



November 18, 2014

To: Council

Re: Report

Hi Council,

Four days until the rally to prioritize post-secondary education!

In case you have somehow not heard about this, the entire purpose of the rally is not to slam market modifiers, but more so to protest against the government funding situation that makes them an option. On November 17th we will be meeting in quad at 1pm and then marching down to the legislature grounds.

We expect to be there at 2:15 if you are coming later/want to drive because it'll be cold. Speaking of cold, we will also be giving away free hot chocolate in Quad!

In the Academic portfolio, it's been a pretty interesting couple of weeks. On the evening of Halloween I met with the executives of ASA and AUFSJ for the inaugural meeting of Council of Campus Associations at Campus Saint Jean. We approved the Terms of Reference for the committee, which will be advisory to me, and discussed a number of issues pertinent to Campus Associations such as parking, CATPs, student services, safety, student group status, and SU political policy. I thought it was a very productive meeting and I'm looking forward to the next meeting in winter term, which will take place at Augustana Campus. I think that COCA will have a really positive impact on CAs and the students at satellite campuses in the future.

I kicked off the winter round of Be Booksmart with an email out to all profs about the ways that they can save students money on academic materials. If you are interested, this is what I sent them:

[Letter to Profs_Be Booksmart_Winter](#)

An important aspect of this email is the blurb at the end that says:

"Of course, I don't have all the answers. If you already make an effort to save students money on textbooks, or know a colleague who does, please email me back with a description of your/their innovative solution before the end of term. I want to create an Academic Materials Honour Roll to celebrate instructors who are innovating new ways to help save students money with academic materials, making post-secondary education more accessible for all. The instructor with the most innovative



solution will receive **The Students' Union and Centre for Teaching and Learning Award for Innovative Solutions in Academic Materials** and both the recipient of this award and the instructors on the Honour Roll will be recognized on the SU and CTL websites."

The Centre for Teaching and Learning has graciously agreed to donate \$500 by copy to the Be Booksmart initiative so that we can offer this award to recognize the efforts of professors who work hard to make sure that post secondary is financially accessible.

In Round 1, professors nominated themselves and their colleagues, but in Round 2, I need you!

If your professor uses an innovative method to save you money on textbooks you should nominate them so they can be on the Honour Roll or even win the Award! Nominate

here: <https://docs.google.com/a/su.ualberta.ca/forms/d/1S5UfrvBjZ0QkRH8MnDIaDcEeRhjIJR4s73P9rPFz-Fo/viewform>

There have been a metric tonne of GFC committee meetings in the last couple weeks: CLE, SOS, EXEC, and SC.

CLE: Had a discussion on Fostering Pedagogy of Technology, meaning how technology is used at the U of A. I will be on a subcommittee that will do some visioning on this topic going forward. CLE will definitely be doing some analysis of how technology is used in the classroom and what that will look like in the future.

SOS: Talked about making it easier to transfer between CARI institutions and saw updates to the calendar in terms of the 10-point enrollment management plan.

EXEC: Lots of items - a handful of minor policy changes up for approval. One important thing that passed unanimously was the Academic Schedule for 2015/16, which includes Fall Reading Week! GFC will also now have a discussion period in which members can suggest broad topics of discussion for all of GFC to discuss. President Lau presented the SU goals for the year. We also saw the Dare to Discover Report Card, which is already done and submitted to the Board.

At Student Caucus last night we had a great turnout. I heard a request at the last meeting to meet earlier ahead of GFC proper so that students could get help with drafting questions for GFC prior to the written question deadline. So for this Student Caucus, councillors spent the second half of the meeting writing questions in pairs. Since undergraduates do not commonly submit questions to GFC I feel as though this exercise will go a long way towards breaking down barriers to students being engaged at GFC.



I recently got some amazing and exciting news from Ualberta Libraries last week. Libraries is making some funding available to make a large purchase of textbooks for the library so that there can be a textbook repository that is free to use for students.

I do not yet have all the details, but I have a library advisory committee meeting next week at which this will be discussed further. As you may remember, one of my campaign goals was to create a textbook repository in SUB. Although I was in the midst of planning and budgeting for that, I no longer feel as though this will be a useful service for students or an efficient use of their fees if it duplicates something that the library is already doing. What I will do instead is ensure that SU is supportive of this initiative.

On Monday, FA/CA Presidents, SU Execs, and a GSA rep met on campus with the Minister of Advanced Education. We went around the room and each person got to speak on the issues that are particular to their faculty. The mood of the meeting was generally positive and it sounded like there was an appetite for another similar meeting next term. Gateway wrote an article about it: <http://thegatewayonline.ca/index.php/blog/comments/minister-brief>

It's Official!

The Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES) Undergraduate Association, FAUnA, was recognized on November 7th and is the product of many months of work by the office of Discover Governance and several incredibly dedicated ALES students. I would like to personally thank Braiden Redman, Ruby Sarkar, Alyssa Cumberland, Leon Milner, Justis Allard, Michael Huang, Loana Valdez, Ivy Ye, and Natalia Mackowiak for all of their hard work over the past months. This new organization will represent, serve, and engage ALES students for years to come.

Finally,

The project managers of the Leadership College are looking for students to participate in a focus group in 2-3 weeks, and I was hoping some Councillors would be interested! The focus groups would be centred around marketing, but may cover other topics as well. Let me know if you want to be one of the students!

That's all for now,

See you Tuesday!

Kathryn