

Date: 10/18/2022

To: Students' Union Council

Re: President 2022/23 Report #13

Dear Council,

I hope all of you are doing well. Below is a report of what I have been up to over the past two weeks.

Board of Governors

Board Development Session - University Strategic Plan

The BoG has hired Alex Usher, with Higher Education Strategy Associates (HESA), to help lead the creation of the new University of Alberta Strategic Plan. During our retreat last week, we had a very fulsome discussion as a Board regarding four topics: Growth, Identity, Discovery, and Student Experience. Regarding the student experience, we discussed the pedagogical experience and the experience outside the classroom. I had an excellent opportunity to discuss the student experience in-depth and highlight many of the barriers that students face, which hinder them from having an optimal student experience at the University of Alberta. I also shared many stories that students and student leaders shared regarding their time here. Thank you to all of the Councillors who shared their views at council with me, it was invaluable information to share with the Board, and they were very engaged with reducing the barriers students face.

Board Meeting

At the BoG Meeting, we tabled the Sexual Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) Policy due to concerns that the UASU raised regarding additions made at the Board Human Resource and Compensation Committee (BHRCC). We felt that the tone of the policy changed in a way that would make students less likely to come forward in instances of SGBV. We successfully got this item tabled and are currently working on revisions with the BoG and Sexual Violence Response Coordinator (SVRC) to ensure the tone of the policy is survivor-centred and trauma-informed.

Academic Planning Committee (APC)

In APC, we received a presentation from the new Associate Vice President of Online and Continuing Education, Jessica Butts Scott, regarding her plans for developing an online and continuing education strategy for the University of Alberta. In her presentation, she touched on where some of the focus may be surrounding growth using online programming. In that meeting, I raised concerns regarding how we ensure that students are getting a high-quality online programming experience and ensuring that the structure for the course that is online and in-person is similar to ensure that students have an equitable experience across both modalities.

Mandatory Non-Instructional Fee (MNIF) Joint Oversight Committee

Joannie and I attended this year's first MNIF Joint Oversight Committee meeting, where we approved the MNIF work plan for this year. Part of that work plan will include a discussion around MyCreds and how we remove the burden of students paying to access verification of enrollment.

CBC RadioActive Interview about MyCreds

Last Friday, CBC interviewed me regarding MyCreds and all of the students' frustrations with the move to this new process. If you are interested in listening to the interview, you can check it out here:

<https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-52-radio-active/clip/15941898-u-a-students-facing-fee-access-student-academic>

College Associate Deans Education

Gurleen and I talked with the College Associate Dean of Education in Social Sciences and Humanities to discuss our UASU priorities for the year. Our discussion focused on a few key areas, most prominently academic advising and the role that the colleges can play in improving advising in all faculties and ensuring that students have a consistent, accessible, and positive experience with advisors.

Cheers,



Abner Monteiro (he/him)

President

University of Alberta Students' Union