

**Date:** 6 Sept /2018

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

**Re:** VP(A) 2018/19 Report #8

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Dear Council,

Week of Welcome is upon us! It's been a great week, and it's been great seeing students back on campus. Going to President's' Address for the first time was such a great experience, and honestly is a beautiful way to start the school year. The best piece of advice I've heard is from our very own President Larsen: "Go to class more than you study. Study more than you party. And party as much you can.". Looking forward to our great year together folks! Keep reading for my major updates.

### **1. BeBookSmart Fair - THIS WEEK!**

The Be Book Smart Fair is this week!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Reminder that it is on **September 13th, from 10AM-2PM in SUB Atrium**. As elected representatives of your Faculty, I ask that you engage your constituents about this event, and come visit the Fair. More information can be found at [bebooksmart.ca/fair](http://bebooksmart.ca/fair) and any questions can be forwarded to [vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca](mailto:vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca).

### **2. Faculty Associations**

#### **Business Students' Association**

I've been having fulsome discussions with the BSA and Student Group Services regarding their clubs model. The BSA does not have a governance model with department associations, and for a while we have been discussing the logistics behind this.

#### **Alberta Pharmacy Students' Association**

I went to an APSA Council meeting where their Faculty presented a budget for APSA. This has to do with funds from the Market Modifier Fund which are supposed to be allocated to APSA, however year after year, this is being cut. All of the cuts and lack of transparency regarding the MMF goes against a letter of support that ASPA wrote to the Faculty in 2014. We are trying to find some more government documentation to support our arguments, because it is frustrating to see that this is now negatively impacting APSA and its students; I will continue to keep Council updated as this file moves forward.

#### **Interdepartmental Science Students' Society / L'Association des Universitaires de la Faculté Saint-Jean**

We will be meeting with the Dean of Campus Saint Jean and an associate Dean from the Faculty of Science to discuss Science major/minors and Education options. This was a priority I ran on, and I'm excited to see this file moving forward.

#### **Engineering Students' Society**

On **September 12th at 11:30AM** I will be getting dunked in the Engineering Quad!! Come out for a bit and watch VP Brown and President Larsen go subsequently after me!

### **3. Open Educational Resources (OER) Advocacy Group**

The OER Advocacy Group has been kind enough to help out with the Be Book Smart Fair and so you will be able to meet many of them at the Booths on September 13th. We also decided our projects for the year, over the next 3+ years, as well as 5+ years. We will be developing a

strategic plan from this exercise. Another project I will be working on is expanding our membership; currently the group is not representative of the campus community, so if any of you are interested, let me know.

#### **4. General Faculties Council Meetings University Meetings**

##### **GFC Academic Standards Committee Sub-committee on Standards (GFC ASC SOS)**

This committee discusses grammatical calendar changes before GFC Academic Standards Committee.

##### **GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (GFC CLE)**

All GFC Committee's are getting an Orientation Presentation at the start of the year to help guide members of the committee's about what GFC is; overall it's a good presentation is available online. The GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) is the committee responsible for the promotion of excellence in teaching and of an optimal learning environment, as well as with the provision of appropriate information resources to the university community as a whole.

##### **GFC Executive Committee (GFC EXEC)**

We will be meeting on Monday. GFC EXEC carries out functions delegated to it by GFC and recommends to GFC on academic proposals and student affairs issues.

#### **5. GovWeek 2018**

Dates for GovWeek have been finalized: **January 21st-25th 2018**. There will also be re-brand of the marketing - stay tuned! Applications for GWPC and for GovWeek events will be open at the end of September. If you're interested in being involved in anyway, let me know!

#### **6. Internal SU**

##### **ARRC Open House**

ARRC will be hosting an Open House on **Thursday, September 27th at 10AM**. This is first time I have heard a committee take a strong stance on student consultation; very happy to see this. I assume that all of Council will make a visit at least once during the event.

##### **By-Elections**

There are various Council seats and Faculty Association positions open for the byelections. Please do your best to stay engaged and tap some people on the shoulder to run! Voting dates will be Oct 3 & 4.

Thanks for reading this report. As always, please feel free to ask questions! My office hours for the Fall semester are going to be 12PM-1PM on Friday in SUB 2-900 and by appointment at any location that is accessible to you. Thanks for reading my report!

Kind regards,



UASU VP (Academic)  
**Akanksha Bhatnagar**