



February 9th, 2016

To: Council

Re: VPA Report 18

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Dear Council,

Our last meeting featured some of the most debated motions I've seen all year. I'm really impressed with everyone's critical thinking and communication skills, alongside your passion for issues that impact students.

Here is a report on my duties to date:

1. University Institutional Strategic Plan (ISP)

I'll give an oral update on the progress for the University's ISP, as the advisory committee is meeting the day of Council for this. I'm expecting a rough draft of the ISP to be released late this month.

2. Teaching Tenure Stream, Open Educational Resources

I'll have an oral update on the teaching tenure stream, as the day before Council I'll be meeting the University's VP (HR) to help me navigate the labor impact this will have on our campus.

One meeting I can comment on is the preparation for Open Educational Resources Week, March 7th – 10th. The panel will consist of an Associate Dean, faculty member, librarian and myself as an undergraduate student. I'll be commenting on the quality of OERs and their impact on affordability, while other members will be covering the strategic relevance it has with the government and our Faculties alongside barriers to their implementation here at the U of A.

3. Miscellany: PLLC, Squire Book Consignment App, GRTF, DoS Selection

No University standing committees met over the past seven days, but there were definitely other items going on. I had an interview with Vue Weekly about the Peter Lougheed Leadership College that should be published the week of our meeting. I also met with the developer for the Squire Book Consignment (Buy/Sell back) app, and will be working with him to target courses with high student enrolment. We'll ask students in March and April to download the app and list all their books they'd like to sell

Governance Review Task Force had a very productive meeting as well, mainly covering whether FAs should or should not adhere to SU Political Policy. The conversation was quite nuanced, and I'm happy to provide minute minutes to anyone interested. Lastly, VP Kwan invited the SU Exec to an open town hall for the Dean of Students selection committee which I was able to attend and send feedback on.

4. General Faculties Council: FDC, Exec



Facilities Development Committee only covered the next stages for the Long Range Development Plan of South Campus to be a base for a significant amount of research material. This change will free up a lot of shelf space on North campus which will be repurposed for additional student space in libraries.

GFC Exec received presentations from the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and the Appeals Board. Outside of those presentations, the rest of our meeting was centered on academic governance.

In particular, GFC Exec will review enhancing communication, meeting logistics, principles of academic governance and all delegations of GFC and the Board between now and June, while reporting our findings and proposed changes to GFC at our March 21 and May 30 meetings. There will likely be a need for additional meetings of GFC to cover all this content, ideally not over the summer when students tend to be away.

#### 5. COFA: COFA Senior Board, COCA

I didn't have too many one on one meeting with FA executives last week, as both COFA Senior Board and the Council of Campus Associations met then.

COFA Senior Board also had a very lively discussion around the proposed changes to Bylaw 8100, with a few Faculty Associations in support of the change but the majority having hesitations around the proposal. The Bylaw change on allowing students in programs that tend to include co-op/internship/practicum places the ability to field two candidates for one position was also covered.

COCA covered ensuring that our two CAs were ready for their upcoming elections and transition, a major part of every CAs' year. We also covered getting services only at North campus such as the Landing and a Career Center at our CAs, alongside the proposed Bylaw 8100 changes.

#### 6. Transition

I had two people sign up for my second job shadow day, though one person had to depart a tad early. They weren't able to sit on any University committee meetings as ASC SOS was cancelled that morning, but they got a handle on the work the VPA does with FAs. That closes my pair of job shadow days this year, but if anyone else is interested in what the VPA does I'm willing to try a shadow half day this week.

#### 7. Miscellany

I had an excellent time volunteering at the Alberta Student Leadership Summit, and catching sessions on leading your career, how to run awesome meetings and compassion fatigue. I also attended the Augustana Students' Association Formal down in Camrose.

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

Fahim Rahman  
(Electronically submitted)