

**Date:** 03/21/2023**To:** Students' Union Council**Re:** Vice President Academic 2022/23 Report #21

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Dear Council,

Hope you are doing well and enjoying the changing weather!

Here are some updates from me:

### Programs Committee

We had a presentation from an associate professor from the Faculty of Native Studies on 'Indigenous Course Requirements' in accordance with the Indigenous Strategic Plan and very good discussion following that. We approved the course exclusions from the exploration credits policy for the Faculty of Science.

### FURCA

Most of you might have noticed the poster presentations in SUB showcasing the amazing research projects from students. Myself and VPA elect Pedro Almeida attended the closing ceremony of the Festival of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (FURCA 2023), I got the opportunity to give some opening remarks and present awards. The keynote presentations were beyond wonderful. It was a great celebration of research organized by the URI (Undergraduate Research Institute).

### Academic Integrity

We had robust discussions on different areas of the policy including: identifying the terms that need definitions, policy issues, procedure issues, appeal processes etc. And the work on the policy continues with that.

### Equitable Access Advisory Meeting

It was the first meeting of this group. U of A facilities and operations together with the Bookstore brought the idea of having a semester fee which would be kept low and students will be able to access all the materials and textbooks for the semester with that fee plan. I was assured that it will have the opt-out option for students who do not want it. I also asked how it will co-exist with the growth of numbers of courses moving towards open education and joining ZTC. As their idea is in its initial stage, they do not have answers as of now but as this discussion goes forward, we will ensure that it does not put additional burden on students and charge only those students who would benefit from it.

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## Direct Action Planning

The executive team is working on the preparations for the March 24 protest. We have been interviewing students and preparing materials of protest with the help of volunteers.

Let me know if you have any questions :)

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gurleen Kaur', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Gurleen Kaur**

Vice President Academic  
University of Alberta Students' Union