

October 18, 2016

Dear Council,

Please find a recap of my work in the past few weeks!

1. ProjectsGovWeek

I am still working on the GovWeek final report. It is quite the task as it relies on gathering information from the many surveys we sent out. As promised the report will be ready for our November meeting, so stay tuned!

Interdisciplinary Learning

I continue to meet with University stakeholders as well as Students' Union staff in the development of the Interdisciplinary Conference. We have confirmed that it will be held on February 4th from 9AM-5PM, so save the date!

2. Meetings & CommitteesVacancies

There are currently vacancies on both the EMP FEST committee, Chaired by Vice-President Sandare (link to apply here -> <https://docs.google.com/a/su.ualberta.ca/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPQC9vgUAgif5mWEpLWjC8GiQOj0UYXh3jK74KjdpjPbOV9A/viewform?c=0&w=1>), as well as vacancies in the following faculties on GFC: ALES, Arts, Augustana, Education, Physical Education and Recreation, or Nursing. If you know of anyone who is interested in filling those seats please direct them to this application! <https://www.jobkin.ca/search.htm?moreinfo=5019>

GFC CLE

Last week, I had a meeting for GFC Committee on the Learning Environment. This committee's big project is discussing and proposing changes to the way we do professor evaluation. This includes reviewing the USRI's. The committee is doing some research with departments on how they feel the USRI's are currently performing.

UWC Consultation

The executive met with the Dean of Students and the Deputy Provost last week to go over how writing services on campus are offered. We were able to provide feedback in this venue as well as get a sense of how consultation will develop moving forward. If you have any thoughts on writing services at the UofA you can offer your feedback through this form! <https://docs.google.com/a/ualberta.ca/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdx7hTcWU29HQV0eFZqLH44WMCViVS-0uXu-H7LA3RMZ2kmvA/viewform>

PLLC Oversight Committee

I had my first PLLC oversight committee meeting. This is the first time they have allowed a student to sit on this committee since inception. At the meeting we discussed reviewing and potentially rewriting the committee's terms of reference.

Standing Committee on Convocation

Exciting news! Now the University of Alberta will allow students who participate in the “On Campus” program (there is a similar program run by Augustana called “Inclusion Alberta”) walk across the stage at convocation. The On Campus group usually have about 5-7 students in the program at any given time and have been advocating for their students to be able to walk across the stage for quite some time. All other comparing institutions in Alberta allow these students to walk across stage, and although we lagged behind, I am pleased they will be able to now.

Ad Hoc Committee on GFC Delegated Authority

I had my second meeting on the “ad hoc committee on academic governance including delegated authority”, at the meeting we decided on the guiding principles the committee would be keeping in mind when making suggestions in the future, as well as the timeline of work, and how we will report to larger GFC.

4. Other Exciting EndeavoursMovies for Mental Health

In partnership with the University, we helped sponsor the Movies for Mental Health which took place on October 12. VP Ghossein was one of the opening speakers, who discussed mental health on campus. It was a great night and I certainly took a lot from the short films that were played.

ESA and NUA

The executive and I had dinner with the Education Students Association. I am pleased to say they have successfully elected the rest of their team in their Fall By-Election. Both myself and Rebecca Taylor from Discover Governance were able to attend their AGM and meet many of their members. We are going to continue to reach out to the organization to help whenever we can. I also met with the Nursing Undergraduate Association VP Finance to discuss the steps the organization needs to take to renew their FAMF in the Winter Semester.

I had a lot to report, so I endeavoured to keep it brief! Thank you for reading this report and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Marina Banister