

July 14th, 2015

To: Council

Re: VPA Report 5

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Dear Council,

Things have been slowing down on the University governance and standing committee level, though I've appreciated the free time to engage with Faculty Associations and other student representatives, as well as catch up on some readings around post-secondary and our campus.

Here is a report on my duties to date:

#### 1. Leadership and Interdisciplinary Programs

I had a chance to review some documents coming jointly from the Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Science around transition programming for international students, as well as interdisciplinary and leadership courses being offered between the Faculties. It's very exciting to see some of the initiatives that aren't directly tied to the Peter Lougheed Leadership College but will be impactful for our undergraduate peers.

A mentorship course was one of the potential courses to be offered by the two Faculties, which was very exciting to see as well. I'm looking forward to further discussing how extracurricular and co-curricular components tie into the academic streams that we follow as students.

#### 2. Be Booksmart

I'm working with our Marketing and Communications members to ensure that our physical content for the Be Book smart campaign is good to go come August. I may be too late to get the Wall of Gold, but handbills, posters, SU TV, SUBmart window, [www.su.ualberta.ca](http://www.su.ualberta.ca) ads will be delivered on time.

#### 3. University Standing Committees

No University standing committees met over the past ~~two~~ ~~four~~ six weeks.

#### 4. General Faculties Council

No meetings of GFC took place over the past two weeks, though next week there will be a meeting of Facilities Development Committee.

#### 5. COFA (Arts, Pharmacy, Law)

Arts Faculty Students Association meetings have been going well, with the first group meeting for the Student Life working group taking place last week alongside two more restructure meetings since we Council last met. An additional Executive position has been added: a President who will hold other Executives accountable, and we're also defining what other roles and responsibilities this person will



hold. We're likely going to discuss if and how a Council structure should exist within the Faculty Association in the near future. The Student Life group has been sorting out how to execute student consultation on proposed changes as well as the group's presence at Week of Welcome.

I also had a couple of meetings with the President of the Alberta Pharmacy Students' Association, SU President and Board of Governor's representative. Their market modifiers were slated to start in 2017, and were coupled to significant changes to their program, but it's possible that changes to the program will need to be done in another manner with the reversal of market modifier fees.

President Khinda and I also met with the Law Students' Association President and VP Academic to discuss the change the reversal of market modifiers has on students in their Faculty. Everyone seems committed to splitting the market modifier funds covered by the NDP in the manner agreed upon in Fall 2014, and steps have already been taken to fulfill commitments from last year such as having more services and support around placement, and course availability. Both the LSA and APSA will be seeing how to ensure the positive aspects from the funded reversal can be retained moving forward, and we're looking forward to being involved in the discussions as needed.

Lastly, COFA Senior Board met recently and I thoroughly enjoyed the meeting. We had a really good turnout of 8 Faculty Association leaders, and came towards a stronger understanding of what COFA is supposed to provide for undergraduate students. They've also requested to meet on a monthly basis in order to achieve more work over the year, and really share best practices: some FAs are expanding into roles such as community engagement and philanthropy, while others have solidified their efforts on these fronts the past few years. I'm really excited to be working with so many talented and diverse groups!

#### 6. Council

Looking forward to discussing our experiential learning policy's second principles today, so long as they are approved at Policy committee over the weekend. I'm looking at bringing first principles for quality instruction sometime next month. I'm also glad to start moving forward with the governance review task force, as we're in the process of appointing our staff and student members to serve on the committee.

#### 7. Edmonton Oilers

I was fortunate enough to catch the Bill Moores Cup last Monday, and boy oh boy does Connor McDavid have wheels. This is the only photo I was able to capture of him staying still:



He then proceeded to score five goals in about forty minutes. #McBAEvid

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

All the best,  
Fahim Rahman

(Electronically submitted)