



May 20, 2014

To: Council

Re: VPA Report

Hi Councilors,

I hope you're all doing well and enjoying the (finally) nice weather. The past two weeks in office have been crazy and amazing. For the most part, my days consist of attending various committee meetings, for example, this past week I attended Academic Planning Committee, which is one of the larger standing committees of GFC, as well as another Leadership College Meeting, and another Presidential Search Committee meeting, to name a few.

Aside from representing undergraduates on university committees, the past two weeks have been all about the student representatives. Cory and I have begun work on ensuring that Faculty Associations have a designated financial reviewer. The principle behind this is based in my belief that student representative associations should be given the resources to complete a task before being asked to complete it. The Students' Union requires financial reporting from faculty and campus associations, and getting a financial reviewer is the thing that the associations struggle with the most. Therefore, we should help them with it. As of now we have planned a timeline and a consultation structure. I am in the process of drafting a long-term visioning document as well as setting up meetings with individual Faculty Associations and Campus Associations to discuss their ideas, needs and concerns with the project.

Also concerning faculty associations is another project I've been hashing out these past two weeks. I hope to create another working group of Council of Faculty Associations (COFA); the Council of Campus Associations (COCA). The principle behind the formation of this new working group is to create a space to address concerns specific to campus associations, as well as identify the sources of success of a couple of the most consistently strong associations on campus, with the intention of sharing best practices with other associations. Thus far, I have worked with Discover Governance to draft terms of reference for COCA and I have sent those to the CAs for review in advance of the meetings I have set up with them. After meeting with the CAs and discussing the terms of reference, I will redraft the terms of reference to take their changes into account. I will check back with the CAs to make sure that my redraft adequately reflects what they told me, then I will bring it to COFA Senior Board for deliberation.

Student representative association executives are not the only representatives that I oversee. I also am tasked with chairing GFC Student Caucus. The purpose of GFC Student Caucus (GFC SC) as I see it, is to ensure that students who sit on GFC understand everything that is happening at the committee and understand how the processes work. In the past, attendance and engagement at GFC SC has been pretty low, so in collaboration with Discover Governance (again), I have begun the process of revamping GFC SC to make it more attractive and useful to student representatives, which will hopefully further reduce barriers to student attendance and participation in GFC. Student attendance and participation in GFC is important because it is a matter of good governance for a strong student



voice to be represented on GFC, and this is important because students are an important stakeholder of the university.

I am also in the process of assembling Academic Relations Group (ARG). ARG is a great opportunity for interested students to gain committee experience, learn more about topics they are interested in, and make meaningful contributions to university governance. It's also a good access point into student governance, so it can be a great student engagement tool. Interviews are being conducted this week.

For councilors, the Govcamp schedule is finalized and online at <http://su.ualberta.ca/governance/discover/>. If you've missed the application deadline, have no fear, just shoot Rebecca Taylor and email (sga@su.ualberta.ca) asking if there are still spots available and if you can still register. Govcamp will run from May 23 until May 25, and I hope to see you there!

All the best,
Kathryn