

Date: 23 July /2018

To: University of Alberta Students' Union Council

Re: VP(A) 2018/19 Report #6

Dear Council,

I'm writing this report from my hotel in San Francisco after a wild few days! The wedding I'm here for starts tomorrow, and the days will continue to be just wild. I can't wait to back at the office, but I've been quite active via email for operational questions. Keep reading for some updates!

1. #OpenEd18 Conference

I am so excited to let you all know that I will be attending the OpenEd18 Conference in Buffalo, NY on October 10th-12th, and I will be absent from Oct 6th-Oct 13th. To make it even more exciting, the Centre for Teaching and Learning is sponsoring me to attend this entire conference!! I could not be more thankful to the CTL, and I'm looking forward to representing UAlberta as the Chair of the OER Advocacy Group while there. I will also be giving a presentation alongside one of our Digital Initiatives Librarians, Michelle Brailey, about the positive impacts of open access and integrating open educational resources in the classrooms. I look forward to coming back from this conference and hosting some sessions on campus about the take-aways.

2. Faculty Associations

I've been meeting and contacting Faculty Association members who will need to run a strong by-election to fill either their Executive or Council seats. The by-election dates have been finalized by the CRO and are as follows:

- September 25, 2018 at 4/5pm - Nomination package due
- September 25, 2018 at 6pm – Mandatory All-Candidates Meeting
- September 27, 2018 at 9am – Campaign begins
- October 3 & 4, 2018 – Voting Days

I encourage all Councillors to get in touch with their FA's if you have not already, and develop a relationship with them. If you ever want to be more involved with COFA, let me know and we can figure something out.

GovCamp Jr. for FA's

As the Student Governance Officer last year, I developed a version of GovCamp for FA's and this year we have a lot of interest from FA's to host this. We're doing a few over the summer and I'm looking forward to being there!

3. OER Work

Letter to Professors

I will be sending a personal letter to over 1500 Professors who will be teaching an undergraduate course this academic year about affordable academic materials as well as press-releasing a public version. Keep your eyes peeled, and share it if you see it!

4. University Meetings**Meeting with SU VPA+President and Provost**

We talked about doing a joint meeting with all Faculty Associations, Faculty Deans and the Provost. This would be a great place for student leaders to collaborate and engage in some #InterfacultyChillage (credits to VP Ripka for that hashtag).

Meeting with Vice-Provosts' Sarah Forgie and Tammy Hopper

Always great to meet with both Sarah and Tammy! We discussed some decisions that were made at Ryerson University about student ratings of instructors and I am relieved to say that will not happen at UAlberta. We are looking at integrating a more multifaceted level of evaluation, developing a teaching policy, and in the fall the USRI questions will see substantial changes.

5. GovWeek 2018

Dates for GovWeek have been finalized: January 21st-25th 2018. There will also be re-brand of the marketing - stay tuned! Applications for GWPC and for GovWeek events will be open at the end of September. If you're interested in being involved in anyway, let me know!

6. Internal SU**ARRC Open House**

Councillor Sunday and I met to discuss an exciting event. ARRC will be hosting an **Open House on September 28th!** This will act as a way for the community to provide feedback on the recommendations. I assume that all of Council will make a visit, and I hope you can all reach out to your FA's. I'll bring more marketing messaging to Council as soon as I have more information.

SUB Print + Student Coursepacks

This was a really great meeting with Susan Burke, the SUB Print Manager, and Craig Turner, Senior Manager Business Developer. We talked about ways that we can better connect our students to SUBPrint since we have the cheapest prices in the market. They will be participating in an event in the fall - more info to come at the next council meeting!

Thanks for reading this report. As always, please feel free to ask questions! My office hours for the Spring/Summer are 12PM-1PM on Friday. If that time does not work for you, please do not hesitate to send me a message and we can figure out a time that works for us! Thanks for reading my report!

Kind regards,



UASU VP (Academic)
Akanksha Bhatnagar