

**Date:** June 30, 2020

**To:** Students' Union Council

**Re:** President 2020/21 Report #5

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Dear Council,

Time seems to be flying by so quickly and we're already halfway through the summer of 2020. The winds of change are in the air, and things are rapidly changing. In times like these, we as student leaders whether in our Faculty Association, Council, or otherwise, must be resilient. We must act with boldness, and compassion. We must listen to others, and stay true to the student heartbeat. We must be courageous in the face of adversity, all while working together to achieve the best. I have no doubt that we will and are all playing key roles in making this happen. Here are some updates of what's been going on.

### **1. Executive Committee**

- VP Krahn, VP Kidd and I have been working on UPass negotiations and meetings in preparation for the fall semester
- VP Ley and I are attending CAUS meetings and I am impressed with his natural comfort as chair. Our priorities for the year are being finalized
- VP Draper had a COFA meeting where Academic Restructuring among other things were discussed

### **Academic Restructuring Working Group (ARWG)**

- The ARWG has been meeting quite regularly and we are considering various models for the academic restructuring
- At the last meeting we discussed EDI and how this will be incorporated into the consultation process, as well as in the decision making
- I am in the process of setting up a time for Steve Dew to present to Students' Council so that you can all provide feedback

### **Board of Governors**

- COVID resulted in a \$34.9M loss in revenue for 2019-20. For fiscal 2020-21, finance is anticipating a net loss of \$22.3M
- Hope to have more in-person courses in Winter 2021, but likelihood of this happening is considered low
- Over 900 students are remaining in residence over the summer
- Recruitment and Selection of Employees Policy and Procedure was approved at the Board which included consideration for the following:
  - The revisions of the Recruitment Policy suite will:
    - Incorporate EDI principles and practices for recruitment and selection processes
    - Remedy known exclusions and gaps in the current policy and procedures

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**Joel Agarwal, President**

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- Improve clarity and consistency across the current policy and procedures”
- The proposed changes to practice include:
  - Clarification of principles for equitable recruitment and decision making processes
  - Revision of requirements for committee composition to ensure diversity and inclusion
  - Requirements for training on equity, anti-discrimination and bias-awareness”

In other news, my backyard garden is thriving! I have two peppers, tomatoes and an array of vegetables growing quickly after the Edmonton rains.

I've gotten a chance to meet some of you in person who have reached out to me, and I am excited to meet more on a one-on-one basis. My virtual office hours are by appointment, so please send me an email and I'm happy to chat.

Yours Sincerely,



**Joel Agarwal**  
University of Alberta Students' Union President