

**Date:** 29/06/2021

**To:** Students' Union Council

**Re:** Vice President Academic 2021/22 Report #5

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Dear Council,

I hope all of you are enjoying the beginning of Summer! Here are two weeks of my life at a glance:

### **Nominating Committee Update**

The committee will be meeting on Monday, June 28th, to approve the recommendation of three undergrad students to sit on the UofA Senate. Following this, NomCom will also be meeting to finish the adjudication process for student-at-large (SAL) seats on Translation Committee, Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee (ARRC), and Student Group Committee (SGC)! If you are reading this before June 28th, please encourage any student group executives you know to apply with a resume and cover letter to be on SGC!! Applications close by the end of the day on the 28th.

### **Policy Committee Update**

Councillors Beasley, Aamer, Dhillon, and I have been working hard to complete the First Principles of the Experiential Learning Policy! I'm very proud of this group and their work to expand this policy and incorporate the needs of students uniquely affected on our campus when participating in WIL. Keep an eye out for the first principles of this policy for our next council meeting!

### **Counterpart Meeting with the University of Calgary Students' Union**

I met with the VPA of the UCSU, Renzo Pereyra, and one of the UCSU SLC Reps, Chaten Jessel, to discuss Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Indicators and Open Education. We had a great discussion about the implementation of ZTC at our respective institutions and the potential that this program has to save millions of dollars in textbook costs for post-secondary students across Alberta. We also discussed future collaborations on OER awareness preliminarily.

### **SRA Summit Planning**

As many of you may know, one of the recommendations within the GRTF recommendations was to hold an SRA Summit to increase issues-based collaboration and create a more inclusive, inviting and accessible space for individuals to participate in UASU Governance. Similarly, my election platform included creating an SRA Summit, as I saw it to be a way to bring student leaders together to solve many issues that students face. I'm excited to say that I have started planning the creation of an SRA Summit! This summit will be a collaboration between the

Students' Union and Student Representative Associations across campus to create a more inclusive and intimate space in governance for students to share their knowledge and experience. Student leaders will see firsthand how the Students' Union and its staff operate and plan advocacy. The Summit will aim to identify the issues students on our campus face, come to a consensus on a particular issue to tackle and work together towards fixing it. It also compliments the GovCamp and ASLS beautifully as it allows students to apply the knowledge they learn and put it on the court. I am very excited to work on this project alongside other student leaders and can't wait to see what comes of this event!

### **Happy Canada Day Weekend!**

If I've learned anything over the last two months, it's that your life will be consumed by work if you allow it to. I encourage all of you to take the time this weekend to relax and do something you enjoy! As an incentive, this is a picture of where I will be spending Canada Day! My cousin is getting married in Fernie next weekend, and I'm looking forward to seeing family I haven't seen in almost two years! Please take the time this weekend to relax and take a step back from work!



Cheers,

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

**Abner Monteiro**

Vice President Academic  
University of Alberta Students' Union