

June 14, 2016

**To:** Students' Council

**Re:** VPA Report to Students' Council

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Dear Council,

It has been a busy couple weeks since our last council meeting!

Here is what I have been up to:

### **1. Sexual Violence Framework**

I was in Calgary on May 27 to speak with stakeholders from various post secondary institutions in Alberta, as well as representatives from police, investigation services, and sexual violence services, about a Sexual Violence Provincial Framework. The discussion was a breath of fresh air, as all stakeholders seemed committed to creating a clearer process that respects the complainant and specifies a process to move forward with the respondent. I think it will also be valuable for the UASU as it specifies certain language that should be used in policies moving forward to gain province wide consistency. Thank you to Councillor Victoria DeJong for helping provide valuable feedback on this framework as well!

### **2. GovWeek**

For the first time in writing..... I am thrilled to announce..... GovWeek 2016! What's GovWeek you may ask? Well! GovWeek is a 5 day celebration taking place all over the University of Alberta from September 19 - 23. Often you hear students say that governance can be hard to access and understand. GovWeek is the ultimate way for student's to get their foot into the door of governance. September 19 - 23 was strategically chosen because it is after the Week of Welcome but before the by-elections.

The purpose of GovWeek is to inform students on how governance works and what opportunities are available, give stakeholders (i.e. Faculty Associations) a platform to reach students, help inspire students to run in by-elections, get students excited about student governance, and help create tradition and collaboration amongst different governance stakeholders. The way GovWeek will work is stakeholders will be asked to either run a session, or register their event. Running a session can be anything from a student leader in residence running a workshop on residence advocacy, to Discover Governance running a panel on women in governance, to the CRO running a session on elections rules.

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Registering an event is a little different, that can be anything from a Faculty Association registering their AGM on the GovWeek calendar, to the SU running an SU Alumni Party at Ratt On the Patio, to Councillors running town halls in their Faculty.

Many governance stakeholders, such as Faculty Associations, state that they have a hard time creating tradition in their organization. Not only will GovWeek help facilitate and advertise FA initiatives, but it will also be the ultimate visual of having governance stakeholders all represented in one communal calendar. Physically highlighting the governance family and how we all have similar goals to serve the student body. Applications to register an event or run a session will go live in July and be closed in August. I have already spoken with the CAC Chair, Ben, about having a Council presence at GovWeek, but I would love for as many of you to be involved as possible! As such, please let me know if you want to help out with GovWeek planning or have an idea for a session or event. This is a great way to reach students and help increase the transparency and accessibility of governance on campus.

Get zazzed. GovWeek 2016.

#### GovWeek Advisory Group (GWAG)

I am striking a GovWeek Advisory Group (GWAG) for students who want to be more involved in the planning and execution of GovWeek. The GWAG will likely meet once every two weeks and be involved in programming, planning, logistics, marketing, and recruitment. This group will have 10 members. These include myself, a representative from the Office of Discover Governance, 3 Faculty Association representatives, a representative from the SU events team, 2 student at large positions, and 2 representatives from Students' Council. I will be sending out the "call for interest" information this week so please let me know if you would like to be on it! We are looking for members who are excited about making governance accessible, interested in advising GovWeek planning, and who are willing to help create a buzz around GovWeek.

### **3. Appointments**

#### CTL Director Search

I have been busy this past week in interviews for the new Director for the Centre for Teaching and Learning. The search committee passed 2 candidates through intensive and consultative interview processes and will be announcing the successful applicant shortly.

### **4. Committee Business**

#### COFA Senior Board Met

June 8 was the first Council of Faculty Associations Senior Board meeting. At the meeting we did goal and expectation setting for the year and it was very productive. We decided on three main projects to work on in the foreseeable future; namely having a working group on department associations, an awareness campaign on interdisciplinary program options, and Faculty Association presence at GovWeek.

### **5. Other Exciting Endeavours**

The executives and I went to Camrose on June 5 to attend the Augastana convocation. It was great to see all the students cross the stage!

Thank you for reading this report and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Marina Banister

(Electronically submitted)