

Date: 7 June /2018

To: University of Alberta Students' Union Council

Re: VP(A) 2018/19 Report #3

Dear Council,

It is insane that just over a month has passed in this job. Everyday I am learning something new, and everyday is a challenge that I cannot wait to tackle. I am so honored to be sharing this experience with all of you; thank you for this opportunity. Below are a few updates from me!

1. Healthy Campus Alberta Summit

The entire Executive team will be at the Healthy Campus Alberta Summit hosted in partnership with UCalgary. This summit is an opportunity to celebrate the amazing work that is going on across the province, be inspired, and connect in community with like-minded people who are passionate about post-secondary mental health and addiction. I'm excited to see all the information I can bring back to my work here at the UASU.

2. Meeting with Member of Parliament Peter Schiefke



This was a super great meeting! Being the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister for Youth Affairs, we talked about specific youth issues of students on our campus. He is travelling around the country gaining preliminary research about the creation of a new youth policy. Here is the link for input if you are interested: youthaction.ca

3. Internal University

Equity, Diversity & Inclusivity Scoping Group

One of the committee's I sit on is the EDI Scoping Group. Chaired by Vice Provost Wendy Rogers and Associate Vice President of Disclosure, Assurance and Institutional Research Deborah Williams. This committee is fairly large and a lot of good discussion happens here about the creation of an EDI Strategic plan for the University. Hoping to use a lot of this information for the

GFC Replenishment Committee / Nominating Committee Joint Meeting

This committee has merged into one committee, the GFC Nominating Committee. We have now, officially, filled all student seats on GFC committees. Yay!

Dean of Students Retreat with the Students' Union and the Grad Students' Association

Next week, the entire Executive team from the UASU and the GSA will be going on a retreat to learn about their office, their goals, and our goals as well.

4. Faculty Associations

I'm continuing to meet with FA Presidents and VPA's. It's great to hear their ideas, and where our goals overlap. I will start planning our FA + Executive dinners in the next few weeks. I can't wait to start working with the Council of Faculty Associations, and I'm thrilled for Council to start engaging with COFA; I have many great, tangible ideas.

5. General Updates

Meeting with President David Turpin

The entire Executive team met with President Turpin and presented a draft version of our goals too him. It was great to hear his input, and great to hear his office's goals as well.

GovCamp

Discover Governance hosted GovCamp and it was truly a really great time! I love seeing FA's and Councillors mingle, and this is a great place to do so. Thank you to Councillor Councillor Farris, Bilak, Sunday, Raitz, Mogale, Belcourt, Agarwal, DePinto, Hosseiny, Raitz, Ley, Thibdeau, Palmer, and Statt for making time to attend. I really appreciate the time you spent there.



Open Education Resource (OER) Massive Online Open Course (MOOC)

Much in line with many of the things I am advocating on, I recently enrolled in a free OER MOOC. This is an introductory-level course designed for global post-secondary educators interested in learning more about open education (OE), open educational resources (OER), and open educational practices (OEP). I'm definitely excited to get more information on user permissions related to each of the Creative Commons license types and to be able to connect with other practitioners interested in exploring use of open educational resources and practices in their teaching.

6. Looking Forward**Mid-Year Managers Meeting**

Next week we will have a day-long retreat with the SU Core Managers, and I look forward to the strategic planning we will do there.

First OER Advocacy Group Meeting

As Chair of this committee, I'm excited to go into our first strategy meeting where I will be facilitating a workshop on systems design to help guide our direction.

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) is a two-day intensive, interactive and practice-dominated course designed to help people recognize and review risk, and intervene to prevent the immediate risk of suicide. It is by far the most widely used, acclaimed and researched suicide intervention training workshop in the world. The Dean of Students was kind enough to send two SU Executives, so VP Bourgeois and I will be attending.

Thanks for reading this report. As always, please feel free to ask questions! My office hours for the Spring/Summer are 12PM-1PM on Friday and I will be trying to do them on the SUB Patio as much as I can! If that time does not work for you, please do not hesitate to send me a message and we can figure out a time that works for us! **Happy Pride** and stay intersectional y'all!

Kind regards,



UASU VP (Academic)

Akanksha Bhatnagar