



September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014

To: Council

Re: Council Report

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Hey Council,

WOW! What a week! WOW has been a blast so far and I really like having everyone back on campus.

We had lots of dinner meetings over the last two weeks. We sat down with the Native Studies Students' Association, Business Students' Association, Education Students' Association, and the Gateway and chatted over meals about goals and plans and what we do fundamentally as organizations. These interactions are important for a number of reasons, for example, student advocacy is stronger in general when Faculty Associations communicate with me, the other executives, and Discover Governance because we can help them out with pretty much anything that they are having trouble with.

One of the most awesome things that I get to do as a part of being VPA is sit as a voting member of the Presidential Search Committee. This is a committee that is advisory to the chair of the Board of Governors (remember you all met him some weeks ago) because it is his responsibility to choose the President of the University. That's quite the task for just one person, so the committee consists of stakeholders from the Board and across campus to help make the big decision. There is another big meeting of the PSC coming up soon so William and I have been having prep sessions together to make sure we are in agreement about who we think are the top contenders and hashing out why exactly we think that. You can find more information about the Presidential Search Committee online [HERE](#).

Another great thing in my portfolio that's moving along well is the ALES Faculty Association restructure. The students on the committee that have been tasked with coming up with the structure and constitution of the new Faculty Association gave a presentation last Thursday regarding the new FA. The presentation was amazing! It was so good I was left just about speechless. I am so impressed with the work of the committee. I could not have dreamed better. The presentation that they gave was open to all ALES students, so there were some students there who asked really good questions after the presentation. There were also a couple ALES staff members in attendance to show their support. The timeline is to have the new Association, which will be called FAuNA (perfect for ALES, I know!), recognized by November.

One of the important meetings that I had in the last couple weeks was regarding Open Education Resources. Navneet and I met with Janet Welsh, who was able to fill in a lot of grey area surrounding the initiative. Just for reference, Open Educational Resources is a provincial government initiative that affects students because it will mean a certain number of textbooks/educational resources that are to be used for university courses will be available online for free. Sounds good right? Well, it's not without it's issues and complications, but it's still in very early stages. The main thing to understand right now is that this is a project to be done in tandem with other provinces so that we are not spending money on



duplicating resources already available to students at no charge. Students are represented on the steering committee that governs the creation and implementation of this initiative.

Another important meeting I had was with the Principle and Project Manager of the Leadership College. The President of the Augustana Students' Association skyped in to the meeting to ask questions and discuss how Augustana students might be able to participate in the Leadership Program. So far, the short answer is that an AU student wouldn't be able to get the certificate unless they moved to Edmonton, which would diminish their ability to go to classes in Camrose. However, there are opportunities for communication via video conferencing and events hosted by Augustana. The leaders of the PLLC said that they were open to ideas from Augustana students about how they could be more inclusive.

One of the other fun things about the first week back at the University is that governance starts up again! On Wednesday I went to the first Committee on the Learning Environment for this governance cycle and it was great! It was a very lighthearted meeting and the chair seemed very keen to get the student perspective on the issues at hand. In committee we heard updates from various stakeholders such as the Centre for Teaching and Learning, as well as heard about progress on the survey about educational technology that went out over the summer. We also talked about the priorities of the committee for the year and came to a consensus that they should be educational technology, materials in classrooms (the literal learning environment), and... wait for it... WAIT FOR IT... assessment and grading!

This morning I attended ASC SOS, which is a smaller committee, but just as good as CLE. We discussed the various changes to the faculty of Phys Ed, including the name change to Kinesiology (BKin). We looked at the 10 point enrollment management plan, which I had seen before and we looked at updates to the policy surrounding distribution of recorded materials in classes.

Overall the Be Booksmart campaign has been going fairly well. Thanks to the Gateway, not only for the article specifically about the Be Booksmart, but for the various other articles that encourage students to look for less expensive textbook options.

Week of Welcome has been pretty crazy but I've definitely had a good time giving out free breakfast every morning, distributing UPasses, and checking out the bands at Beer Gardens.

Until next time!

Kathryn

