

November 15, 2016

Dear Council,

Here is a report of my work in the past two weeks!

**1. Projects**GovWeek

The GovWeek report is now completed, including final edits and design! It will be attached to this meeting's late-additions as well as be made available on the website at [www.govweek.ca](http://www.govweek.ca).

Interdisciplinary Learning

Conference planning is going well! I am pleased to report we have officially gotten the Provost Office on-board to co-host the conference. We will be sending out the save-the-date invitation to campus stakeholders soon!

**2. Meetings & Committees**COFA

COFA Senior Board met, at the meeting we discussed the upcoming interdisciplinary conference and the proposed lawn-sign campaign highlighting existing interdisciplinary options. We also discussed what presentations we would like to receive at COFA, these include potential presentations about supporting indigenous students on campus as well as one from the International Students Association. Governor Champagne was able to attend this COFA meeting to highlight the work he does on the Board as well as ask if they had any pressing concerns he could help with. Lastly, Rebecca Taylor and I will be attending Faculty Association Executive/Council meetings in the coming months. This will help us have a better picture of the landscape of FA's and therefore better be able to help advise them.

ASC SOS

At my Academic Standards Committee, Sub-Committee on Standards, I heard a proposal from the Faculty of Nursing to increase the "pass" grade in "foundational" nursing courses to a C+ or 71%. This is a big jump as the faculty historically did not have a minimum passing grade above a F. I raised a number of concerns at this meeting including the increase in cost and time to students, increase in number of appeals, as well as teaching quality. This change is projected to affect 15%-20% of traditional nursing students and 5% of nursing after-degree students.

PLLC

The PLLC is in the process of conducting a number of reviews on the PLLC. The Provost brought in an external reviewer who conducted focus groups with nearly 70 people in 4 days. I was part of two of those meetings, one with the PLLC Oversight Committee and one with President Rahman. It was very interesting to speak so openly about the PLLC's strengths and weaknesses. I am hopeful that they will eventually release the findings of the research to the wider University community.

Academic Integrity Council

I had my first meeting of the Academic Integrity Council! This is a group of over 20 people from across campus who strive to make sure students and faculty are upholding the UofA's commitment

to academic integrity. This is especially exciting because giving more support to international students, which is a campaign goal of mine, is a topic of discussion at this council. I will keep council updated as work with this group continues!

#### Ad-Hoc Committee on Academic Governance

The Ad-Hoc Committee on Academic Governance recently met. We will be coming to GFC at the next meeting to go over our guiding principles for endorsement. At the last meeting we discussed what other U15 institutions are doing for their academic governance and how we can use those as potential models. This committee will eventually give a recommendation for change to the way academic governance is done at the UofA, I remain committed to make sure there is ample space for student representation in whatever those changes may be.

#### **4. Other Exciting Endeavours**

##### CAUS All-Exec

The UASU executive and I spent Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday with our colleagues from the University of Lethbridge SU, University of Calgary SU, Mount Royal SA, and MacEwan SA. I really enjoy CAUS all-exec because it is an opportunity to discuss issues with my peers across Alberta as well as find places to help each other and collaborate. I also attending question period at the ledge for the first time, it was very rambunctious.

##### FA Dinners

The executive and I had dinner with the Medical Students Association at Dewey's this week! It was an exciting dinner as their organization is having a very strong start, as well as because we were simultaneously watching the election coverage between our two teams.

##### Personal

Last weekend I went to Banff with some of my friends, it was a much needed and rejuvenating little get-away. I strongly encourage everyone to make sure they keep time for their friends, families, and loved-ones during the busy fall months.

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



Marina Banister