

# VPA Council Report

Date: February 27 2012

By: Emerson Csorba

Hey everyone,

First off, I'm REALLY sorry about missing the deadline for the VPA report. It's the first time this year that I have a report on late additions. Last Friday, I was sick, and totally forgot about the 9 am deadline. But no excuses! I'm going to keep this report quick, because between elections and the packed Council agenda, there is a LOT going on. Without further ado:

## ELECTION TURNOUT

I'm happy to see four excellent candidates for VPA. That was a goal of mine for most of the year, but now that this has been reached, it's time to set our sights forward – to Council elections. Every position needs to have more contestants than there are seats. Let's work together to make sure this happens.

I also want to see 30% voter turnout in this executive election. It's a major jump from last year, but I believe it can happen.

## DEFERRED EXAM FEES ELIMINATION

The wheels are turning rapidly: deferred exam fees elimination was approved last week at the GFC Academic Planning Committee, and will go to the Board of Governors for final approval in mid-March. If approved at the BoG, the fees will be eliminated on the spot, and will not be assessed in the coming winter final exams.

## TRANSITION

I've created an intensive transition plan, entitled "Tailoring Transition" for the next VPA-elect. My goal is to make sure that I do my best to prepare the VPA-elect to hit the ground running, from May 1 and on.

## NSSA FULL RECOGNITION

One of the best moments of my term was writing the NSSA official letter of recognition, which was handed to the NSSA prior to reading week, on February 17. They have done a tremendous job this year.

## BLOG POST

I wrote a blog post called "Your GPA is Overrated" which generated many hits and considerable student feedback. Great to see!

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

I met with the Academic Director of the URI, Connie Varnhagen, to plan for the upcoming months and year in undergraduate research. There is a lot going on, and the future is glowing. If you subscribe to the URI newsletter, you'll know what I mean.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

I met with VP Yamagishi, Councillor Zinyemba and many other students to plan for this International Students' Association. I also met to discuss the plan with Doug Weir of the U of A International Centre.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions whatsoever, contact me whenever you want at [vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca)!

Cheers,

-Emerson