

Date: 17/09/2020

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Academic 2020/21 Report #11

Dear Council,

It's been a busy time since we've last met! Below you'll find a snapshot of what i've been up too, but i'm also trying something new! I'll be going in depth on a specific project I've been working on. If you like this format better or not, let me know so i can make sure my reports are as useful for you as possible!

Snapshot

Introduction to new GFC Secretary: I met with Kate Peters the new GFC Secretary for an introductory meeting. This was a lot of fun and we had a great conversation about how to better orient new student representatives to GFC in a timely manner.

Cosa: I presented at COSA with VP Kidd and President Agarwal. Check out the deep dive section for more information!

Microcredential Chat: Had a great conversation with Dayna from the LEAD centre about adding Microcredentials to ASLS and SLW for this year

URI Advisory Committee: I had the orientation meeting for the URI advisory committee. This was a fun one! I look forward to supporting undergraduate research through this wonderful initiative

GFC Executive: The first GFC Executive meeting of the semester was held in preparation for GFC this month. It was President Flanagan's first GFC Exec while in the role of president and I am looking forward to working with him more over the year!

Meeting with the Digital Resource Librarian: I had my regular monthly meeting with Michelle Brailey, the UofA Digital Resource Librarian. These are always fantastic meetings. Keep an eye out for her Lunch and Learn talk for the Be Booksmart Fair!

Meeting with the Registrar's Office: The UASU Exec met with the RO and discussed their new draft report on student financial aid, Scheduling exams in an online setting in ways that are fair to students, and how to improve online infrastructure at the University.

CLEAHTFotIotCopsLA (CLE-AT-FOT-IOT-COP-SLAW): The CLE Ad Hoc Taskforce for the Implementation of the Code of Practice for Student Learning Analytics met for the second time. This is a very interesting committee that has the opportunity to make very positive changes in how the university supports students

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GFC Programs Committee: The GFC Programs Committee met for the first time! Of note on the agenda was a discussion about the Duolingo English Test (DET) and the direct entity into the BCom program at the Alberta School of Business

Be Book Smart Fair: The three lunch and learn sessions for the Be Book Smart Fair are planned and ready to go! They will cover the topics of, “Open Education Advocacy in Alberta and internationally,” “How to talk to your professor about Open Education,” and “what services are available on campus already to help you access educational materials!” I’m VERY excited for these!

Project Deep Dive: Protections and recourse for students on Work Integrated Learning and Experiential Learning Terms.

Over the past few months I’ve been working closely with VP Kidd on an ongoing project in order to better protect students on WIL and Experiential learning projects / terms. To date we have done the preliminary research on current policies at the UofA, did an environmental analysis looking at policies from other U15 institutions, and had a policy paper drafted to take through early consultation on various GFC committees. We most recently presented this paper at the Council on Student Affairs, and received very positive feedback from students, academic staff, and central administrators (including members at the Vice-Provost Level). Currently the presentation is on the agendas for the Program Support Team (an administrative committee made of Associate Deans across the University,) The Committee on the Learning Environment, and the new Joint Advisory Committee on Sexual Violence. After this round of early consultation we will then work to draft functional policy changes and bring them to GFC for implementation. This is a very important project for your UASU Executive, as currently there is a very clear gap in UAPPOL policy which every year is leaving students who experience discrimination, harassment, or sexual violence on Work Integrated Learning or Experiential Learning opportunities with no help, protections, or recourse. This is unacceptable and needs to be changed, and I will not halt this effort until it does.

Remember, never hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

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