

**Date:** 14/07/2020

**To:** Students' Union Council

**Re:** Vice President Academic 2020/21 Report #6

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Dear Council,

It's been a busy two weeks! Check out my report for an outline of what the past two weeks have been like for me, but don't hesitate to ask me any questions if you want more information!

**Updates to previous questions**

- I did not receive any questions at the previous council meeting which require additional information.

**UASU Nom Com**

- The UASU Nominating committee has set the deadline for the SCFC Committee, and EDIT for July 13th. We will be adjudicating the applications for the next council meeting. Currently we are in the process of organizing the interviews for the Senate applications.

**Academic Restructuring Town Hall**

- Bill Flanagan hosted a town hall on the topic of Academic Restructuring on Wednesday. Around 2,000 individuals tuned into this Townhall and had the opportunity to ask questions surrounding the presentation and academic restructuring as a whole. One thing of note in this town hall was the use of the program ThoughtExchange. This program allowed viewers to ask questions and rank others' questions to create a list of "hot topics" that the majority of those who participated wanted answered. I found this experiment quite interesting as it helps cut down on the monopolization of question period by a small number of individuals, and actively allows questions from the majority to be answered. It will be interesting to see how the program plays out, as questions who do not have the majority support behind them are still important to ask and have answered.

**Service Excellence Transformation Town hall**

- On wednesday the 15th there will be another town hall, this time focused on the Service Excellence Transformation (SET). SET is a program happening in tandem with Academic Restructuring focusing on internal services structures rather than Faculty structures. The aim of SET is to increase efficiency in services by increasing specialization and reducing generalization. I highly recommend attending this townhall to learn more and to ask questions surrounding the aim of the SET program and the means which the university will take in order to meet those aims.

**Discipline Interpretation and Enforcement Board**

- I have been working alongside the other members of the D.I.E Board hiring committee in order to ensure that we have a full and functional D.I.E Board for the coming year. The D.I.E Board works as a judicial branch of the students union, enforcing our bylaws and providing answers to reference questions on issues relating to our bylaws. Due to their important role in our governance process it is important that the D.I.E board is filled and functioning. This is part of an ongoing goal of mine to ensure all levels of student governance are functioning at the highest level possible. This goal starts with the active work of ensuring that all levels of student governance are having positions filled in order to ensure the work is completed, as well as working to ensure that students are aware of the various opportunities for involvement which exist. This goal also involves critically examining the process in which seats are filled and why seats may be historically empty as well as looking at who historically fills

these seats. Due to that personal goal I am especially excited for EDIT as this is a project I would like to pitch to them for help and consultation.

**Faculty Association President Meetings**

- I have continued my project of meeting with all FA presidents, currently there are only two Faculty Associations which I have not met. These meetings are intended to continue throughout the term in order to facilitate an open and proactive dialogue with all 14 Faculty Associations. By ensuring that conversations happen in meetings, I feel as though it becomes more likely that the FAs will reach out to me when they have issues, as I become an individual rather than a nebulous position. I fundamentally believe in the power of 1-1 conversations to build connections and accomplish goals, and based on what has happened since my previous meetings, that belief is not unfounded.

**Open Education Conference Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Team**

- As many of you may know, I serve on the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Team of the 2020 Open Education Conference. I am absolutely honoured by this opportunity to work with so many people passionate about Open education and EDI. We met for the first time last week to discuss the Mission, Vision and Values of the conference as well as the committee. We are also in the process of drafting a set of “conversation principles” for other planning committees as well as ourselves in order to ensure that the planning as well as the conference itself is open and inclusive. These principles are meant to guide discussion tone, and language use to ensure that discussions are done in a respectful and professional manner and to reduce the possibility of alienation, or tokenization of people or opinions.

**Personal life Update**

- As many of you know, I have a passion for procedural governance at the provincial level as well as the history of the Alberta legislature. The point of convergence for these two passions of mine happens to exist within the office of the Speaker of the House as well as the office of the Sergeant at Arms. As someone who quite often watches and listens to the procedures of the legislature as well as studies the history and quirks of it (ask me about the hamburger in QP so i know people actually read this) I have had a small personal quest for the past year. This quest is to have my personal copy of Robert's Rules of Order signed by the individuals in the legislature who helped inspire my love of procedural politics. This has been a long term goal as it involves approaching a variety of people from across the province of Alberta in hopes of them being willing to sign it. Currently I have gotten 1/3 signatures and I am happy to announce that I have a meeting scheduled Tuesday morning for the 2nd!

Remember, don't ever hesitate to reach out to me if you want to chat or have any questions!

All the best,

*David Draper*

**David Draper**

University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President Academic