

Date: 15 Aug /2018

To: University of Alberta Students' Union Council

Re: VP(A) 2018/19 Report #7

Dear Council,

We made it through one entire semester together! It's incredible the work that Council has already achieved this term, and I can't wait to see the work we do this entire year. Although our flight to Vancouver was delayed for 2.5 hours, I'm happy to writing this report enroute to Vancouver! The entire Executive team is headed to the Students' Union Development Summit, where we will meet student leaders from across Canada and attend a variety of sessions. Keep reading for some exciting updates!

1. BeBookSmart Fair

I am so excited to announce the BeBookSmart Fair! This event is a one day interactive way for students to engage in conversations about affordability in the classrooms. It will be on **September 13th, from 10AM-2PM in SUB Atrium!** I will be doing a presentation at Council regarding this, and I look forward to your questions, comments and feedback! I hope to see all the councillors there, and if you want to volunteer a few hours of your time, we will be doing a call out for volunteers!

2. Faculty Associations

Engineering Students' Society

The ESS is developing a 5-year strategic plan for their organization, calling upon alumni, current students, and various stakeholders to help impact this. This is a great project, that will help steer the ESS in a strong, forward moving direction. Both Discover Governance and myself have been actively engaged in the discussions.

Augustana Students' Association

The ASA will be having a meeting in Edmonton on next Wednesday, and it'll be a great place for our Executive and their Executive to meet face-to-face. I look forward to discussing the file on the 3/11 Calendar implementation, specifically advising and add/drop deadlines.

Interdepartmental Science Students' Society / L'Association des Universitaires de la Faculté Saint-Jean

In light of Dr. Jonathan Schaeffer resignation as Dean of Science, there are certain priorities that ISSS, AUFSJ and I want to discuss. We are in the midst of finding a time to meet with both Deans, ISSS and CSJ President and myself to discuss the file regarding CSJ lack of science majors. Currently, Campus Saint-Jean has only five options for Science major and minors, whereas North Campus has 13. This limits the diversity of academic programming offered, and therefore has impacts on the quality of education Campus Saint-Jean students are receiving. This is a priority I ran on, and I will see to it that we move this file forward this year.

Business Students' Association

The BSA is making some amendments to how they spend their FAMF revenue. This is slightly different then their [original proposal](#) in 2011, however after some great discussion with BSA President Michael Mytrunec, I am confident this is the best fiduciary decision. The change has to do with moving from "Student Activities Fund" to a budget line that Business students will have more access too. I am very supportive of this change, as it allows for their FAMF to be used by a larger number of students.

3. Open Educational Resources (OER) Advocacy Group

The OER Advocacy Group will be meeting on Wednesday, August 29th. Here we will be going through a target board exercise to help focus our work for the year. Another project I will be working on is expanding our membership; currently the group is not representative of the campus community, so if any of you are interested, let me know.

4. University Meetings

Meeting with Vice-Provosts' Sarah Forgie and Tammy Hopper

The biggest thing we discussed in this meeting was the Council of Student Affairs, which is currently going through lots of changes. The changes will be presented at the September 25th General Faculties Council meeting, and students who sit on GFC will meet for GFC Student Caucus where we will go through this issues in depth.

5. New Professor Orientation

Student Panel at NPO



Arts Councillor Mpoie Mogale, ISSS VPA Rowan French, APSA VPA Kristen Farrell and I were happy to sit on a panel where we were able to share our hot takes on how professors can better integrate diverse student needs in their classrooms! Thank you to the three of them for volunteering and spending a morning! Councillor Mogale and the rest of the Executive joined us for lunch where new Professors continued to ask several questions about our experiences. Overall, a great day and I am so glad we have a Centre for Teaching and Learning at the University that truly cares about students and professor success.

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

ARRC will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, September 27th at 10AM. This is first time I have heard a committee take a strong stance on student consultation; very happy to see this. I assume that all of Council will make a visit at least once during the event.

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,



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Akanksha Bhatnagar