



DATE: February 5th
TO: Students' Council
RE: VPA Report to Council

Dear Council,

Let me first apologize for this report not being included in the regular order papers, things last week got busy and I do apologize. I hope the second semester is going well and I'm sure everyone is excited for winter reading week. Here is an overview of what I've been up to:

CAUS Counterparts

The UASU Exec went to Calgary on Monday January 29th, returning on Tuesday January 30th for our final Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) counterpart's conference of the year. The focus of our meeting on Monday was primarily on the campaigns we all ran on the topic of open educational materials and academic material costs. We hope to compile some of the data we collected from surveys and events to get an up-to-date comparison of these topics across the province. On Tuesday we participated in a mindfulness workshop, and a CAUS roundtable where we discussed big issues like demographic collection at our institutions.

ASC SOS

At our Academic Standards Committee on February 1st, we looked at a proposal for the suspension of admission/transfer to the Atmospheric Sciences honours/specialization program in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. This suspension is due in part to some of the faculty in the program retiring and the number of newly enrolled students dropping. This suspension will not affect students currently in the program. We also looked at a proposal for an Embedded Certificate in Applied Social Science Research, in the Faculty of Arts. This certificate will be open to all students but will be administered through the Department of Sociology. While this program is a clear fit for sociology students, they are aiming to make it fairly flexible and will communicate the



options to all students when possible. We also discussed a new MA program in Policy Studies, and a proposal for a new Occupational Health and Safety Professional Diploma in the Faculty of Extension.

UASU Got This

The UASU Got This campaign is in full swing. We will be across campus this week collecting positive messages from students for would be candidates in the upcoming elections. We will be providing more info on running in elections, as well as how to be a supportive ally during the election period. There are also ads on SUtv and on social media featuring the models and the You Got This message.

Justin Trudeau Town Hall

Some of the UASU Executive attended the town hall with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The event itself was very open and had a relaxed feel to it, allowing anyone from the audience to ask a question of the Prime Minister if selected. Questions ranged from benefits for veterans, to reconciliation, and energy development in Canada. Post-Secondary education did come up in one question, with a student in the audience asking about the cost of education and the skills that University students are equipped with. Trudeau's comments were pretty broad, pointing to the increase in upfront grants provided to students, and to the belief that we should make University more affordable for students who need it, before creating completely free universities.

Alberta Student Leadership Summit

I had the pleasure of attending the Alberta Student Leadership Summit. This annual event is always well executed and well attended, and this year was no exception. The summit attracts students from across the province, and I had the opportunity to meet students from NAIT, UofC and MacEwan while I attended sessions on reconciliation and supporting indigenous students, innovation, be a leader by following and more. It truly was a great event.

OER Awards

Last week we had the first meeting of the new OER Award Adjudication Committee. These new awards will fund several undergrad researchers along side a team of academics who will support professors in finding, adopting, and adapting open



educational resources. This award program is something I advocated for at the start of my term, and is sure to lead to cost savings for students here on campus. As of writing this, there were 13 applicants for the award program.

Job Shadows

I have had a number of job shadows so far this year with more to come in the coming weeks. I have also made myself available to all candidates who are considering running in the upcoming SU election to discuss the portfolio and the job more broadly. I also have been providing objective advice on platform ideas in confidence. If anyone else is interested in job shadowing, I encourage you to reach out to me this week and we can find a time.

All my best,



Shane Scott
Vice President Academic