

Date: 27/07/2021

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Academic 2021/22 Report #7

Dear Council,

I hope all of you are doing well! There are quite a few updates for my report this week, so please give it a read and ask me any questions you may have!

CAUS Counterparts Conference

Recently, the executive team attended the CAUS Counterparts Conference in Leth Vegas, where we attended personal development sessions and built connections with our counterparts at other Universities across Alberta. It was nice to hear what other Students' Unions are up to this year and develop new channels for collaboration!

Provost Monthly Meeting

This month, President Ley and I met with Provost Steve Dew to discuss exceptional tuition increases, academic advising for Campus Saint-Jean students taking courses on North Campus, and online proctoring for the fall semester.

Interview for Online Proctoring

This week I had the opportunity to be interviewed by a freelance writer doing a story for SPARC - a global advocacy organization that works to make research and education open and equitable for all - about the impacts of proctoring apps on students, our past advocacy as student leaders on issues of online learning and proctoring, and how we could use Open Educational Resources to minimize or eliminate the use of online proctoring software. It was an excellent opportunity to bring a very prevalent issue over the last year to the forefront once again, especially considering that this upcoming semester will have online learning components.

Faculty Association Monthly Meetings

I've been having my monthly meetings with each of the Faculty Association (FA) Presidents/VP Academics and will continue to do so for the rest of July! Our FAs are doing some incredible work to prepare students to come back for the fall, and I'm excited to work with them and continue to provide support when they need it.

Student Governance Code of Conduct First Principles

Bylaw Committee approved the First Principles of the Student Governance Code of Conduct, coming to Students' Council for approval. This document has gone through a thorough consultation and will set the stage for the Second Principles.

Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) Indicator Program

I am currently working with the Office of the Registrar to prepare for the Zero Textbook Cost Indicator Program set to launch this Fall! Now, we are in the testing phase of the indicators within Campus Solutions (Bear Tracks software). We are also working on a form to circulate to instructors, with a target date of having the first group of classes updated with the ZTC indicator in late August. The end of August isn't a hard deadline, and we will still be able to update courses on Bear Tracks as needed!

When Counterparts Collide

This week one of my close friends, Nikiel Lal, is visiting from B.C. to plan for an academic conference that we are helping coordinate in March of 2022! Nikiel is also the current President of the University of Fraser Valley Students' Union. Not only was it great to catch up with a close friend, but it was also great to hear what student governance is like at different institutions. It's an opportunity to see how the UASU can learn from the successes and failures of other institutions to better our governance system!



Cheers,

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

Abner Monteiro

Vice President Academic
University of Alberta Students' Union