

Date: 05/04/2020

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Academic 2020/21 Report #1

Dear Council,

After what seems like multiple months of April, it is finally May! The last month has been jam packed with preparation and transitioning and I am so excited that May has finally come! Last week was our online executive retreat and I definitely learned more about the SU in that one week than I thought would be humanly possible! I am really excited to be diving into the more nitty gritty stuff now that i'm fully in the role, and to work on some interesting projects for the upcoming term!

The VPA portfolio is in really great shape coming out of Joel's term and he has done a great job getting me up to speed on a lot of the ongoing projects. Quite a large portion of the VPA portfolio deals with long term projects built on the advocacy of multiple terms of executives, and I'm very excited to carry on their legacy. The world right now is changing fast and a lot of interesting conversations are being had about what post secondary education looks like in the modern world, which makes this year a very unique opportunity to push for some very positive change for students. I'm definitely optimistic for what this year has to offer as challenging times always make way for the most growth.

On a more personal note I have just celebrated the first month in my new apartment! Both of my partner's cats came along with him in the move and it has been really interesting living with cats again! All of the online meetings I've been having have made me very glad I decided to make a home office as its own space rather than an addition to another room, however the cats still don't understand that I need my hands to do work rather than constantly pet them. We also just started leash training one of them, so once the weather calms down, you'll probably be able to find me taking my cat for a walk all around downtown!

I can't wait to get to know you all better, and I'm really excited for what this year will bring! If any of y'all ever have any questions, don't be afraid to send me an email! I hope you all had a fantastic April, and will have a fantastic May!

All the best,

David Draper

University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President Academic