

**Date:** 17 Jan 2019

**To:** University of Alberta Students' Union Council

**Re:** VP(A) 2018/19 Report #17

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Dear Council,

By the time we all meet, we'll be 2/5th through GovWeek!! I'm looking forward to the week, but I won't lie - it is hard running this entire week alongside all of the other work. I will say again that you should all check out the Executive Midterm Goals Document (attached in December 11th Council Agenda), and ask any questions you may have. With the year wrapping up, feel free to reach out to me if you need supporting in completing your goals. Read ahead for some updates.

### **1. GovWeek 2019**

Did I mention - GOVWEEK! The event page can be found [HERE](#), and if you wanna share it, I would really encourage you too!

### **2. Academic Advising Survey Timelines**

One of the platform goals I ran on was "improving academic advising" and this year the COFA Advocacy Board developed an academic advising survey to help us better understand the academic advising landscape. We are going to keep this open a little bit longer. Please share and fill out the survey here: <https://goo.gl/forms/RumW1YENv00AVk6i2>

### **3. Faculty Associations**

#### **ISSS - Science Week**

The current President of AUFSJ has resigned and their VP Finance Eric Einarson will be taking over for the next few months. I've reached out and connected them to the SU (including Discover Governance) again and of course, we will support them in any way they need.

#### **ESS - 77th Annual GEER Week**

GEER Week was last week!! Amazing series of events. We will be going to Battle of Bands and I'm excited to check it out!

#### **BSA Gala**

President Larsen, VP Bourgeois and VP Brown and will be going to the BSA Gala! Super excited again!

#### **OASIS Gala**

Councillor Raitz and I will be MC'ing the OASIS Gala!! If you're reading this on Friday night, you can buy your tickets still [HERE](#) AND THEY ARE ONLY \$6!!!! There's gonna be a taco bar, Indian food and Thai food!!

### **4. Counterparts Conference**

The entire Executive Team went to our Counterparts team last week, and it was great! I was happy to present on how other schools can **adapt Stride** and what the new **CAUS OER** ask should be.

### **5. GFC University Meetings**

- GFC Exec
  - Closed the Pharmacy Reading Week File.
  - The PharmD candidate will not have a Reading Week in the 2020 academic years.

- They will have 2 wellness days instead, that will be reviewed on an annual basis.
- This was despite APSA's feedback but in a matter of 3 months, we forced the University to rescind a governance motion, to redo an entire consultation pathway and pass a new motion.
- We tabled the Terms of Reference for the Council on Student Affairs again to talk about the addition of a Grad Student Indigenous rep.
- **WE WILL BE UPDATING THE USRI DATABASE AND I COULD NOT BE MORE EXCITED.** Currently, the USRI data is so hard to read and students, therefore, are not connecting with their USRIs. I will be coming to Council for official consultations and I can't wait. I assumed this would be a multi-year project, but according to these timelines, it looks like one year. Future VPAs, take note!
- GFC ASC
  - Approved changes to the PLLC. These changes include the semesterization of the PLLC courses, opening enrollment in the certificate to students after they have completed \*24 credits which will enable students to take PLLC courses without having to enroll in the certificate, and making the Foundations of Leadership course (Int D 301) a prerequisite for the remaining PLLC courses. The primary motivation for these changes is to make the PLLC programming more accessible to students at the University of Alberta students and offer students more opportunities to gain both academic and practical leadership skills. I am looking forward to the implementation of these changes into the program and the SU is supportive of these changes going forward.

## 7. Stride

Members of Stride are going to be the SU Leaders of the future and it is so fricking exciting. I ran a Lunch and Learn session on how to navigate identity politics during elections and during Stride on Thursday, I ran a session on how to do effective one-on-ones and classroom talks.

## 6. Additional Things To Note

- An eClass Survey is being created in conjunction the SU, IST and CTL as I think it is really important for us to continue to understand how eClass serves students if we are spending thousands of dollars on it. Stay tuned!
- I've been meeting with several OER advocates on campus to help strategize about the OE Advocacy Group. I will bring our strategic plan to Council for early thoughts soon.
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My office hours for the Winter semester are most likely going to be by appointment only, unless I Council would prefer a set time - let me know your thoughts, please! Let me know if you have any questions at all and if you made it this far, thanks for reading my report!

Kind regards,



UASU VP (Academic)  
**Akanksha Bhatnagar**