

August 23, 2012

To: Students' Council 2012-2013

Re: Report of the Vice President Academic

Hello Council,

Here's my last report for the summer. With my Executive term a third of the way over, it's interesting to reflect on the magnitude of the portfolio. I look forward to any feedback you may have on ways the SU can work to encourage excellent undergraduate education.

I. Student Representative Open House

Council, together with the CRO, Discover Governance, and the VPA will be hosting a Student Representative Open House on Wednesday September 12 at 5:00 PM in the Alumni Room in SUB. Student reps from across campus and those interested in getting involved will be invited to attend. It will feature brief keynotes by the SU President and CRO, among others, as well as an opportunity to network with other student reps.

If you believe that this open house is a good way for you, as a Councillor, to reach out to other reps or students interested in the work of Students' Council, I encourage you to consider contributing your Fall semester councilor outreach funds to the cause. The form is attached to the agenda. Invites will be sent out shortly.

II. DIE Board Tribune Selection Committee

As per SU Bylaw 1500, I am required to inform you that I have been appointed as Chair of the DIE Board Tribune Selection Committee. We interviewed candidates and have recommended the three appointments for your ratification at today's meeting.

III. KIAS Tomorrow's Ideas, Now Conference

I was invited to attend an international undergraduate research conference held by the Kule Institute for Advanced Study. I greatly enjoyed meeting some of the incredibly bright young minds who are tackling key societal issues. I hope that through the URS we can encourage more UofA students to participate in this event.

IV. Faculty Association Task Force

The first FATF meeting was held, and was well received by members. We have drafted a list of unique attributes of Faculty Associations, as well as a tentative list of challenges and risk factors that we would like to address in our report.



V. Financial Services Hub

On behalf of the VPSL, I attended an initial brainstorm on the possible ways to make student financial services easier to access. Members involved included SFAIC, University Bursaries and Emergency Funding, Student Records, Financial Services (tuition and fees office), Administrative Information Systems, and Student Awards.

VI. New Professor Orientation

I spoke at new professor orientation held by the Centre for Teaching and Learning. The Centre continues to provide quality programming that is attracting a larger subset of teaching staff interested in improving their teaching practices.

I'm looking forward to updating you on the progress toward my Executive goals over the next month.

Sincerely,


Dustin Chelen