

Date: 06/05/2019**To:** Students' Union Council**Re:** President 2019/20 Report #1

Dear Council,

It is May already and I am incredibly excited to be starting this new year as VP Academic and working with you lovely folks! Retreat was last week, and I learnt quite a lot - it was a steep learning curve with many presentations and sessions, where I learnt a lot more about what the role is like. Definitely a bit overwhelming with the amount of information and being thrown into the deep end, but I am ready to work hard for those who elected me.

This year I have some exciting projects to work on and continue from previous years. The nature of the VP Academic portfolio means that many projects and advocacy files are long term, over the course of years. That being said, the numerous committees that I sit on are where the 'battles' are fought so to speak. Much of my time right now is spent catching up on emails, and planning for the year. One of my passions is undergraduate research and getting undergraduate students more involved in understanding the benefits to their academic careers.

I will be in Dublin for the Worldwide Universities Network Conference from May 19th - May 24th, where I will be attending many sessions from Sustainable Education, Undergraduate Research and Equal Opportunities in Universities. I am excited to be representing the University of Alberta Students' Union, and bringing back some important information to better our academic culture here on campus.

In other news, I recently moved houses and realized that I have way too much stuff! Also, in case you wondered, moving a hundred year old upright piano is quite difficult, so please don't do it yourself if you're ever in that predicament.

Once again, I am excited to be working with you all this year and moving forward to a better academic environment on campus! If you ever want to talk, or have some interesting ideas, feel free to email me and I would be more than happy to meet! I'm all moved into my office now, and I have a bowl of candy (so please come say hi) - I always have an open door policy!

Cheers,



University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President Academic
Joel Agarwal