

Date: 01/12/2020

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Academic 2020/21 Report #15

Howdy Council!

Lots to update you on since my last report!

D.I.E Board hiring

- Continued work with the D.I.E board hiring committee which was struck back in summer. We took part in another round of interviews.

GFC PC

- The GFC Programs committee met. Various approvals for minor course changes were discussed. Discussion around the Dietetic program requirements was had. The SMO course designator was modified to adhere to the change in the department name. I also asked about the possibility of creating a Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) designator for courses. This proposal was met with considerable interest from the Vice Provost and the Registrar. A formal proposal has been submitted to the GFC PC agenda for December 10th

Undergraduate Working Group on Admissions Transformation (UWGAT)

- I have officially joined the membership of the UWGAT. This is a group looking at re-imagining the admissions process for the U of A. As part of this committee I will also sit on the UWGAT Philosophical Issues subcommittee (UWGATPISC). In a similar vein I also met with individuals in the Registrar's Office about expanding gender disclosure options available during the enrollment process. Currently only 3 options exist, but this will hopefully be expanded in the coming future.

Cofa Senior Board

- Met with the CoFA senior board to discuss the academic restructuring proposals in advance of the November 23rd GFC meeting. This is part of an ongoing process to consult with faculty associations.

Townhall 1

- VP Kidd and myself took part in two town halls since our last report. The first of which was on Friday November 20th and was hosted by the intermedia research studio in the department of sociology. Sadly I had meetings booked for the second half of this townhall and was unable to stay for the question and answer period.

Townhall 2

- The UASU hosted a townhall about academic restructuring. President Agarwal, VP Kidd, GSA President Waddingham and myself all answered questions from the student body in regards to the implications of academic restructuring on students. We also ended off with a few ways that students can get involved in this process.

GFC.

- The General Faculties Council met for its penultimate meeting on Academic restructuring. There was an at length discussion on the three models. From that meeting a general consensus towards the college model was uncovered, however more work on the specifics of the model must be done.

Open Education @ Ualberta

- The Open Ed@Ualberta working group met. This meeting was a debrief from the various Open Ed conferences that have happened in the last few weeks. We shared notes and discussed possibilities for our institution moving forward.

UASU Statement regarding the Withdrawal Date

- As you are all aware, the UASU has been advocating for the university to extend the withdrawal deadline for students. The university tacitly announced that it would not move forward with this proposal despite strong support from many key internal administrators.

CoFA Advocacy Board

- The CoFA Advocacy Board met to discuss campus sexual violence and the possibility to releasing joint statments on online proctoring and course workload. There was a general consensus of support for the direction we are going on all of the topics above. Joint letters from CoFA are to be expected soon.

Deep Dive Project: Filling GFC seats.

At GFC on the 23rd of november 3 more students were appointed to GFC. Depending on the result of a vote at council today 1 more student will be appointed at the december 7th meeting of GFC, in time to vote on academic restructuring. Ensuring strong presence on the General Faculties Council is a long standing personal goal of mine. As students and as a students union we are fundamentally stronger when more voices are at the table. Although as a student advocates it can often feels as though we are screaming into the void and fighting a system built to disadvantage us, things get easier when more of us are at the table.

This year we have seen record setting engagement for undergraduate students on GFC. This would not have been possible without the help of many dedicated individuals. Firstly i would like to thank everyone who ran for a position on GFC in the general election last winter and in the by-election this fall. We would not be where we are now without you. I would also like to thank Muneeb Ahsan, our CRO. Without your dedication to student engagement we would not be here. Finally i would like to thank all the Faculty Associations who have put in the time and effort to go through the election process for students outside the regular election period. As students, as a university, and as a Students' Union, we are stronger because of your work. The work isn't finished yet though, we may reach 38 members tonight, but there are still two more to go. I'm optimistic that i will be writing soon about their appointment.

David Draper

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