

October 12, 2017

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Students' Council

Hello Council,

I hope the semester is going well – I know it's a busy time for many. It's also during busy times like this that I really appreciate the significant contributions students make to our campus community, be it through student groups, department or faculty associations, events on and off campus, and so much more – all on top of their academics and life more broadly. So a special thanks to all of you! Here are a few brief updates on what I have been actively doing since the last meeting:

Open Educational Resources Advocacy Group:

I have began attending a newly formed OER Advocacy group on campus. This group is in it's early stages but will be putting pressure on the campus community and the university to increase the creation, support and use of open educational resources on campus. OERs are a tried and tested way of lowering the costs of academic materials for students while maintaining the quality of student instruction.

Academic Relations Group:

The Academic Relations Group (ARG) had its' first meeting to discuss the role of ARG delegates, what their expectations are of each member, and what committees they want to attend. ARG delegate represent the Vice President Academic on a variety of boards and committees that the VPA is not able to attend; the selection of ARG delegates to represent the VP Academic should not be confused with the distinct nomination process of Students' Councils Nominating Committee.

University Vice President Research Committee

I have been busy over the last few months and especially over this week as I am a member of a search committee which has been tasked with hiring a new VP Research for the University. While I can't speak to specific candidates because the process is highly confidential, I can say that it is ongoing and an announcement will come in the fullness of time. The Vice President Research is in charge of building provincial, national, and international research collaborations, working with funding agencies, and industry, and supporting the scholarly community on campus.

Governance Update:

This is going to be a section that I will include on most reports moving forward, providing an update on some of the relevant content to undergraduate students that comes up at GFC and

its subcommittees.

Committee on the Learning Environment:

One major item discussed at this meeting was the "Faculty of Nursing Undergraduate Curriculum Renewal". This was presented by the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs in the Faculty of Nursing and was a comprehensive look at the plan and process for overhauling a large portion of the program. This includes new leadership courses, another practicum and a course on indigenous health in Canada, among other changes. The new curriculum will be implemented in the 2018-2019 year.

Academic Standards Committee, Subcommittee on Standards:

ASC SOS is a committee which many items come for early consultation before being sent to the full Academic Standards Committee. At this meeting there was a number of issues discussed which primarily impacted Graduate Students. The most relevant item was from the Office of the Registrar, suggesting that the Canadian Academic English Language Computer Edition (CAEL CE) examination is permitted as a way to fulfill the English language proficiency requirement – the CAEL is already permitted and this is just a minor edit to allow for the online test that is being created.

General Faculties Council:

The next meeting of GFC will be on Monday October 30th at 2pm in Council Chambers. Items that will be discussed include the:

- Peter Lougheed Leadership College (PLLC) - Next Steps
- Report of the GFC Committee on the Learning Environment (CLE) on Teaching and Learning and Teaching Evaluation and the Use of Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) as an Evaluation Tool
- Changes to the Admission of Aboriginal Students Calendar Section and updates to Faculty sections

I have also been busy meeting with Faculty Associations, department associations and a number of councillors. My office hours for the fall semester are Tuesdays from 12-1pm.

I look forward to hearing from you all.

Regards,



Shane Scott

Vice President Academic