

**Date:** 12/14/2021

**To:** Students' Union Council

**Re:** Vice President Academic 2021/22 Report #17

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Dear Council,

As this is my last report to all of you for 2021, I would like to give you an overview of projects that I have significantly progressed over the past two trimesters that were platform points:

**Zero Textbook Cost Indicator Pilot Program**

The ZTC Indicator program has taken off and sparked a lot of conversation around accessible and affordable learning materials for students. The program capped Fall 2021 with ~500 instructors, ~630 courses, and ~750 course sections. That equates to approximately \$7 Million in savings for students due to ZTC implementation on campus.

**Student Rights Campaign**

The Charter of Student Rights is an essential document in helping students understand their rights and responsibilities as a student. The social media campaign will run in the next week and again in the winter semester to increase awareness about students' rights.

**SRA Summit**

I planned and executed the first-ever SRA Summit with the help of the executive team and various SU Staff. The Summit was a great success and focused on practical skill development for student leaders and specific issues on campus. The topic of Isolation, Community, and Mental Health was very fitting and gave everyone some ideas to improve the mental health of their students.

**Communication on Experiential Learning**

As the University expands experiential learning opportunities for students, we need to ensure that students know where to go when they have problems and that the process is as painless and safe as possible. I am working with the University to develop a simple public communication and reporting system to share with students to help them file concerns in their experiential learning placements.

**Teaching, Learning, and Evaluation Policy Suite + USRIs**

Over the last year, I have significantly contributed to the Provost's Office's work to revamp the old USRI system so that students find it valuable and meaningful to fill out the surveys. I have successfully advocated for many additions to the policy, such as increased transparency to students, more accessible results, and questions that instructors can use to inform their course better.

**Exploration Credit Grading Proposal**

President Ley and I have worked hard with the Registrar's Office to get the new Exploration Credit Grading Proposal through the governance pathway and approved at GFC. We have gotten very positive feedback and are on track to complete the project for implementation in 2022/2023!

### **Review of UASU Committee Standing Orders and Structure**

Over the break and into the new year, I will be reviewing the standing orders and responsibilities of every standing committee of Students' Council. We will collaborate with the committees and chairs to address the overwhelming concern about our current system. This work will also include reviewing how we populate committees and who is responsible for it.

### **Student Governance Code of Conduct**

While we work out the other elements of the code of conduct, a significant component that we need to discuss is the roles and responsibilities of student leaders. Once we identify responsibilities, I will start consultation with SRAs and bring the Code of Conduct back to council!

### **Online Learning**

Over my term, I have continued to advocate for the University and external stakeholders to improve the online and in-person learning environments for students during these challenging times. From providing students with the resources to request their courses be live-streamed to pushing back against the use of online proctoring and highlighting the significant barriers it poses,

### **Conclusion**

During these past eight months I have gotten a significant amount of work done and closed projects in the portfolio that have taken years of advocacy to do. Thank you to everyone who has supported many of these initiatives and contributed to conversations around them.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and a tolerable exam season! If you aren't in the holiday spirit yet, this picture of Smarty under the tree will hopefully help.

Cheers,



**Abner Monteiro**

Vice President Academic  
University of Alberta Students' Union

