

November 18, 2012

To: Students' Council 2012-2013

Re: Report of the Vice President Academic

Hello Council,

Below is a report for my activities over the past two weeks. Being over half-way through my term, it's interesting to reflect on where my time has been prioritized in the first six months. I look forward to sharing that reflection with you as soon as our Executive Goals document is made public.

I. Undergraduate Research Symposium

4 students presented their research findings on SUBstage on November 14 at noon. On November 15 from 10:00-3:00, 89 students presented their research to thousands of passersby. A number of classes were cancelled to allow students to see the cutting-edge work done by other UofA undergrads. The reception that evening featured guest speakers from Science, Student Services, the URI, and Arts and Humanities in Health and Medicine. Kudos to Gurpaul Bara, URS Coordinator who coordinated the event and emceed the evening while battling pneumonia. Overall, it was an excellent opportunity for undergraduate students to practice their presentation skills, showcase their incredible work, and inspire other students to get involved in research.

II. Academic Relations Group

The first meeting of the Academic Relations Group was a success. Group members learned more about SU political policy, advisory committees, and university governance. Key issues for them to cover this year include assessment and grading, advising, eLearning, and experiential learning. Group members have officially been delegated 12 VPA committees, and are in the process of being briefed on historical work to date.

III. Centre for Teaching and Learning

I met with Dr. Sheree Kwong See, Interim Director for the Centre for Teaching and Learning. We discussed her vision for the Centre, and what feedback she's received to date on its successes and failings. She's interested in increasing support to graduate students, building a network of CTL ambassadors in faculties, and making better use of CTL's current staff resources. I'm looking forward to a second meeting where we can continue to discuss the Centre's role in supporting the development of excellent teachers, continuing to provide research-based policy advice, and being able to sufficiently translate CTL's knowledge to faculty members.

IV. Miscellaneous

The two Vice Provost selection committees that I am sitting on are continuing to progress. Both have had town hall meetings to seek the feedback of the community. I adjudicated 43 project proposals for the URI stipend. I fought against approving an academic schedule that placed exams on the Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. I attended the President's town hall, where she spoke on topics like TUC, online learning, budget cuts, and advancement. She also spoke in favour of a Fall Reading Week and encouraged a proposal that accommodated all of the complex academic programs on campus. Finally, I participated in the Gateway's Movember face-off and the BSA's Chillin' for Charity event.

Sincerely,


Dustin Chelen