as the "diversity in student governance report" is now called "Identity Matters". This will be finalized and released on the Friday of 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 has wrapped up. 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 are now up for the fall cohort and we will be having our first cohort meeting in September.

I am happy to say I have enjoyed and utilized my first trimester of my term to the best of my ability. Keep an eye out for an indepth trimesterly report from all of our exec team in the next few works.

HAPPY GOVWEEK!!!!

Cheers,

Shane Scott