

October 4, 2012

To: Students' Council 2012-2013

Re: Report of the Vice President Academic

Hello Council,

Below is an update from the past two weeks. Best of luck as midterm season starts up.

I. Join a Committee

In response to a poor submission rate of applications for students to be a part of important committees like the Academic Policy and Process Review Task Force or the Academic Relations Group, I have created a webpage and business cards to help centralize information on student participation in committees. Students interested in serving on a central university committee and representing the student voice with the SU can find out more at su.ualberta.ca/joinacommittee

II. Undergrad Research Symposium Call for Abstracts

The call for abstracts for the second Undergraduate Research Symposium has gone out. Applications can be submitted electronically via the SU website until October 9.

III. Restructuring the Council of Faculty Associations

In response to feedback solicited from the strategic planning subcommittee of the Council of Faculty Associations (COFA), and a careful analysis of the history of COFA, we have radically redesigned its organizational structure and meeting format. COFA under SU bylaw will now be the COFA Senior Board. Underneath it are the Advocacy, Finance and Administration, and Member Services Working Groups, which will meet less frequently and will give executives with similar challenges and responsibilities from different FAs a forum with the SU and each other.

IV. Tuition and Fees

The President, VPOF, and I attended a joint Tuition and MNIF Budget Advisory Committee meeting. The University indicated that it intends to pursue a 2.15% increase to tuition and relevant fees, the maximum allowed by government legislation. They also provided a draft report on Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees, and promised to clarify vague or confusing points.

V. Extending the Withdrawal Deadline

The University has indicated its intent to extend the Withdrawal Deadline, the deadline by which you can still withdraw from a class and forfeit your final grade for a grade of W, until the second-last week of classes. I have spoken in favour of this change at APPRTF and ASC SOS, as it allows students more time to determine if they want to continue in the class, and gives them more opportunities to receive feedback and marked work from their instructor.

VI. General Faculties Council Student Caucus

I chaired my second meeting of GFC Student Caucus. Discussion primarily centered around the unilateral changes made to Lister Hall residence. GFC saw some discussion on the topic, after it recommended the creation of a Department of Women's and Gender Studies.

VII. Miscellaneous

I attended the ISSS AGM, the CBAS Council of Departmental Associations meeting, CLE, ASC SOS, a number of advisory committees, a primer on University Facilities and Operations, a meeting of the Appeals Regulation Group, the Turkey Trot, and Celebrate: Teaching Learning and Research.

Sincerely,


Dustin Chelen