

Date: 05/16/2019

To: Students' Union Council

Re: President 2019/20 Report #2

Dear Council,

It's been two weeks already and I am learning more and more each day about the role, and the incredible opportunity to make positive changes towards a healthy academic environment on campus. My office is feeling like home, and I welcome you to all come say hi - it smells really nice in here and there is still candy! Here are some things I have been doing over the past two weeks.

1. Open Education Advocacy Committee

I have met with the OER Project Manager, Krysta McNutt to discuss preliminary direction set up of the **open education advocacy committee**, of which I intend to chair. This committee is comprised of faculty, staff and students with the intent of increasing awareness around the importance of OERs. I am excited to be working with a great team this year, and ultimately helping students by moving towards more accessible academic materials.

2. GovWeek 2019-2020

GovWeek is tentatively planned to occur in January sometime, and I have decided to go forth in filling seats for the GovWeek Planning Committee sometime in the next few months. This would be a group of students involved in the planning and implementation of GovWeek. If you are interested in being a part of this, look out for information sometime later this summer.

3. Research Event

I have met with Crystal Snyder (Undergraduate Research Initiative Team Lead) as well as Dr. Matthias Ruth (VP Research) regarding potentially having a one or two day event held in early October. I am planning a planning meeting in the next month with the URI to discuss the purpose, goals and visions for this event. In my mind, this would be moreso to get undergraduate students aware of the different research opportunities available to them. If you have any ideas, I would love to hear from you, so feel free to reach out to me.

4. University Freedom of Expression Policy

With the mandate of the new government, the University is taking a proactive approach to academic and other freedoms. At GFC Executive, a working group was created to determine statements on freedoms at our campus. I will be sitting on this group over the course of the next few months, and will be involved in writing these statements aimed towards being aligned with, For the Public Good, as well as making sure such statements are inclusive to all students on campus.

5. Faculty Associations

I am in the process of setting up meetings with all Faculty Associations over the next few months. This will be a great opportunity to meet and better understand issues that individual faculties are facing at the UofA. I am excited to say that I will also be chairing the **Council of Faculty Associations (COFA)**, where we together will be moving towards better student experiences with their FAs and SU.

6. Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) Conference

As you're reading this, I will be in Dublin, Ireland at the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) Conference attending some exciting and important sessions on academics on universities around the globe. I will be there with the University President, and VP Research as well some others. I look forward to learning and bringing back some valuable information to the UofA.

Ratt on the Patio was great - I was able to meet with some of you there Thursday, and I hope to see more of you there for the next one! In other news - I bought a bunch of vegetable seeds to plant in my backyard this summer, so I'm excited about that. Hope you are all enjoying the sunshine!

Cheers,



University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President Academic
Joel Agarwal