



September 29th, 2015

To: Council

Re: VPA Report 10

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Dear Council,

Hope your studies are going well!

Here is a report on my duties to date:

#### 1. Academic Plan

Writing is going well for this! I will hopefully have a rough draft ready within the coming weeks if anyone is interested in a prior-to-finalization document.

#### 2. Academic Relations Group

I wrapped up interviews for the Academic Relations Group last week, and I'm pleased to announce that Collin Horn, Jeffry Kochikuzhyil, Kyle Monda, Lily Zhang and Saad Khan are our five members for ARG now. I do have space for a sixth member if you anyone who is interested in getting more involved with academic governance!

#### 3. University Standing Committees

I attended the University Writing Committee last week, which was exciting as this was a committee Kathryn Orydzuk was able to make significant progress with last year, suggesting it fall under the Provost's office as a matter of academic responsibility. We're still talking about the transition to the new system and if the committee scope should change.

I also attended an introductory meeting to discuss a joint certificate in the Faculty of Arts and Science around mentorship, and I'm really glad to see interdisciplinary programming be put on the radar between Faculties.

#### 4. General Faculties Council: ASC, Student Caucus, APC, GFC

I've attended GFC meetings of Academic Standards Committee, Academic Planning Committee, GFC Student Caucus and GFC. GFC will take place a day before Council so I'll provide an oral report.

ASC had a large agenda, though we were able to get through items in time. A majority of the items were related to research and graduate studies, so nothing contentious was discussed here today. We now have a new PharmD program, a research certificate in Psychology, and revised re-admissions in PhysEd and Rec.



I proxied at the Academic Planning Committee for President Khinda. We were given a draft presentation around the University's budget, which will also be given at GFC. I'm told the presentation will be made public following the GFC meeting.

Student Caucus went pretty smoothly too, as this will be the first GFC meeting for many members and a good introduction to University Governance. A majority of the questions were actually around how GFC makes decisions and what items people can expect at the big meeting. I'll be planning a retreat with the help of Discover Governance, and will invite University Governance to talk about how decisions are made at our campus for undergraduates specifically. The retreat will be held in October, as our next GFC meeting isn't until late-November.

GFC will have its first meeting on September 28th, chaired by President Turpin in our new Council Chambers.

#### 5. COFA: Engineering, Arts, Pharmacy, Science, Senior Board

None of the COFA boards have met so far, but Senior Board will be meeting the day of Council. I'll give an oral report on what happened at our meeting.

We've had dinners between the SU Executives and Engineering Students' Society, as well as a dinner with the Alberta Pharmacy Students' Association. They're both really friendly groups with a lot on the horizon this year, from expanding advocacy efforts within the Faculty of Engineering to implementing a big overhaul towards the Pharmacy program, with the introduction of a Pharm Doctorate in 2017.

OASIS, the Organization for Arts Students, has their elections going on right now, and the majority of Executive positions are filled, though just under half of the Arts positions are filled as of September 23rd. Applications to apply were due on Friday, September 25th, so I'll have an update on OASIS during our meeting.

I will advise the new Executive team once elected to find a way to fill any vacancies ASAP, alongside running an event to celebrate their "grand opening" and raise awareness about the organization.

Lastly, I met with the President of the Interdepartmental Science Students' Society one-on-one and attended the organization's Semi-Annual General Meeting. They fielded a lot of questions around items that hadn't been completed over the summer, but were also able to report on their successes so far with locker rentals and social media presence. I'm hopeful that with Discover Governance, they'll be able to draft a plan to catch up on any duties that may have been missed and transition the large incoming team they'll have.

#### 6. Governance Review Task Force

The Governance Review Task Force is on its regular meeting schedule now, and our last meeting focused on the role of an SU Councilor, from specific duties that may be accomplished as a Councilor, to accountability and incentives for going above and beyond the requirements. One neat suggestion that we discussed was having Councilors submit reports every semester, alongside other potential revisions to what we expect of Councilors.



On our next agenda, we'll be discussing interest seats on Council. Further down the road we'll also talk about connecting with constituents and involvement with Faculty Associations as major topics. If there's anything you want the GRTF to consider in particular, please let me know!

#### 7. Miscellany

The SU Executive were invited to a friendly meeting with senior team for University Facilities and Operations. We also had attended Celebrate!, an awards program of the University, attended the Federal Debate at Campus Saint-Jean, and took part in a few other Alumni weekend activities the past few days.

Thanks so much for your time, and looking forward to the next report.

All the best,  
Fahim Rahman

(Electronically submitted)