

Date: 01/25/2022

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Academic 2021/22 Report #19

Dear Council,

I hope you are all doing well. Below are my updates for the past two weeks:

Zero Textbook Cost Indicator Program

The numbers below outline the cost savings for Fall 2021, Winter 2022, and combined semesters! It's important to note that due to UASU advocacy with instructors, blog posts, and collaboration with Faculty Associations to promote the program, we have seen the number of courses registered DOUBLE from last semester! Since textbook cost varies widely, we have an estimated student-per-course impact of \$115. The overall cost savings add up to \$9 MILLION for students!

Estimates

Term	Group	Class sections	Textbook cost per class	Average class section size	Estimated savings
Fall 2021	All UAlberta	758	\$115	37	\$3,225,000
Fall 2021	Augustana	71	\$115	18	\$147,000
Fall 2021	CSJ	16	\$115	25	\$46,000
Winter 2022	All UAlberta	1364	\$115	37	\$5,804,000
Winter 2022	Augustana	89	\$115	18	\$184,000
Winter 2022	CSJ	71	\$115	25	\$204,000
TOTAL	<i>All UAlberta</i>	<i>2122</i>	<i>\$115</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>\$9,029,000</i>
TOTAL	<i>Augustana</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>\$115</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>\$331,000</i>
TOTAL	<i>CSJ</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>\$115</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>\$250,000</i>

Experiential Learning Communications

I continue to develop an Experiential Learning Communication for students to more easily navigate UAPPOL and promptly get the support they need. The Provost Fellow (Karsten Mundel) and I have been having conversations at different GFC committees (most recently, the Council on Student Affairs).

Governance Restructuring Task Force - Committee Mandate Review

Kristen and I are currently developing multiple options for Students' Council to explore regarding the reimagining of committee mandates. We should have something for Council to review in the coming weeks!

Online Learning Concerns and Advocacy

Many students have reached out to the UASU regarding concerns with online learning. These concerns have ranged from teaching quality to accessibility to lack of communication from instructors about experiential components of courses. I am in the process of drafting a message to all Deans and Associate Dean Undergraduates to stress the severity of the challenges students are facing and the impacts on their quality of education and mental health. I am also determining how to present specific faculty concerns to limit generalizations and take a more targeted approach to resolve issues.

Exploration Credits

The Exploration Credits Proposal that President Ley and I envisioned at the beginning of our terms is finally coming to fruition! We present the proposal for the first time at GFC, with a tentative approval date of March.

Alberta Student Leadership Summit

Next weekend, the Alberta Student Leadership Summit will be taking place virtually! The Summit is free, and there are two ticket types: pay what you can and pay it forward. I will be doing a presentation on Leading Through Challenging Times and exploring my experience being a student leader during COVID. There will also be many other excellent sessions going on, many of which include some of our own UASU Councillors! If you are free from Jan 26-29, come and attend some of the sessions! There will also be micro-credentials available when you attend a certain number of sessions. The link to register can be found [HERE](#).

CoFA and Academic Restructuring

CoFA Advocacy WG met earlier this week. One of the topics of conversation was the ripple effects of academic restructuring and how it has affected student advising in some faculties. I am working with the Faculty Associations to help them resolve the challenges in their faculties as they see fit and relay any more centralized issues with student services to the Student Service Centre.

My Baby Bonsai

As many of you have probably seen by now, I have a new plant. I present to you my new plant, BonBon!



Cheers,

Abner Monteiro

Vice President Academic
University of Alberta Students' Union