

Date: 21 March 2019

To: University of Alberta Students' Union Council

Re: VP(A) 2018/19 Report #20

Dear Council,

Life has been crazy these past few weeks! I'm feeling the summer vibes, and Spotify (not sponsored but I wish) has been making some great playlists lately! I'm writing this on the bus to the Network of Empowered Women Conference in Lake Louise and I can't wait to meet with women from across Canada and build some amazing connections. Read below for a summary of my few weeks!

1. Campus Meetings

Meeting with Alberta Public Interest Research Group

- Met with the new Outreach Coordinator of APIRG to discuss some ways we can collaborate in the future. One tangible item from that meeting was more cross-collaboration regarding undergraduate research. When I was on the Board with APIRG, I was able to champion the creation of a micro-grant for students to be able to do research, and looking at the role the Students' Union can play in promoting and supporting this initiative.

Meeting with Vice-Provost Tammy Hopper and Sarah Forgie

- We discussed the new Teaching Policy in depth. This also went to GFC, where the discussion was centred around evaluations, assessments, and involvement of students.

2. Faculty Associations

- All FA's will either be done elections by the time you read this or almost be finished! So excited to work with the new group of Student Representatives.
- We often hear that transition is really tough for FA's, so we are going to be hosting a Council of Faculty Associations (COFA) Joint Board Meeting. This meeting will include all four boards, incoming and outgoing FA Executives, and you - Councillors!
- We will send a poll out shortly, stay tuned to your emails.

3. Festival of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (FURCA) Awards Night

- I was so happy to speak at FURCA last week and was even happier to attend with the VPA-Elect Joel Agarwal. It's been a long-standing VPA Transition tradition, and I was so honoured to have spent that time with Councillor Agarwal.

4. Additional Things To Note

- An eClass Survey is being created in conjunction the SU, IST and CTL as I think it is really important for us to continue to understand how eClass serves students if we are spending thousands of dollars on it. Stay tuned!
- I was in a video for Public Interest Alberta regarding the Provincial elections!
- I've been meeting with several OER advocates on campus to help strategize about the OE Advocacy Group. I will bring our strategic plan to the Council for early thoughts soon.

- I proxied at the Campus Clean Air Strategy Working Group for VP Bourgeois and it was actually amazing. The people in that room were so educated on the issue, it was really awesome to discuss this issue with them at the table.

My report is a little short today, so if you have any questions, please ask me either email, as a written submission for the late-ads, or in person at Council! Can't wait to see you all soon.

My office hours for the Winter semester are most likely going to be by appointment only, unless I Council would prefer a set time - let me know your thoughts, please! Let me know if you have any questions at all and if you made it this far, thanks for reading my report!

Kind regards,



UASU VP (Academic)
Akanksha Bhatnagar