

Date: 10/05/2020

To: Students' Union Council

Re: BoG Rep 2020/2021 Report 10 - **Academic Restructuring Consultations & an Apology**

Dear Council,

Meetings

1. **BGC:** some open sessions this last Wednesday morning were the year's workplan which centred around a lot of standardized administrative things, and how board events will be handled differently with COVID.
2. **ASA:** I got to meet the new executives last Friday and we discussed academic restructuring: concerns centred around losing value by being labelled an affiliate college which may diminish the rich community and breadth of available courses, some of which are combined into unique majors that are not available on North Campus.
 - a. An additional issue was a lack of staff-driven international student initiatives; I need to look at UAlberta's EDI strategy to see how and if international student engagement is involved there or if it needs to be expressed to the appropriate parties.
 - b. Lastly, I will attend their council meetings post-elections to stay informed of their concerns. I put together a [living platform progress document](#) for tracking as well, to consolidate and clarify Augusta needs. I will replicate this for ASC and CSJ.
3. **ASC:** Beth Blanchette, Vaughn Beaulieu-Mercredi and I met Wednesday to discuss Indigenous representation on BoG which they expressed would be better done by an Indigenous professor, or other kind of staff member at UAlberta, than a student because of the board's environment, a professor's ability to handle that kind of discourse and the currently limited nature of Indigenous student involvement in governance.
 - a. To stay up to date with ASC, I will intermittently meet with their executive team.
4. **Speaking on Sensitive Issues:** Katie Kidd and I discussed how I relate to other people on Council when speaking on emotionally-charged topics and she provided some critical context about the ISA initiative and sexual violence conversation that I did not have.
Firstly, I apologize for making people feel unheard, emotionally policed or that their experiences are invalid. I want Council to be a welcoming space for everyone because I believe diversity strengthens us. I commit to not making these mistakes by doing the following: having Katie screen especially sensitive topic discussion points (as well as using my intuition), only sharing solutions-oriented answers in solutions-oriented

discussions (as opposed to discussions for emotional sharing) and utilizing the sandwich feedback method¹ when contributing to conversations about sensitive issues².

Projects

1. **ISA Representation:** Daniel Eggert, BLRSEC chair, and I decided he and Chanpreet could meet about next steps over a phone call, potentially followed by a written ISA report to BLRSEC's Nov. 20th meeting.

Thanks for reading!



University of Alberta Undergraduate Board of Governors Representative
Dave Konrad

¹ Positive acknowledgement of other perspectives followed by my perspective followed by positive acknowledgement of other perspectives.

² As an additional reassurance, I have training in healthy communication from the past 4 years and will continue to learn. Example are 2 years in a leadership development school, professional development retreats, books like The Coddling of the American Mind, environmental and Indigenous activism, my degree that specializes in interpersonal relationships and self-education through TEDtalks often the same as or similar to those in the GovCamp module on allyship.