

Date: 09/07/21

To: Students' Union Council

Re: President's Report 08/24/21

Hi Council,

Thank you for your patience in having the Exec team reports on the late additions this week. WOW is the busiest week of our year, and we have all been working hard to help make this week a great experience for new students. I hope you are all enjoying our in-person activities, reuniting with friends, and appreciating the face-to-face education that U of A does best!

The Exec team and I have been making the most of WOW. We toured mayoral candidate Amarjeet Sohi and President Flanagan through clubs fair, spoke to hundreds of students and dozens of clubs about the UASU, and more. Student groups are a core part of the U of A experience, and we want to make sure we understand their concerns and pass them on to decision makers.



Limited Pass/Fail Proposal

Abner and I have met with College Deans Matina Kalcounis-Rueppel of Natural and Applied Sciences, and Greta Cummings of Health Sciences, to discuss our proposal. We are also meeting with Arts and Humanities Dean Joseph Doucet next week. We are pleased that they have had constructive and valuable feedback, and helped improve our proposal. The Registrar's Office has also completed a draft calendar change for discussion and review. This project is ahead of schedule and making excellent progress.

Rowan Ley, President

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Our current proposal is closely aligned with what VP Monteiro and I had in our platforms. It would apply to up to 12 credits, applicable only to non-program requirements. That would include both electives and non-specified credits in a topic.

Return to Campus and COVID Safety

While we are grateful to be back on campus in person, we are keeping a close eye on reports of positive COVID cases in the campus community. Most students have been respectful of masking rules, and have done their part to ensure we can continue in-person learning. Unfortunately, though, provincial case counts continue to rise dramatically, mostly in unvaccinated populations. We anticipate further action to fight rising case numbers from the province and university in the very near future. We are keeping a close eye on the situation and will update Council further when there are relevant changes.

Exceptional tuition increases

Abner and I spoke to the Dean of Engineering, Dr. Simaan AbouRizk, about the Engineering ETI proposals and have been in contact with affected Faculty Associations. The University has set a deadline of September 29th for Faculties to finish consultation and revisions of their proposals (extended from an initial September 11th), both of which are obviously unacceptable-- trying to fix the flaws of a rushed consultation with an even more rushed consultation does not solve the problem. We are working with FAs to determine our next steps.

Board of Governors

Governor Konrad and I will be at the first Board retreat last Friday discussing the impact of the pandemic on students, and how the university can support a safe return to campus. We were also joined by Minister Nicolaidis and had the opportunity to discuss the future of the Alberta 2030 strategy.

As always, get in touch if you have any questions or concerns!



University of Alberta Students' Union President
Rowan Ley