



May 17, 2013

To: Students' Council 2013-2014

Re: Report of the Vice President Academic

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Hello Council,

See below for a report on my activities for the past two weeks.

## **I. Increase to the Confirmation Deposit**

The Registrar's Office has indicated that it intends to make three substantial changes to the confirmation deposit. First, it will be increased from \$175 to \$500. Second, it will only apply to entering students. Finally, students will no longer be able to register for classes until they have paid the deposit. I've voiced my concerns to the Registrar's Office that such a substantial increase will be a barrier for students from low-income backgrounds, students who rely on student loans, and aboriginal students who rely on band funding. As well, having one of the highest confirmation deposits in the country will be a deterrent for students thinking of attending the U of A. However, because students don't have a say in this increase, it appears to be going ahead for the 2014-2015 year.

## **II. NUA Probation**

The NUA elected to be placed on probation in the summer of 2012 after facing a difficult financial situation and unclear relationships with stakeholder groups. Over the past 12 months we've worked with the NUA to build their financial stability and improve their financial controls. However, with the agreement of the NUA, Dean of Nursing, and Discover Governance, the NUA will spend another 6 months on probation to finish up a constitutional review and complete their other requirements.

## **III. Miscellaneous**

We've hired Amanda Granstrand as the second new Student Ombudservice Director. I presented at the Student Financial Aid Task Force on the student perspective on scholarships and bursaries. I attended the Admissions Task Force, Academic Standards Committee, SU-RO meeting, CSL Advisory Committee, a Board dinner, a Renaissance Committee update, and a lunch with the Director for the Centre for Teaching and Learning. Finally, much of my time has been dedicated to preparing for govcamp.



If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me at 780-492-4236, or email me at [vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca).

Sincerely,

  
Dustin Chelen