



June 2nd, 2015

To: Council

Re: VPA Report

Dear Council,

It's been over a full month into my term, and I've enjoyed it thoroughly. I'm still getting used to the pace, but I'm glad I have this report to help reflect on how my term has been so far.

Here is a report on my duties to date:

1. Gov Camp

I touched on this last Council, but Gov Camp was an excellent experience this year. It was the first time we held it in town, and attendance nearly had doubled from last year to this year, and a lot of members were able to catch the main set of presentations and sessions on Saturday. Discover Governance has sent out an evaluation form to review Gov Camp, so please fill that out if you haven't already; it'll help in making next year's Gov Camp even better!

2. University Standing Committees

I received an update on the status of the Undergraduate Research Initiative at their advisory committee meeting, decided on the interim Director for the Centre for Teaching and Learning (announcement to be released next month), and reviewed and selected applications for the Distinguished University Professor Award, University Cup Award, and Vargo Teaching Chair awards. Those award decisions will be reviewed by the Provost and then announced at Celebrate.

3. General Faculties Council

There were two meetings of GFC standing committees last week: the Academic Standards Committee and Facilities Development Committee. A number of programs were approved at ASC, including professional development requirements for graduate students.

One item that stood out to me was also presented as an informational update: the Faculty of Arts has approved a recommended distribution of grades for their courses, though instructors have the ability to go against the recommended distribution with the Department Chair's consent. This was designed to tackle grade inflation in some Faculties, though I voiced concern that students would not appreciate having their grades distribution settled prior to entering a course.

As for FDC, there were simply updates around the general space program expansion at Augustana, as well as expansion of the Devonian Botanical Garden. I inquired if the new space at Augustana could include space for programming around mental health such as a Peer Support Centre, and was notified that plans for this are being developed with the Care Network at Augustana and the Dean of Students.



4. COFA

I'm starting to get in touch with Faculty Association leaders now, and most recently I met with the President of the Augustana Students' Association. We talked about our plans for the year, and I'm starting to hear themes around the need for resource around transition and social media use for Faculty and Campus associations.

5. Council

I'm hoping to bring the first reading for the Experiential Learning policy to the next meeting of Policy Committee, if any one is interested in discussing how that policy may be revised.

6. Peter Lougheed Leadership College

The two courses for students in the first cohort of the leadership college are currently being developed, and will be ready come September. PLLC students can also expect an Orientation at the Banff Centre for Leadership to start the cohort's certificate. I'm told that there are still a number of steps that need to be accomplished before programming for the second year of the certificate is ready.

7. Be Book Smart

I'll be reaching out to SUBprint, the libraries and the office of the Provost over the next few weeks to see how I can collaborate with and improve the Be Book Smart campaign from 2014 -15.

Thanks so much for your time, and looking forward to the next report.

All the best,

Fahim Rahman

(Electronically submitted)