

VPA Council Report

Date: November 18 2011

Hi everyone,

Because of the current Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS), this report is going to be shorter than usual. I have an update about the URS so far, as well as some quick points about what I plan to do in the days following the URS. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me!

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARH SYMPOSIUM

Yesterday was an incredibly hectic day, but I'm really pleased with how the symposium dinner and keynote turned out. We had over 150 people in attendance, some great speeches and good food. The event has gained a lot of momentum and awareness over the last two months in particular, and I feel like that will make 2012 even more successful. Whoever organizes it will inherit this momentum, in addition to a very thorough transition.

Today, we have the poster competition and closing ceremonies, both of which are in CCIS. The former runs from 10am-3pm and will feature 124 student projects. We have the posterboards and tables currently set up in CCIS, so all that is needed are people: judges, presenters and volunteers. Once the symposium is over, I will take most of Monday off. There is a Community Service Advisory Board meeting that I might attend on Monday, but that is likely it.

If you would like to see the abstracts, you can check out the online program here:
<http://su.ualberta.ca/governance/executives/projects/urs/>

CANADIAN ROUNDTABLE ON ACADEMIC MATERIALS

The second big event that we plan on organizing is the Canadian Roundtable on Academic Materials, which I would envision taking place in January. This would bring together student leaders from student associations across the country, as well as Bookstore staff and librarians.

ACADREAM TEAM

One of the things that organizing the symposium has reminded me of is the importance and value in teams. With this considered, I am going to get the AcaDream Team up and running and put a lot of effort into it. There is a lot of potential for this team, to say the least.

TALKING TO STUDENTS

Starting Friday November 25, I will strive to talk one-on-one to a minimum of 100 different students per week, asking them about their ideal academic experience. I'll report back to you on what students tell me at each Council meeting.

CONCLUSION

Overall, I feel like the end of the symposium marks the true beginning of the second half of my term. So far, I'm pleased with how things have gone, but I plan on making the second term more productive than the first.

If you have any questions whatsoever, please feel free to send them off to me at vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca or give me a call at 780.492.4236.

In solidarity,

-Emerson