



July 28th, 2015

To: Council

Re: VPA Report 6

Dear Council,

The weeks seem to be alternating between meeting-heavy and planning-heavy. I don't have too much to report, though I'm thoroughly impressed with the level of engagement we've seen from Faculty Associations and student representatives as a whole. I was also grateful to have my first meeting with the Provost and new vice-principal of the Leadership College over the past two weeks.

Here is a report on my duties to date:

1. Leadership College

I met with the vice-principal of the Peter Lougheed Leadership College, Dr. Martin Ferguson-Pell. I voiced concerns that the SU wasn't being engaged as a stakeholder for undergraduate students with respect to PLLC programming currently, as the PLLC advisory committee has been disbanded last year. I also mentioned that towards the end of last year there was interest in striking together a task force or visioning committee for how leadership development on campus can take place.

Dr. Ferguson-Pell and I agreed that the committee would be a great point to start conversations again around leadership programming on campus, to make sure our current programs are recognized and supported, and to identify other areas where we can improve what we do for leadership development on campus. I'm hoping that the committee will be active starting in the Fall term, though the committee and Terms of Reference will need to run by either the President's or Provost's office.

2. Provost's Office: Academic Plan

The Executives had our first meeting with the new University Provost, Steven Dew, who took office on July 1st this month. The main items we discussed were the short-term consequences of Bill 3 for our budgeting, as well as drafting the University's Academic Plan for the next five years. The Provost gave us an idea of some of the themes he had in mind for the Plan, though they would be subject to a great deal of consultation starting with Deans and other senior members of administration.

I'll be working closely with our Governance and Advocacy Advisor in order to see how the SU's position around the Academic Plan should be developed. I'm currently reviewing our last submission to the Academic Plan from 2009/2010.

3. University Standing Committees

No University standing committees met over the past ~~two four six~~ eight weeks, but meetings for the coming semester are beginning to be scheduled.



4. General Faculties Council

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

5. Council of Faculty Associations (Arts, Business, Engineering, FAWG, SB; Extension)

Arts' Restructure has been going well so far, and I've confirmed access to the mailing list for all undergraduates within the Faculty of Arts so a survey on general things Arts students would like to see from their FA will be coming this week. I also anticipate that a few members of the Faculty of Arts administration will be consulted as a stakeholder for the organization on what the strengths and weaknesses of the previous organization was.

VP Kwan and I also had a meeting with the Business Students' Association with some of the organizers of Unwind Your Mind. I believe there's the potential for collaboration between the two groups, and am hopeful other Faculty Associations will be able to expand the type of services they can provide, and build off of previous momentum set up by groups like the Healthy Campus Unit with Unwind Your Mind.

COFA Finance and Administration Working Group met last week. While attendance wasn't what I was hoping for, there was good discussion and a lot of questions were posed to me around the new system for financial reviews. We also were able to do a bit of brainstorming around goals for the year. COFA Senior Board will be meeting later this week to talk about how programming for Orientation and Week of Welcome this year will run, alongside seeing if others groups would like to collaborate with UYM.

Finally, there's a bit of bad news to report from Engineering. Students starting their second year this coming September received their academic schedules and course plans last week, and one schedule for a discipline seems to shortchange a number of students in providing what they were looking for. I've been working with the ESS to figure out what the typical student consultative route is for a change like, what the route taken for this change was and how things can be changed for students now. The ESS has done most of the driving on this topic and I'm super impressed at their ability to action and respond to student feedback quickly.

6. Discover Governance

Discover Governance created a survey for student representatives on GFC as well as any member of a Faculty Association's executive. I'm looking forward to reviewing the results of the surveys to understand the expectations of FAs and GFC reps coming into their new positions.

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

All the best,
Fahim Rahman

(Electronically submitted)