

Date: 7 Feb 2019

To: University of Alberta Students' Union Council

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

Dear Council,

I will be out of office for three weeks, so if you have any questions regarding my portfolio, please email me and I will get back to them as soon as I am back. In the meantime, President Larsen and VP Ripka have taken on my several committee's and other obligations and I have created action plans so my goals do not fall behind. Let me know if you have any questions!

1. University Governance Meetings

GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE): Zero Textbook Cost Course Indicator on Bear Tracks

- So I did a presentation to CLE about this issue and wanted to see our University take on this project. The entire committee had amazing questions, and had great feedback. One strong piece of feedback was that it was actually very alienating to have a cost indicator beside a course because in good faith, most professors try to keep their costs down. This entire project's goal was to create education and awareness around OERs and so we floated the idea of the OER indicator instead and...IT WENT SO WELL!!! I really thought there was not going to be a taste for this, but because someone mentioned it, I latched on!!! IST, the Registrar, the Center for Teaching and Learning, a Vice-Provost and (almost) all of the Committee spoke in favor of piloting this except for one. Next CLE meeting, there will be a presentation around what OERs are, and what they mean in terms of enhancing the classroom experience. I am so EXCITED!! This is amazing for OE awareness on campus, and next meeting pending an OER presentation we will come back to how we can logically execute this project.

GFC EXEC

- This will be on Monday and we will talking about the:
 - Conflicts of Interest Amendment Act
 - Will impact students with parents who work at the UofA
 - Workplace Impairment Policy and Procedures
 - Will impact students who work at the UofA in labs/as TAs/ etc.
 - Terms of Reference for the Council on Student Affairs (COSA)
 - Will be letting full GFC decide. The argument is to have or not to have a Grad and Undergrad Indigenous Rep, since theoretically ASC represents both. Thoughts? Let me know. Right now, I will be voting for both reps to have a seat.
 - Proposed Revisions to Standing Committee Terms of Reference GFC Executive Committee
 - Just changes to delegations of authority.
 - EARLY CONSULTATION
 - Proposed Revisions to Terms of Reference - General Faculties Council
 - Proposed Revisions to Standing Committee Terms of Reference - GFC Academic Standards Committee (ASC)

- DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - Report of the Campuses and Facilities Safety and Security (CFSS)
 - Green and Gold Scholar
 - Update on Changes to the University Calendar
 - 2019-2020 University Consolidated Budget

2. Faculty Associations

- BSA Elections are on Feb 15th, woot! I went to their Candidates Forum right before Council!
- I attended APSA's Candidates Forum on Wednesday, Feb 6th.
- COFA Meetings will be before Feb 14th.
- ESA and LSA FAMF questions are on the Executive Ballot.

3. Stride

We had our last Stride Session on Thursday and it was so great. I was on a Panel with Councillor Kim and Isha Godra, and I'm still inspired by their team. The members of Stride really taught me how to believe in myself, when really no one around me did, and I am so happy to call some of them my best friends.

5. University EDI Strat Plan

- This whole year, I've been working with the University to develop a campus EDI Strategic Plan. On **February 13th from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm in CCIS Room 1-430 (North Campus)**, we will be officially launching this plan. The launch event will include a panel discussion and I'll be giving remarks on behalf of students. If you're interested in attending, check out the invite in your email's! It's open to all members of the public.

6. Additional Things To Note

- An eClass Survey is being created in conjunction the SU, IST and CTL as I think it is really important for us to continue to understand how eClass serves students if we are spending thousands of dollars on it. Stay tuned!
- I've been meeting with several OER advocates on campus to help strategize about the OE Advocacy Group. I will bring our strategic plan to the Council for early thoughts soon.

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