



November 17th, 2015

To: Council

Re: VPA Report 13

Dear Council,

Hope the majority of you who got a Fall Reading Week had a chance to relax and unwind! It's been a packed semester, and I'm ready to push hard until the Winter break.

Here is a report on my duties to date:

1. Academic Plan

I got some great feedback from the SU Executives, our Advocacy Department and a couple of SU Councilors over the past week. I'm now incorporating their edits into the document and finishing citing important claims and facts in the document. The document's content should be finalized by this coming Friday, and then will be designed for publication to the University community.

Kudos to Councilor J. Wang for noting the inconsistent use of Oxford commas, which was a very astute catch!

2. Teaching Tenure Stream, Teaching Quality

I'm still working with the Committee on the Learning Environment on a teaching tenure stream, but I'm really glad that the focus for CLE has been how to best discuss this instead of on parts that need to be avoided in the discussion. I hope to have a clear scope of the discussion around a teaching tenure stream ready for our upcoming meeting in December, and then have the committee discuss the topic thoroughly before we draft recommendations to a higher body.

On the Teaching Quality side, I had a meeting of the Festival of Teaching Steering Committee that went well. There is a commitment to gauge interest from Departments and Faculties in celebrating unsung heroes in instruction, just as a separate event leading up to the Festival. The SU may be leading that follow up event in collaboration with interested units on campus.

3. University Standing Committees

The University Writing Committee, Undergraduate Research Initiative and Students' Library Advisory Committee met recently. The Writing Committee is trying to position itself to have a stronger reporting line so any work it completes can be led by an office, as opposed to being spread throughout Faculties and Units. The Undergraduate Research Initiative gave an update on some of the great activities they've planned throughout the year, including some research crawls through medical and engineering labs. They are also looking at other ways of reaching out to students to create interest in undergraduate research. SLAC had a few topics, most interestingly having short-term lockers to store valuables over a less than a



day period, and looked at having libraries providing lendable tech such as iClickers, advanced software commonly used in graduate studies, or even iPads.

4. General Faculties Council: GFC Exec, CLE, ASC SOS

GFC Exec had mainly minor items but important items on its agenda, such as changing the ToR for a few committees to include additional members as resources. The draft agenda for the November 23rd GFC was also approved, though it's going to be a short one with the four hour Institutional Strategic Planning meeting to take place immediately after GFC.

CLE is deciding on its focuses for the upcoming year, one of which I'm hopeful will be a teaching tenure stream. In addition to that, we received an update from IST on the e-USRI system's first year. I voiced concerns about the reduced response rate, which turned out to be a major discussion point on how to rectify it.

Lastly, ASC SOS approved some programs in Physical Education and Recreation, Native Studies and Graduate Studies around Indigenous Studies and Sport, which I thought fell in line with the duly growing attention the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report has been receiving on our campus.

5. COFA: AUFSJ, BSA, ESS, OASIS, Advocacy Working Group, Finance and Administration Working Group, MSA

We haven't had any dinners with FA Execs recently, as we've completed most of them. I met with the VP Externe of AUFSJ and we came up with some actions that can be done to increase participation in student governance for students enrolled in CSJ, but mainly take courses at North campus. We also came up with a plan to make student internship programs more accessible for CSJ students.

The BSA and ESS met with Discover Governance and I, as they are both proposing a new FAMF within their respective Faculties. I'm impressed with the process they're taken to ensure the FAMF has the support of their peers, though you'll get to be the judge of that when they come to present at our meeting. The following Council meeting we will vote on whether the referendum should or should not be held this year.

OASIS is in the process of moving their financial documents from the old organization to the new one. Discover Governance and I are also going to finalize a terms of probation with OASIS for a year, so that we can directly monitor the growth of the FA in its first year, and provide support as needed, particularly during their first transitory period this coming April.

COFA AWG went over our advocacy goals for the year and how they've been progressing. It was really neat to see all the different issues FAs are progressing on with either an external body or their Dean's office. FAWG reviewed the process for submitting financial documents to the SU for review, and we got a few recommendations to streamline the actual spreadsheet they use for submission, but overall it is a large improvement from the previous year where FAs needed to spend up to \$5000 on a financial review.

6. Governance Review Task Force



The big new additions for recommendations from the GRTF were around transition for incoming Councilors, supporting committee Chairs in taking on high responsibility roles, and interestingly enough the bare requirements for a removal policy to be successful. I'll give a presentation to Council as a mid-term update on what we've done so far.

7. Miscellany

Gov Camp went really well, and having University governance staff come in to talk to student representatives was appreciated. I attended the press release of Premier Notley and Minister Sigurdson around the renewal of the STEP program (which was muchly appreciated!), participated in the Campus Food Bank's Trick or Eat with the other SU Execs and went to the Affair of the Heart Gala hosted by one of the Medical Students' Association's student clubs, as well as part of the Neuroscience Research Mixer hosted by our very own Councilor Duan.

VP Bondarchuk and I came up with a tentative action plan with the Registrar's Office for having a more gender neutral University Calendar; VP Hanwell, Councilor Christensen and I wrapped up interviews for DIE Board, and finally President Khinda and I placed a wreath at the Remembrance Day Ceremony.

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

All the best,
Fahim Rahman
(Electronically submitted)