

June 21, 2012

To: Students' Council 2012-2013

Re: Report of the Vice President Academic

Hi there Councillors,

The week was spent mostly preparing and planning for the year to come.

I. Certificates

In addition to majors, minors, specializations, or qualifications, the University of Alberta has recently been investigating the concept of Certificates. In particular, embedded for-credit certificates allow undergraduate students to receive parchment and recognition for courses they take that develop a particular skills or knowledge base. The University is developing a handbook for administrators who are interested in developing new certificates. As they provide value to students at little cost to the University, I expect the number of certificates to proliferate in the coming years. I have been advocating for a transparent approval process, consultation with students, and clear communication of requirements for new certificates.

Recently, the University approved certificates in leadership, European studies, computer game development, and global citizenship.

II. Faculty Association Task Force

Faculty Associations are complex student groups that are responsible for representing, serving, and building community among the students in their faculty. There a number of challenges that they face due to their numerous roles and responsibilities. In each of the past four years, an average of 2 serious FA-related have been raised to the Vice President Academic. I'm working to draft a Terms of Reference for a FA Task Force of Students' Council. If you have any thoughts on questions that this task force should raise and attempt to answer, please let me know.

III. Attributes and Competencies

The University of Alberta is looking to develop a list of character attributes and citizenship values that students will develop by graduation. The 3 committee co-chairs, including the SU and GSA VPAs met to strategize and prepare for the year ahead.

Cheers,


Dustin Chelen