

Date: 04/19/2022

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Academic 2021/22 Report #24

Dear Council,

I hope you all are doing well. Below is my final report to you as your VP Academic. It has been a pleasure serving you all in this capacity over the past year, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours!

Affordability and Accessibility of Education

Zero Textbook Cost Indicator Pilot Program launched in Fall 2022 and saved students an estimated \$ 9 Million this year alone over two semesters!

Students can now go onto Beartracks and filter their courses to see which ones have a textbook cost and which ones don't. Info on how to do that can be found [HERE](#).

Educate Students on their Rights

We ran a social media campaign over the Fall semester to inform students about some of their rights.

We were also able to get the Charter of Student Rights and Responsibilities added to the resource page on eclass ps that students, faculty, and staff can easily access.

Improve Student Access to Services and Academic Supports

We addressed some significant issues around accommodations this year and are set up to advocate for substantial changes to our accommodations and academic support. Many of these were addressed in my platform for President and are goals I will continue to advocate for in the upcoming year.

Supporting Student Leaders in Governance

We held the first-ever SRA Summit that focused on practical skill development for student leaders and specific issues on campus.

We ran a successful GFC student Caucus that worked to keep student representatives on GFC informed and well prepared to participate in GFC meetings.

We utilized CoFA as an incredible way for faculty associations to participate in university decision-making and inform GFC's work, such as issues of sexual violence and teaching, learning, and evaluation.

We drafted the student governance code of conduct, which will be a resource that will help support Student leaders understand their roles and responsibilities when representing the Students' Union.

Create a Low-Risk Environment for Interdisciplinary Learning

We facilitated the creation of the new Exploration Credit Grading Proposal. This proposal will open the door for so many new students to explore new passions without the risk of jeopardizing their GPA.

Supporting Students on Experiential Learning

We have started creating a more student-friendly framework for students on experiential learning terms who have a problem or face harassment and don't know what to do. This is also paired with providing additional resources for supervisors who receive these complaints. Our goal is to have this ready for Fall 2022.

Increase Exposure to Research Opportunities

While COVID made it challenging to host a conference similar to Brain Pop to introduce the diversity of research opportunities to undergraduate students, we were still able to support other parts of campus that do this work. This year, we sponsored \$1000 in scholarships to students participating in the Undergraduate Research Initiative (URI)

Thank you to all of the students who trusted me this year to lead the academic portfolio and create change at our University that will hopefully have lasting positive impacts.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abner Monteiro', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Abner Monteiro

Vice President Academic
University of Alberta Students' Union