UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
STUDENTS' UNION

Office of the
VICE PRESIDENT **ACADEMIC**

January 3rd 2018
To: Students' Council
Re: VPA Report to Council

Dear Council,

Happy New Year! I hope the holiday break was revitalizing for everyone and that the New Year is everything you want and more! The Students' Union building was closed from December 23rd to January 2nd, so it has been pretty quite in the office and across campus. Here is an update on the things I have been working on since the last Council meeting.

Joint Faculty Leadership Summit

Planning is underway for a Joint Faculty Leadership Summit, which will bring together Faculty Association Executives and Deans from all undergraduate faculties. This summit is being jointly hosted the myself and the Provost, and is intended to highlight the working relationships between many FAs and Deans, while also facilitating an open dialogue on topics like indigenous course content, equity and interdisciplinarity. It is tentatively taking place on January 19th and a "What We Heard" report will be created and made available following the summit.

Deans Council

The President and myself were able to present to the Deans Council, which is chaired by the provost. We wanted to take this opportunity to present to all of the deans on the role of the Students' Union and especially Faculty Associations. Marina and I have both independently worked on raising awareness on campus as to the function and structure of the SU and other student representatives at various levels.

UASU Got This Campaign

I am happy to say that the UASU Got This Campaign went through a soft launch at a STRIDE event on December 7th. We will begin rolling out the posters the week of January 8th and continue through to the end of the month. There will also be additional

content at https://www.su.ualberta.ca/governance/uasugotthis/ and we will be tabling on campus near the end of January. The first posters were revealed at an event where we heard from the Deputy Minister for Seniors and Housing, Kim Armstrong, who spoke to the topic of women in leadership. I will be speaking to both this campaign as well as the Identity Matters report specifically at the January 23rd meeting of council.

Figure 1 The moment the first posters were revealed at the December 7th STRIDE event

Governance

Academic Standards Committee Subcommittee on Standards

At the latest meeting of ASC SOS we made suggestions on the Proposed changes to Academic Standing Regulations for the Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) and Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) for Practicing Pharmacists, and the Proposed Addition of AP Capstone Diploma to Advanced Placement Courses accepted for advanced standing.

Academic Standards Committee

At this meeting of ASC we discussed a number of proposals. The first was the suspension of all current MLCS programs, contingent on the successful approval of the new proposed MLCS major that will be voted on in January. I recommend all Arts Councillors reach out to OASIS to better understand their advocacy on this topic. We also voted on the proposed changes to the academic standing regulations in pharmacy that we saw at ASC SOS. While the proposed changes we meant to clarify that students cannot fail one course more than once, however, it reads like a student can redo the same course and fail it again as it is just one particular course. The wording adopted failed to address this issue so I voted against this change. We also discussed and voted on the AP Capstone diploma credit approval, something that will provide AP students with additional credit when coming to the UofA.

Committee on the Learning Environment

At the December 6th meeting of CLE we received a report from the UAlberta Museums team for the first time – the report will go to GFC as an information report. We also discussed moving the current GFC policy on Teaching Evaluation into UAPPOL and splitting it into Policy and Procedure. This is a controversial topic as it includes the USRI policy, so it is sure to be contentious moving forward. We also talked about experiential learning at the UofA and the conversation Sarah Forgie wants to lead moving into the next GFC.

Nominating Committee

GFC Nominating Committee met to fill the remaining seats on the GFC Judiciary committees. Nominating Committee meetings are always closed as they deal with personal, often candid, details regarding committee applicants. One thing to keep on everyone's radar moving into 2018 is the shift to populate all student committee positions with sitting members of GFC. This is a change as current student representatives on GFC committees are selected from a pool of at-large students who don't necessarily sit on GFC.

Be Book Smart/Textbook Broke AB

Every year the VPA traditionally runs a campaign called Be Book Smart. This campaign is geared towards students and encourages them to consider all their options before spending large sums of money on textbooks and other academic materials. The campaign also reaches instructors and encourages them to also consider alternatives to textbooks to save their students some money and increase access to academic materials. This year I published a blog on this topic on the Universities The Quad, which was sent out to all instructors: https://blog.ualberta.ca/consider-this-as-you-prepare-for-the-next-term-be-book-smart-5fa6b3f44f32?ct=t(The_Quad_August_18_20168_4_2016) I will be circulating a survey the first days of classes to gather some information on exactly how much students are spending on academic materials. More information on this campaign can be found here: bebooksmart.ca

I will also be holding regular office hours every Tuesday from 12PM-1PM in my office in SUB 2-900. If that time does not work for anyone, feel free to contact me and we can find an additional time to meet.

Once again, happy New Year!

Regards,

Shane Scott
Vice President Academic