

Date: 05/04/2020

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Academic 2021/22 Report #0

Dear Council,

Its council meeting #1! If you would have told me a year ago that I would be writing this report on this letterhead I would have called you crazy.. But here we are, and I have to say this is surreal. We have so many incredible leaders on Students' Council, and it's a privilege to be able to work with all of you. This will be a year full of challenges and opportunities; I hope you are as excited as I am to begin this journey.

Over the last month I've been immersed in the job of the VPA and (almost) everything in the portfolio. I've learned so much about this amazing organization and am thankful that I get to be a part of something that puts students at the forefront. Executive turnover was a much needed opportunity to learn about not just my own portfolio but the other executive portfolios as well, which I found very insightful. I can't wait to delve deeper into my role and get started on some of the projects in my platform. The VPA portfolio is truly in a strong place thanks to the amazing work by David Draper during his term, and it is an honour to carry on the legacy of the many passionate VPAs before me. I have been caught up to speed on any and all ongoing advocacy so that I can start the term strong and will be informing you of any big developments in the coming reports.

Now more than ever, students are positioned to make some real and impactful change at this University, and I'm optimistic that we are going to have a strong year as student leaders. For some of you this is your first taste of student governance and I know it can be intimidating and nerve-wracking. Trust me when I say that it wasn't too long ago that I was in the exact same position as you. You will be challenged, you will be called on to represent students, and you may feel lost at times. My advice to you is embrace it! Students' Council is a place for all of us to learn, grow, and push our boundaries as leaders, make the most of it and ask a lot of questions!

If you ever want to chat I'm always an email away, so please don't hesitate to reach out!

Cheers,



Abner Monteiro

Vice President Academic

University of Alberta Students' Union

Abner Monteiro, Vice President Academic

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