

Date: 06/05/2019**To:** Students' Union Council**Re:** Vice President Academic 2019/20 Report #1

Dear Council,

It's a pleasure to be joining you this year as your Vice President External! I've been around Council for two years, and if you are new, I can tell you from experience that this will be a challenging and rewarding year in so many ways. This year in particular, we are going to face some of the biggest challenges in our organization's 112-year history. Your guidance is going to be crucial, and I can't wait to work with every one of you.

This year, I will be continuing some old projects and starting some new ones. I'll be working to get more students across our campus involved in advocacy and expand the Students Not Silent movement, raise the profile of post-secondary issues in the Alberta media landscape and public opinion, deepen collaboration between the five major Alberta student associations, and put forward some constructive policy proposals to the provincial government. Of course, the pandemic is changing all of our lives and massively disrupting our society. My job is no exception-- COVID, which was just a distant news story when I created my platform, will mean that this year will be very different from what I envisioned and you might be expecting.

Next week, I'm getting started by joining the digital retreat of the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), which brings together the 5 major university student unions in Alberta. We will be electing the new CAUS chair and vice-chair, learning from our outgoing delegates, and figuring out how to best advocate to the provincial government throughout the year. In the last week of March, I'll be joining the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations Foundations conference where we will do the same thing on a federal level.

Like the rest of us, I am trying to make the best out of social distancing where I can. I've been working on my Spanish, staying in touch with my grandma, and exploring our beautiful river valley on my mountain bike, and testing some pretty cool Zoom backgrounds. I am sad that I won't be able to meet all of you in person yet, but I hope we will have a chance sometime this year. If you ever want to chat, or if I can help you somehow, my door is always open-- shoot me an email at vp.external@su.ualberta.ca, or get in touch on Twitter at @rowanley.

Stay healthy and enjoy the summer sun,



University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President External
Rowan Ley