



June 13, 2013

To: Students' Council 2013-2014

Re: Report of the Vice President Academic

Hello Council,

My sincerest apologies for being absent from Council, but I'm on vacation this week with my family.

I. Attributes and Competencies

The Committee on the Learning Environment approved the final report of the Subcommittee on Attributes and Competencies. This committee – led jointly by the SU and GSA – reviewed literature, surveyed stakeholders, and proposed changes around making explicit the student attributes fostered at the University. They include ethical responsibility, scholarship, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, and confidence. We've recommended the University adopt these attributes formally, require professors to list which attributes are fostered in syllabi, and survey students on their perspectives. The Provost is responsible for determining next steps.

II. University Budget

On behalf of the President, I attended a meeting of the Academic Planning Committee. The Provost indicated that Deans have finalized their 13-14 budgets. Over the next two years, Faculties will be cut by another 3-7%, depending on their performance against key metrics. When I asked how we will find out about cuts, the Provost indicated that because many Faculties and Departments have little PR capacity, some cuts will not appear on the Change@UAlberta website. The AVP Risk Management Services also indicated that international student tuition would be increasing this year.

III. Teaching Evaluation

The Committee on the Learning Environment also accepted a report on teaching evaluation, which I worked on. Among the recommendations are to provide a guide to department chairs on how to effectively evaluate teaching, and redeveloping the policy on student evaluations of teaching.



IV. Miscellaneous

I attended convocation and was lucky to meet the honorable Jim Prentice, and attended meetings of the Student Financial Aid Task Force, and the Vargo Teaching Chair Selection Committee. I also had a number of senior administrator meetings, including meetings with the Provost, VP University Relations, Dean of Students, and Vice Provost Academic Programs and Instruction.

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.

Sincerely,


Dustin Chelen