

**Date:** 09/02/2021

**To:** Students' Union Council

**Re:** Vice President Academic 2020/21 Report #19

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Howdy Council!

I hope you are all doing well! Its a busy time of year, so don't forget to be kind to yourselves

### **A Message to Anyone Seeking Election.**

With the Executive Elections fast approaching I wanted to provide those running with some unsolicited advice. Be unabashedly true to yourself. During the election process you may feel pressures to conform to expectations of what the role you're seeking may look or behave like, don't let any of that pressure supersede your true self. Your success in this election, this job, and in life should never come at the expense of living the truthful expression of yourself.

### **CTL Executive Director Selection Committee**

The search for the Executive Director of the Centre for Teaching and Learning has begun! I am very excited to be serving on this committee

### **Penguins!**

As you may have heard, penguins have recently made the news as a symbol against Post-Secondary Education Cuts. In late January the UASU and SAMU spent a couple of hours building over 800 snow penguins with various protest signs as a form of Covid safe protest. This was the first step in a lot more advocacy to come. Stay tuned!

### **Open Education Symposium**

I have been working with Krysta McNutt from the Centre for Teaching and Learning on an upcoming Open Education Symposium! This will be a fantastic opportunity for students and professors to learn more about Open Education. I'm very excited to see the growing engagement with Open Education on campus. I think this symposium will be a fantastic companion to the Be Book Smart Fair, and will be an amazing addition to the discourse around Open Education at the University of Alberta.

### **Accomodations interview**

Recently I was interviewed as a part of a pan-canada study around student access to accommodations during Covid-19. This was a very important conversation and I am quite excited to see how the end results pan out. If you have any personal experiences with ableism in the university in the context of accommodations and you are willing to be a part of this study, please reach out and I can put you in touch.

**Students on Experiential Learning Policy**

VP Kidd and Myself are still hard at work on this policy! The scope has broadened in a fantastic way. Because of the work that has been done it is looking like the University will be working with us to do a fulsome review of the policies governing Work integrated Learning and Experiential learning as a whole! This will allow for us to have a broader impact on experiential learning and ensure that not only are students protected if things go wrong, but also help define what a positive experience will look like.

**CLE Taskforce on Student Experiences with the Assessment of Teaching**

The CLE task force looking at the effectiveness of USRIs has met once again. As a Students' Union we are raising concerns about ensuring student feedback is meaningfully taken into account for tenure decisions as well as for pedagogical decisions in courses. USRIs are not a perfect tool, however they represent the most fulsome way students are able to provide direct feedback on the quality of their education.

**Committee on the Learning Environment**

CLE had a very interesting discussion around the University of Alberta's long term plans/priorities for online or remote learning. This was an interesting conversation as it focused primarily on long term planning and institutional strategy rather than the current lived context.

**ALES GFC Vacancy**

The process to fill the ALES GFC representative vacancies is nearing completion! Nominating committee is meeting on Friday February 5th for the final selection meeting and will be providing names for ratification on the council Late Additions.

## Collaboration with NAITSA

I am meeting with my counterpart at NAITSA to discuss topics of compassionate grading, withdrawal deadlines, optional marks of "Credit," and to share data / strategies around advocacy on these issues.

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

**David Draper**



University of Alberta Students Union Vice President Academic