



April 5th, 2016

To: Council

Re: VPA Report 21

Dear Council,

I'm expecting this to be our last Council meeting of the year. I enjoyed working with all of you this year: seeing how much I reported to you this year, you probably know more about my work (which is a large part of my life now) than my parents do.

Here is a report on my duties to date:

1. University Institutional Strategic Plan (ISP)

I don't have much to report on the ISP this meeting, and the next ISP Advisory Committee is meeting in mid-May. The team leading the ISP is wrapping up consultations now, and working on incorporating them into a final draft.

2. Governance Review Task Force

I'll be sending a final report of the Governance Review Task Force to you on the late adds, as GRTF is meeting a day before Council to review all the work we've done this year and the report that it yielded.

3. Standing Committees: SURO, VP Search Committees, Vice Provost (Learning Initiatives)

The incoming and outgoing exec, including the incoming BoG rep, met with the Registrar's office for the last time this term.

President Khinda and I are also sitting on a VP Search Committee for the university's VP Finance and Administration (F&A) and VP Facilities and Operations (F&O). I won't be reporting much on this committee to protect the integrity of the search. What is public knowledge is that a search for candidates will be starting soon and there will be website live for anyone to redirect their questions to.

Lastly, President Khinda and I had a meeting with the Vice Provost (Learning Initiatives) Sarah Forgie, who has been great to work with this year. I have been glad to see the Provost's office be open to collaboration on priorities and issues for students.

4. General Faculties Council: GFC, Nominating Committee, FDC

At GFC, the ISP came up again. The most humorous comment I remember on the negative connotation of tradition was that we "want to be on the leading edge of creating traditions", which I found to be very accurate!



Reviewing academic governance came up as well, and the take away was to get more members onto the ad-hoc working group that is conducting the review of academic governance, as it was only populated by members of GFC Exec beforehand.

Lastly at GFC, the Peter Lougheed Leadership College was briefly discussed. The main comments were not on the quality of the program for students, but the consequences of moving an entire unit away from GFC's purview into administration's, and what could happen if this became the norm for any initiative to not require stakeholder consultation.

GFC Nominating Committee met last week, which is quite similar to our own Nominating Committee. There we appointed student members to the standing committees of GFC. Next week GFC NC will meet to appoint staff members to the same committees.

Finally, FDC was a rather short meeting where we reviewed the delegations from GFC to FDC, per the review of academic governance requested by GFC. In particular, I learned that the Board's Long Range Development Plan guides the work of FDC, and the Board wants to ensure that GFC committees feature representation and commentary from academic staff and students on items of discussion.

5. COFA: Senior Board, APSA, BSA

COFA Senior Board met last week, and had a chance to review the first draft of the Institutional Strategic Plan just as Students' Council did last meeting. We also shared best practices on transition, which most FAs are heading into after elections.

As well, the BSA had their Awards Gala and APSA wrapped up their Pharmacy Awareness Month. I was glad to go to parts of their event and celebrate the great work students in the two Faculties have done this year!

6. Transition

VPA-Elect Banister shadowed me for a few meetings, in particular the Governance Review Task Force, Student Library Advisory Committee and COFA SB. There's a few more areas of the portfolio I need to go over with her such as COFA and COCA, and where there's overlap with the work of other executives. I'm sure we'll wrap it all up before finals begin.

7. Miscellany

I miss you all already.

Thanks so much for your time, your comments on my proposed policies and bylaw changes, and all the ideas you brought forward this year. I'm looking forward to the next time our paths cross. I know you'll all do great things!

Fahim Rahman
(Electronically submitted)