

February 7, 2017

Dear Council,

Is it just me, or did January fly by? I hope everyone is feeling excited about the semester coming along! Below is a report of my duties in the past few weeks. Looking forward to seeing everyone at Augustana for the next meeting!

1. Projects

Interdisciplinary Learning

The interdisciplinary conference in this Saturday!! It is not too late to get a ticket, more information can be found at interdcon.com. Thank you to everyone who helped make this conference a reality, I am really excited for the conversations we will be having. I will be happy to provide an update on how the conference went in my oral report at Council.

2. Meetings & Committees

Vice Provost Programs

I met with the new Vice Provost Programs, Tammy Hopper, last week. It was an introductory meeting where we discussed how the SU and University interact on academic matters. I really enjoyed meeting with her and feel very optimistic that we can continue to develop a very productive relationship between both our portfolios.

Student Governance

Last week we had a COFA senior board meeting and finance/administration meeting. All of these went well and I spoke to them about their upcoming elections and their goals for the semester. I also really enjoyed our COFA senior board meeting where we invited the Native Studies Students Association (NSSA) and the International Students Association to give presentations on how we can best support their students. Rebecca and I are also continuing to make our rounds attending Faculty Association executive meetings, in the upcoming week we have the Medical Students Association (MSA), NSSA, and Interdepartmental Science Students Society (ISSS).

GFC CLE, GFC, ASC SOS

I attended meetings for both General Faculty Council, as well as GFC Committee on the Learning Environment. At GFC we discussed the changes to the Bachelor of Arts degree, the metrics for tracking goals in For the Public Good, as well as received an update on the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Governance and Delegated Authority. At CLE President Rahman presented on his research regarding teaching tenure stream, as well as received an interesting presentation on new software for professors to create course syllabi on. At the Academic Standards Committee (subcommittee on standards) meeting I attended, the most notable discussion item was a proposal from the faculty of ALES and Education to cut a small combined degree program. A brief explanation of the proposed change is there were not many students taking the combined ALES/Education degree, and many of those students felt there were so many accreditation issues from the Alberta Teaching Association that they wish they had just taking an Education degree instead. At first I was unsure about if this was a good decision or not, but after hearing the presentation understand the rationale much better. I will be following up with the representative associations in ALES and Education to check what they think about the proposed change.

SWS, Ad Hoc Committee

I also attended the Scholarly Writing Support committee as well as the Governance Review Committee. At SWS we created our guiding principles for what we think writing supports on campus should look like. At the last Governance Review Committee we went over proposals that each group is working on, I am in the process on drafting my recommendations on GFC main now.

4. Other Exciting EndeavoursEMP FEST

I would like to remind all councillors that EMP FEST is right around the corner! VP Sandare has worked incredibly hard on this employment festival and I hope all councillors choose to attend many of the exciting events. More information is available at www.empfest.ca

Events

I have gone to many campus events in the past few weeks! Specially the Political Science Undergraduate Association third annual Bonspiel, an event I have gone to annually since inception.

Congratulations to Councillor Scott, Councillor Larson, Councillor DeJong, and Councillor Angus for taking the silver metal at the tournament! I also spoke at the Alberta Student Leadership Summit about student governance, specially how to get involved through elections or appointments, then do a great job advocating once getting the position. Big shout out to our leadership department for pulling off another great ASLS! The executive and I also attended the opening of a new prayer and mediation space on campus. located on the ground level of HUB. We were all thrilled to see the space which students have advocated for so long to get. We hosted a successful Exec Meet and Greet in Room at the Top, where I must say the “Dreamy Fahimy” drink special was a real hit. Lastly I will be attending the Augustana formal this Saturday with VP Paches and VP Sandare. I really enjoying going to these campus events and have a lot of respect for the student groups which put these on.

Exec Retreat

Lastly, the exec had a half day, in office, retreat where we went over some of the things we hope to accomplish in the last few months of our term. I can hardly believe how fast this term has gone by and am very grateful to have worked with such a stellar executive team along the way.

Thank you for reading this report and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Marina Banister