

Date: 06/10/2020

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Academic 2020/21 Report #12

Dear Council,

It's been a busy time since we've last met! Below you'll find a snapshot of what i've been working on as well as a deep dive on one of my ongoing projects!

Snapshot

Be Book Smart Fair Filming

Last week I filmed 3 sessions for the Be Book Smart Fair! They are all being edited as we speak to include captions to increase accessibility. In these sessions I interviewed Michael McNally about how to talk to your profs about OERs, I talked with Hailey Babb and Nicole Allen about Open Education Advocacy provincially and globally, and I talked with Michelle Brailey, Sarah Polkinghorne, and Lauren Stieglitz about how to leverage existing services at the U of A to save money on textbooks. Overall I think these went great and the long form discussions were very interesting!

Program Support team

The Program Support team met. There we discussed some possible upcoming program changes for the FoMD, CSJ and Augustana. This committee does not vote on program changes but rather only acts as a consultative body. Alongside those items I presented on the Protections and Recourse for Students on WIL and Experiential Learning project for early consultation.

GFC

The General Faculties Council met on Monday to discuss Academic Restructuring for the first out of 3 meetings prior to voting on a proposal. Alongside those discussions GFC approved the usage of the DET for scoring english language proficiency, passed a motion recommending that the BoG route the SET initiative through GFC for discussion and provide all pertinent information to GFC, and ratified the appointment of two new undergraduate GFC representatives!

Meeting with Tammy Hopper

Had my monthly meeting with Vice-Provost Programs Tammy Hopper. Here we discussed the ongoing Protections and Recourse project as well as some ongoing discussions around calendar changes regarding assessment both in online courses and once we return to campus.

Meeting with John Nychka

Had my monthly meeting with Vice-Provost Learning Initiatives John Nychka. Here we discussed the ongoing Protections and Recourse, also had discussions around calendar changes regarding assessment in online and in person courses and had a discussion about how to better achieve value within a university education and what that value is.

David Draper, Vice President Academic

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Faces of CSL interview

I was interviewed for the Many Faces of CSL blog. This was quite fun! Im taking a CSL certificate and have very much enjoyed my experience as of yet. This also provided a great opportunity to talk about the Protection and Recourse project.

Academic Restructuring Town Hall

A town hall was had on the 30th regarding Academic Restructuring. Over 2000 people were in attendance with roughly 50% of them being Non Academic Staff.

Committee on the Learning Environment

CLE met for the first time of the semester on the 30th. There we discussed the pivot to online education, and how to better legislate within the calendar to ensure best practices. The director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, the Vice President IST, and the Vice Provost Libraries all provided updates on their work for the semester. Myself and VP Kidd presented on Protections and Recourse, capping off the first round of Early consultation at GFC, and finally a robust discussion was had about how to strengthen student assessment of instructors and provide areas for meaningful feedback and teaching assessment.

Project Deep Dive**Faculty Association Consultation on Academic Restructuring**

Since the release of the Interim report of the ARWG I have been working to consult with and gather feedback from all of the Faculty Associations. Currently I'm in the process of meeting 1-1 with all of the Faculty Association Presidents! Thursday, Joel gave a presentation surrounding Academic restructuring to gather feedback from the CoFA senior board. Alongside the above, we have also officially booked a meeting for October where President Flanagan, Provost Steve Dew, and Rob Munro (the executive director of UAT) will present to the CoFA joint board for consultation on Academic Restructuring. The consultation pathways stated above are just one part of an overall plan, however I felt as though Council would be interested in hearing the work directly with Faculty Associations.

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

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