

Date: 19/04/2020

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Academic 2020/21 Report #2

Dear Council,

It's been a whirlwind over the last two weeks! I think I finally understand why it's called "Downtime" because the amount of it I have is constantly getting lower. Overall I did get quite a lot of work done though! Here is a quick rundown of it all:

Elected Nom Com Chair

At the first Nomination committee meeting on the 11th I was elected the chair. I am very excited to spend the next year as Nomination Committee, and quite honoured by the opportunity. I am looking forward to ensuring the Nomination Committee is functioning at full capacity all year.

OER Spring Training Presentation

On Thursday last week I took part in the Libraries's online OER spring training. There I was able to give a 20 minute presentation about student advocacy on OERs and the future of OERs at ualberta. It was a lot of fun and I got asked some great questions!

Met with Provost

Last week I also had my first meeting alongside Joel with Steve Dew, the provost and vice president Academic of the University. This was a really informative meeting and I definitely look forward to continuing these meetings over the year.

GFC SC Student Handbook

Over the last two weeks I have been hard at work on the first draft of the GFC Student Caucus Handbook. This was a big passion project for me as ensuring that GFC SC members have proper support and training is a big part of my goals with GFC this year. Although it is just the first draft right now, and it will be collaboratively edited over the next few months, this is the first step towards building strong institutional support for GFC reps, and can serve as a tool for years to come.

COFA

Last week I also sent out an introductory email to all 14 faculty associations and began to start the process of organizing COFA for the next year. This year will be difficult for FAs due to the lack of in person activities and events which are often very integral parts of a Faculty Association. One of the main goals of COFA this summer is to have all the FAs collaborate and support each other in their operations. Nobody expected this would be a major portion of their term going into this year, and due to that we must all work together to facilitate a strong fall semester.

David Draper, Vice President Academic

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OpenEd Conference

I have signed up to be on the planning committee of the OpenEd2020 conference! I applied to join their Equity, Diversity and Inclusion planning group (which they call Diversity, Equity and Inclusion which i thought was interesting). I should hear back from them in the next little while to see what happened with my application, but I have high hopes!

Fall semester announcement

The university announced that the Fall 2020 semester will be a hybrid approach. Classes will be predominantly online, with some labs and clinicals taking place in person. The decision was made with a lot of focus on health and caution surrounding a possible second wave which aligned with flu season. If you are a student unable to take part in in person labs or clinicals, the university has said they will make arrangements surrounding your lab components.

Personal life Update

I am now officially over two full weeks into my term. It is absolutely wild to me. It's really started to sink in now and feel real. Since the last council meeting, my partner and I have started a spice garden! I absolutely love having fresh herbs again and it adds some nice greenery to our apartment. Just so that we don't hog all the plant space for human purposes, we also planted some wheatgrass for the cats, and they absolutely love nibbling on that throughout the day.

Congratulations new chairs

I would also like to congratulate all of the newly elected chairs. VPs Kidd and Krahn, councillors, Fotang, Badesha, Dhillon, Bid, and Monteiro. I am looking forward to working with you all over the next year, and I cannot wait to see the legacy you leave in your various positions.

In closing, I am absolutely grateful for the opportunity to serve as VP-A! It has been incredibly humbling so far, and I can only begin to imagine what is to come for the coming months. Although I am often in and out of meetings, and as the term continues my availability may get tighter, i am always just an email away. If you want to sit down and have virtual coffee, ask me about my animals, or have anything else you want to talk about, don't ever hesitate to send me an email.

All the best,

David Draper

University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President Academic