

Date: 11/01/2022

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Academic 2022/23 Report #13

Dear Council,

Here are some updates from past couple of weeks:

UAI/URI Meeting

I had a meeting with the Undergraduate Research Initiative (URI) again to discuss how we can increase international students' involvement in research and we had a University of Alberta International (UAI) representative to provide context and advice according to the immigration regulations. Few highlights from the conversation: the research grant is available for all students including international students, but it is a common grant so I will be advocating for differentiated grants for domestic and international students so they just compete with their own demographic (similar to bursaries). Although International students can do full time internships and co-ops, if they are not enrolled into a program with a requirement of co-op then they have to maintain full-time student status, which is another barrier to work integrated learning. I will keep you updated as I continue advocating for these changes.

CAUS Lunch and Learn

I attended a CAUS lunch and learn event where the speaker Fairuz Karim presented on food insecurity and mental health within Canadian post-secondaries. Fairuz is an MHSc Translational Research graduate student at the University of Toronto. She recently completed a research fellowship with the Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness and Meal Exchange Canada and shared her report, "*Exploring the Intersection of Post-Secondary Student Food Insecurity and Mental Health: Implications for Current and Future Post-Secondary Student Programming and Services*". You can find it [here](#).

Academic Integrity Policy

We had the first meeting of the Academic integrity Policy working group. We discussed the model that will be followed while working on the policy. It was a good discussion. I asked to look into the ways that would better equip students with clear information and the ways to establish an understanding so the students don't get into violation situations again and again, for instance, looking into practices like restorative justice.

GFC Committee Meetings

I had a **Nominating Committee** meeting where we had a discussion on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and meeting these standards while nominating people. At the **CLE** (Committee on Learning Environment) meeting we had a presentation on 'Moving in Truth Towards Reconciliation' and discussed the importance of having an indigenous person on the committee. The committee decided to look into making changes in the Terms of Reference.

Gurleen Kaur, Vice President Academic

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PST (Program Support Team)

At PST, the proposed changes to the BSc Program were presented. I am happy to know that they are in the consultation process for indigenizing the program as we have been advocating for. I asked when these changes will be implemented, they are aiming at approving in 2023 so the new framework can be available for the 2024-25 academic year.

SRA Social

I am planning a social for SRAs so they can have a chance to make connections with each other in an informal and fun environment. We will be deciding the plan for it in the upcoming CoFA senior board meeting.

Let me know if you have any questions and Happy Halloween 🎃.

Best wishes,



Gurleen Kaur

Vice President Academic
University of Alberta Students' Union