

**Date:** 07/25/2019

**To:** Students' Union Council

**Re:** Vice President Academic 2019/20 Report #7

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Dear Council,

I had a wonderful time this past week with family in Calgary - the first time we were all together since Christmas. Things are going to get quite busy now in preparation for September when students fill campus and I am ready to get back to the office this week and prepare.

Since the last report, all four COFA boards have met and I would say that there were some robust discussions regarding some common issues that Faculty Associations (FAs) face. I am confident that COFA will be a place for collaboration providing the only venue where FAs can gather to address common issues, while helping each other out. VP External Adam Brown gave a short presentation on the Get Out To Vote (GOTV) campaign that will be happening this fall for the federal election, and there was good discussion regarding that.

The Be Book Smart Fair will be taking place on September 13th where there will be booths and interactive activities where students can learn about the importance of Open Education as well the many avenues of alternatives to spending high costs on textbooks and other academic materials. If you are still interested in being a part of this or volunteering in any way, please let me know!

I am in the process of planning for the next Research Event Discussion Group to meet to talk about dates, and logistics. This is looking very promising as we may have support from the VP Research Office. The Undergraduate Research Initiative is also a key player in this event, as well as the many volunteers who are helping out in the discussions, planning and putting in time to make this event a success.

Other than that, I am well rested and ready to get back to Edmonton. If you'd like to meet regarding anything, please reach out to me!

Cheers,



University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President Academic  
**Joel Agarwal**