

Date: 17/11/2020

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Academic 2020/21 Report #14

Howdy Council!

It's been a little while, and a lot has happened since we last met. Please find a brief overview of what I've been up to below. If you have any questions, feel free to ask during Question Period!

Landing Advisory Committee

- The landing advisory committee had its orientation! We will be presenting at council before the end of the semester to introduce you to the fantastic team of passionate advocates we have this year

AB 2030 Open Ed Submission

- Michael McNally and Myself submitted our AB2030 submission to the McKinsey Panel. This ended up fantastic document citing the many ways a provincially funded OpenEd office would benefit students

Open Ed Policy

- Inspired by the AB 2030 submission and the Open Ed 2020 conference I decided to start work on a UASU Open Ed Policy. Currently Councillors Fotang and Batycki have signed on to help with it.

CoFA townhall

- Bill Flanaga, Steve Dew, and Rob Munroe all came for a Cofa specific discussion on academic restructuring. There was some fantastic engagement from the FAs and some very important questions.

Calendar Revisions

- I have been working with the University Calendar Editor in order to set a standard for Work Integrated Learning course outlines in the university Calendar. The goal with this is to explicitly tie in supports for students to these programs to help deal with discrimination, harrasment and sexual violence.

Program Support Team

NSSA meeting

- Met with the new NSSA executive team to help them get started for the new year. Discussed the vacant FNS seat on GFC and are in the process of working with them to fill this vacancy.

Meeting with the Registrar

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- Met with the Registrar's office to discuss the importance of a ban on online proctoring as well as a compassionate grading policy in place for the fall semester. I also talked about the importance of expanding the gender declaration form for undergraduate admissions and now serve on the Undergraduate Working Group on Admissions Transformations in order to push for more change in the admissions process.

GFC Onboarding

- I have been meeting with the new undergraduate members of GFC to ensure that they are up to speed on what has happened yet this term and to ensure they feel supported in their advocacy.

Alberta Student Leaders Summit

- I have been working with the Lead Centre on ASLS this year and i am please do announce that we will be credentialing the conference, and offering a variety of pathways through the summit in order to receive credentials.

Open Ed Conference

- As i am writing this report I am also attending the Open Ed 2020 conference. I have been working as a member of the Conference DEI team since july and am also serving as a Code of Conduct Officer. This conference has been a fantastic learning opportunity and i am taking lots of notes. If youre interested in reading about some sessions, let me know and id gladly share my notes with you.

Project deep dive: Online Proctoring and Compassionate Grading.

I have been working quite intensely to ensure that the university takes our push for a ban on online proctoring seriously. I have raised the various issues consistently across my one on one meetings with the office of the provost and vice provosts. Similarly I have been raising the issue at the General Faculties Council. We believe the use of online proctoring software is a violation of the university's duty to accommodate policy as it disproportionately discriminates against students on protected grounds. Alongside our push for an online proctoring ban we are pushing for a compassionate grading policy for the fall semester. This push is based off of Carleton University's policy, however we acknowledge the importance of a U of A based solution. One such solution we are pushing for is the extension of the Withdrawal deadline for courses in order to allow students more time to withdraw from a course should they need to.

As always, please never hesitate to reach out!

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