

Date: 6 Dec 2018

To: University of Alberta Students' Union Council

Re: VP(A) 2018/19 Report #15

Dear Council,

It's the end of the term, woo! Hope you all are studying hard, and getting that bread. Take some time this Christmas break to really focus yourself this next semester - being involved in student governance, you'll notice this next semester is going to move so quickly. I hope you all got something out of Council, and if there are goals you still want to pursue, feel free to reach out to me, and I would love to support you! Read ahead for some updates during this busy time!

1. Academic Advising Survey Launch!!!

One of the platform goals I ran on was "improving academic advising" and this year the COFA Advo Board developed an academic advising survey to help us better understand the academic advising landscape. Please share and fill out the survey here:

<https://goo.gl/forms/RumW1YENv00AVk6i2>

2. Faculty Associations

RX Factor

This past weekend, I attended APSA's RX Factor (formally known as Mr. Pharmacy) with an SU Events Staff member, Aila Jamali! RX Factor is a talent show filled with mini-games where all the proceeds go to the Movember Foundation. Such a great cause and dare I say, one of the best nights!

3. General Faculties Council Meetings / University Meetings

GFC CLE

Did you know you can access the USRI scores? No? Well, neither does the majority of campus. The main item of interest here was the discussion around the Universal Student Rating of Instruction (USRI's). Compared to other U15's, we seem to have a fairly high response rate, however, there is room for improvement. One of my platform goals is to "Embolden Existing Instructor Evaluation Framework", and this year, I have worked to update the USRI questions and in this meeting, we extensively discussed the user-interface of the USRI database. The win? We got verbal confirmation from Jeff Rawlings, head of IST, that this is a project he is very interested in and will follow through on! Woohoo!

CTL Advisory Committee

We discussed ways we can integrate student feedback better in instructor professional development courses. The interesting opportunity here for students.

4. Open Education

The Open Education Advocacy Group met and we will be going forward with presenting at GFC CLE about a Zero/Low Textbook Course Indicator on Bear Tracks. I will keep you updated as we get closer to the presentation! I also was on an Open Con call, when I realized that there isn't a way for Open Con Undergraduate Alum to connect, so we will be starting an undergraduate chapter soon.

5. Pipe Ceremony hosted by ASC

I was honoured to have gone to my first Pipe Ceremony and it was truly a really impactful moment. It's not often that you are guided in such a safe space to reflect on your thoughts and emotions regarding anxiety, and so this opportunity was really beautiful. Thank you, ASC for connecting and allowing the campus community to be part of this.

6. Items to Note

- It was an honour to be a name reader at the **École Polytechnique Memorial Service** hosted in SUB. Gender-based violence is a worldwide phenomenon and is truly disgusting. It makes you stop and think about the femme folks that we are blessed to have in our lives - so take a second, and just tell them how much you love, and appreciate them.
- **International Student Consultation** with UAI went really well. I discussed the implications of Bill 19, the state of the ISA and, GovWeek!
- **Tuition Budget Advisory Committee**
 - An interesting committee alas, went to TBAC on behalf of the SU when VP Ripka and President Larsen were out of town and we discussed how Bill 19 would impact budget projections.
- **Stride Session!**
 - Was part of a branding session for Stride. I literally love all the Striders and I can't wait for them all to take over the (govern)-world one day!

My office hours for the Winter semester are most likely going to be by appointment only, unless I Council would prefer a set time - let me know your thoughts, please! Let me know if you have any questions at all and if you made it this far, thanks for reading my report!

Kind regards,



UASU VP (Academic)

Akanksha Bhatnagar