



DATE: January 18th 2018

TO: Students' Council

RE: VPA Report

Dear Council,

I hope the first few weeks of the semester have been good for all of you. Here is an update on all things governance and some recent projects.

Governance

The next General Faculties Council meeting will be on January 29th from 2PM-4PM in Council Chambers.

Academic Standards Committee

The Academic Standards Committee met with the only agenda item being the proposal for the new Modern Language and Cultural Studies program. The program proposal was to consolidate all of the current MLCS majors into one streamlined program that would provide students with more flexibility in their degrees. This item went before Academic Planning Committee before it went to Academic Standards committee, which is different than the normal path that goes from ASC to APC. Both President Banister and myself raised issue with the way that this proposal made it through governance as it largely undermined the role of Academic Standards committee and it's Subcommittee on Standards. I did raise a few concerns with the proposal, but OASIS was supportive of this proposal so I voted in favour.

GFC Executive Committee

At GFC Executive Committee we met to discuss the items that will be on the upcoming GFC meeting agenda. This includes a discussion on Experiential Learning, which is being led by Vice Provost (Teaching and Learning). This should be an interesting conversation as there is no clear definition or direction for experiential learning, which is something Sarah is working on as the chair of the Council on Experiential Learning. We will also be seeing an update on the Peter Lougheed Leadership College, the University



of Alberta Museums Annual Report, the Comprehensive Institutional Plan, and the Undergraduate Enrolment Report.

Transition Committee

I sit on the *GFC Transition Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority (Transition Committee)*, and we have been meeting on a semi-regular basis to facilitate the implementation of the Ad hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority. Confusing – I know! We have been tasked with assisting all GFC committees in reviewing their terms of reference, making nominating committee a freestanding committee, and figuring out what the future of the Council on Student Affairs looks like.

GFC Nominating Committee

As I mentioned, the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Governance Including Delegated Authority recommended that GFC Nominating Committee (NC) become a free standing committee and that GFC replenishment committee (RC) be disbanded. As it currently stands, members of the executive committee populate GFC NC, and GFC RC is responsible for replenishing the Executive Committee. The recommendation is that GFC NC has a completely removed membership from the GFC Executive, allowing them to also nominate the members of GFC Exec like the rest of the GFC committees. It is proving to be an interesting conundrum and something we will be working through over the coming months.

Student Governance Mixer

I hosted a “Student Governance Mixer” for the second time this year. I decided to do these mixers as there are a very few opportunities for student representatives to come together on campus to meet and network at all levels. These mixers include representatives from discipline clubs, department & faculty associations, Students’ Council and General Faculties Council. We had over 50 students come to the mixer on January 17th.

Open Educational Resources Advocacy Group

I am on the OER Advocacy Group, which I often provide updates on, and we have met to continue planning our broader advocacy strategies, and to specifically plan our presentation to the Association of Academic Staff University of Alberta (AASUA). We are presenting to their council on what OERs are, what it means for faculties intellectual property and academic freedom, what it means for students learning, and how AASUA can support the movement on campus.

UASU Got This

The campaign we are running to encourage people to both run in elections and to support those who do decide to run, has officially launched. Posters have gone up on campus and we will be continuing to post them throughout the next few weeks. There will also be ads on SUTV and on social media. I will also be presenting a little on this project to council at this meeting.



Once again, my office hours are Tuesday from 11AM-12PM. If those times do not work feel free to contact me and we can find another time to meet that works for you.

Warm regards,

Shane Scott

Vice President Academic