

January 10, 2017

Dear Council,

Happy new year! I hope you all had a very enjoyable winter break. Since our last council meeting, I was able to spend a week in California with my family which was a much needed break. I am happy to be back into the swing of things at the office, and am looking forward to the last semester of this academic term. If you are curious to see a high level overview of what I have done in the last four months, you can check out my trimester [report](#) I posted on my official Facebook page!

1. Projects

Interdisciplinary Learning

I have been working hard away at planning the interdisciplinary conference scheduled for February 4th! By now, the link to register and Facebook event should be live, it would be great if you could share that with your networks. I have also been busy collecting the abstracts for the conference, it looks like it will be quite the line up. If you or anyone you know is interested in participating on the student panel on interdisciplinary learning, please let me know!

2. Meetings & Committees

Governance Review Committee

I have had many meetings for the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Governance and Delegated Authority committee. In these meetings we went over the initial proposals for each “thinking group” and gave feedback. Everything is still up in the air right now, but the Committee chair will be giving an update on some of our tentative recommendations at the upcoming GFC meeting.

Writing Committee

I had my first meeting of the Scholarly Writing Support committee! This committee was created in response to the proposed move of the Centre for Writers earlier this year. It is a small committee, and I am the only undergraduate student on it. Soon the committee will have a resource portal online which will be open to the public, I can share that link with any interested councillors. In the initial meetings we

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just went over the terms of reference and some of our goals. Happy to answer any questions you may have!

Provost

President Rahman and I had our monthly meeting with the Provost last week, in this meeting we discussed the interdisciplinary conference, the external review that happened with the PLLC, and the funding and tuition consultation that is happening with the Government of Alberta right now. I will be following up with the PLLC Academic Oversight Committee to inquire as to how recruitment for the next PLLC cohort is going.

4. Other Exciting Endeavours

Podcast Recording

Vice-President Paches and I taped an episode of Voice of the Union! I must say, it has been my favourite segment yet. That is because we talked about the interdisciplinary conference, as well I had the chance to host three members of student governance. I was joined by the President of a Department Association, the President of a Faculty Association, and a Student Councillor to discuss the range of governance we have at the U of A and some of the opportunities and challenges of getting involved.

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



Marina Banister