

Date: 23/03/2021

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Academic 2020/21 Report #21

Howdy Council!

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

Hot off the Press!

Since we last met I've been in the news a couple of times about some of the UASU's major advocacy points. There was a recent article about student resistance to online proctoring in CBC which I was featured in, as a follow up to that article I also made an appearance on the Edmonton AM radio show! The article gained some good traction as I ended up getting asked to a couple follow ups which I will talk about later.

Also as I write this an article I helped out with is being circulated by the Edmonton Journal! This article was spearheaded by a University of Calgary Student and member of the UCSU council, Chaten Jessel, as well as a Ualberta Student Jemma Forgie! It was a fantastic experience helping out with the article and it does an amazing job clearly communicating the importance of OERs to affordable education

PLLC Case Competition

Over the weekend I was invited to judge a case competition hosted by the Peter Lougheed Leadership College about the use of online proctoring! There were a lot of interesting ideas and creative solutions. It was a fantastic experience to be able to adjudicate these proposals and I left feeling reinvigorated and excited about the various passionate students across campus.

Provost's Committee on Online Learning

I have been working hard with the Provost's Committee on Online learning. I have been pushing to give all 14 faculty associations representation on the advisory committee. I have also been hard at work on the Proctoring subcommittee and we have created an aggressive communications strategy to students and faculty to highlight that Online Proctoring tools are only supposed to be used when absolutely necessary. Similarly we have prepared a number of strategies to mitigate various issues as well as entire strategies to transition away from the use of online proctoring in assessments.

CTL and OERs

Sadly my presentation at the UAlberta Open Education Summit was not recorded. But after discussion with Krysta McNutt from the Center for Teaching and Learning we met and filmed a miniature session following much the same format. This discussion focused predominantly on Open Pedagogy and the ability to co-create assessments, resources, and courses with students, and more particularly the ability of Open Pedagogy to act as a major tool for EDI in the classroom.

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SLAC

The Student Library Advisory Committee had its last meeting of the term. This was a fantastic committee to be a part of! The organizers had watched my talk at the Open Education symposium and invited me to give a condensed version of my presentation. It went over quite well.

Nait Newswatch

After the CBC article about online proctoring was published I was reached out to by a student from the NAIT video production program asking to interview me for their weekly student news broadcast! This was a fantastic opportunity and was a great way to broaden the conversation around the use of online proctoring

EDI review of teaching awards

The Provost's Committee for the EDI review of Teaching awards had its first meeting. This will be a committee that will most likely continue its work into the beginning of the next term. Despite my limited time on this committee I am excited for the prospect of making meaningful changes around inequities in the awards system at the University of Alberta.

Open Educational leadership Program Presentation

The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resource Coalition Open Educational Leadership Fellows have asked me to give a presentation about online proctoring! The OER leadership fellows are leaders in open education from across the United States and Canada. After the publication of the recent article on Online Proctoring they reached out to me to talk to them about the various inequities in its use and to lead a discussion about the student experience with these softwares.

I know our time together is coming closer to an end with each passing day. I would be lying if I said this year had not been difficult, however working with many of you has been a truly rewarding experience. This year we have made massive meaningful change at this university and set precedents for decades to come. I have nothing but confidence passing the torch off to Abner in the coming months, the Students' Union will be in fine hands.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, comments, concerns, dog photos, beer recommendations, or anything else.

All the best,

David Draper

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