

**Date:** 015/12/2020

**To:** Students' Union Council

**Re:** Vice President Academic 2020/21 Report #16

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Howdy Council!

Lots to update you on since my last report! I haven't received any feedback on if y'all like the deep dives into specific projects or not, so i've returned to the original structure for this report. Please do let me know if you have a preference.

### **Follow up to questions at council**

Specifically in follow up with Councillor Phillipovich's questions at council last meeting the following has been done. I met with Councillor Phillipovich, the President of the NUA, and the VP-Academic of the NUA to talk in more specific detail about the issues. I have raised the issues with the Vice provost Teaching and Learning, the Vice Provost Programs, and the Vice Provost/ Registrar. These individuals expressed surprise at the depth and severity of the issues and committed to doing what they can to ensure strong solutions are in place to protect nursing students. The issue has also been raised to Vice President Operations Andrew Sharman, and Deputy Provost Wendy Rodgers, and will be raised to two committees overseeing the university covid response.

### **CLETFSEAT**

The CLE Taskforce on Student Experiences with the Assessment of Teaching and Learning is a working group which has recently been struck to resolve some of the issues with the USRI system. This committee also will be looking at other possible ways to assess teaching quality in the most effective manner.

### **GFC-CLE**

CLE met and had an interesting discussion around new exam code of conduct regulations. These regulations were primarily housekeeping changes in order to acknowledge the existence of online exams prior to the start of finals. I was able to pass an amendment to this policy to explicitly state that the enforcement of the conduct of exams policy cannot violate the discrimination and harrasment policy or the duty to accomodate policy. Previously the policy made no mention of restrictions on enforcement, only on the conduct itself. This in my opinion is a strong step towards a solution to online proctoring, as I firmly believe as an enforcement method it violates the duty to accommodate policy.

### **SU / University relations meeting**

The UASU executives met with the VP university relations. I raised issues such as the importance of a solution to the use of online proctoring, and the need for international students to have equitable access to course materials.

### **GFC**

GFC met on Monday the 7th for roughly 4.5 hours. Although it took roughly 1 hour to approve the agenda, in the end it was a productive meeting. In the end GFC approved a college model, aligning with the tri-agencies, led by a council of deans supported by a shared service manager. The

final vote on academic restructuring takes place at the Board of Governors on December 11th. I was disappointed with the lack of a question period at the end of the meeting, however In the aftermath of GFC I have been in contact with the VP university relations to answer my questions.

### **Vice Provosts Learning Initiatives and Programs meeting**

In this meeting we discussed my (at the time) upcoming presentation to GFC-PC about ZTC course signifiers. We discussed the necessity of providing equitable access to course content for international students and the need to record synchronous lectures. We discussed the need for a solution to online proctoring and received support on a policy similar to that of MRU. Finally, we discussed the continued work towards a Students On Practica Policy to be added to UAPPOL

### **SU-RO meeting**

In this meeting we received a few updates regarding the SET initiative from the RO. We also talked about the importance of recording synchronous lectures, and providing equitable access to course materials. We discussed the importance of adhering to scheduled course length for both synchronous and asynchronous lectures, and the increasing workload students face.

### **SU-DoS meeting**

In this meeting we discussed online proctoring, equitable access to course materials and assessments for international students, and concerns around the handling of the nursing practica for the fall 2020 semester. We also discussed the need for targeted mental health support for students on practica during covid-19.

### **GFC-PC**

Presented on the possibility of creating a ZTC Course signifier pilot project at the university! This presentation went quite well. The RO has struck a working group with IST and are looking at possible fall 2021 implementation

### **Conversations of Open Ed**

On wednesday December 16th (the day after this council meeting) I will be engaging in the Open Ed Conversations: Tools for Student Advocacy event hosted by the Open Education Conference as a continuation of the conference programming. The link can be found here: <https://openeducationconference.org/participate/open-ed-conversations-tools-for-student-advocacy>

### **UASU Call for a special meeting of GFC.**

The Students Union has been pushing for an additional meeting of GFC prior to the start of Winter 2021. We are hoping this special meeting will provide the much needed opportunity to discuss the University's current online learning policies and practices. With GFCs exclusive focus on academic restructuring this semester, these issues have not had adequate discussion at GFC as a whole despite consistent conversation at a variety of committees or subcommittees.

Please remember, never hesitate to reach out!

All the best,

**David Draper**

*David Draper*

University of Alberta Students Union Vice President Academic