

Date: 07/11/2019

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Academic 2019/20 Report #6

Dear Council,

It is crazy to see how fast the summer is going by. Here is what I've been up to recently.

1. Research Event

The research event discussion group met up and had a robust discussion around the challenges that students face to getting involved in undergraduate research. The game plan is to hold the event in October / November where there will be speakers, booths and other stakeholders present. Some of the major themes that were brought up as challenges to getting involved in undergraduate research were:

- Lack of guidance
- Supervisor relationship
- Lack of exposure to different fields
- Awareness of resources
- Experience often requires previous experience
- Lack of skills
- Understanding of benefits of research

The research group will be meeting again in the next couple weeks to discuss further ideas for topics, sessions, and logistics of the event.

2. Council of Faculty Associations (COFA)

COFA meetings are all planned and I am very excited to be chairing the four boards (Senior Board, Advocacy Board, Member Services Board and Finance & Admin Board). COFA is a place where Faculty Associations can get together in a space and share concerns / ideas about what is going on, while advising the Students' Union on FA related matters. Apart from the COFA meetings, I am continuing to meet with FAs individually to get to know them and some of the goals for their years. If you have any questions regarding COFA, feel free to come chat with me!

3. CAUS Counterparts Planning Committee

I sit on the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) Counterparts Planning Committee which is a get together of the executives from the CAUS student associations (students from the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, the University of Lethbridge, Mount Royal University, and MacEwan University). I am excited to be planning this where there will be an opportunity to meet our counterparts and share ideas, practices and solutions to potential shared issues.

4. University Meetings

I met with Tammy Hopper the Vice-Provost (Programs) and was able to share some of my goals for the year. I also met with Matthias Ruth the Vice-President (Research), and Steve Dew the Vice-President (Academic).

I will be out of my office from July 19th - 26th visiting family whom I haven't seen in a while!
Have a great (hopefully sunny) day!

Cheers,



University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President Academic
Joel Agarwal