

Date: 16/11/2021

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Academic 2021/22 Report #15

Dear Council,

I hope all of you are having a relaxing reading week! Here is an overview of what I have been up to over the past two weeks.

SRA Summit

Last weekend, we successfully hosted the first-ever Student Representative Association (SRA) Summit. It was an incredible opportunity to bring student leaders from all of our SRAs together to practice some practical advocacy skills that will help them in their work, and collaborate on addressing isolation and mental health challenges on campus. By the end of the summit, I think that vision came to life. As a group, we came up with some exciting ideas for improving our community on campus. I hope that everyone who attended can now return to their SRAs and have new strategies and solutions to address their students' challenges.



Center For Teaching and Learning Webinette

On Wednesday, I had the opportunity to speak at a webinette that CTL runs weekly for instructors! This one was focused on the ZTC Indicator Pilot Program, how it works, and how instructors can get involved and find the support they need to teach in an open format. It was a lot of fun, and there were some great discussions around affordability for students and how instructors can overcome some of the challenges with teaching ZTC.

Accommodations for Final Exams

This week, the Dean of Students updated that accommodations for final exams will be much smoother than earlier in the semester. The University was able to find space and staff to administer many of the exam accommodations in person. The Dean of Students Office also just put in place a new Universal Design and Accessibility team, which will be taking on the responsibility of addressing many of the accessibility and accommodation issues on campus.

Cyber Summit 2021

On Wednesday, I was part of a student panel alongside Nicole Schmidt (UCSU President) to talk to a group of Chief Information Officers about students' experiences with online learning and some of the serious flaws we encountered. Many people in attendance work for companies that develop the technology that enables online proctoring or lecture capture/streaming. It was an excellent opportunity to highlight the end user's experiences to inform their work better.



Student Rights Campaign

Between now and December, I am working on a short social media campaign to inform students about their rights when attending the U of A. The content will primarily focus on information around assessment and grading, procedural fairness, much of the information outlined in the [Charter of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#). I encourage all of you to add this document to your council social media pages if you have one or share the content on Instagram when it is up on the UASU pages!

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abner Monteiro".

Abner Monteiro

Vice President Academic
University of Alberta Students' Union