

Date: 01/06/2021

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Academic 2021/22 Report #3

Dear Council,

I hope you are all doing well! These last couple of weeks have been busy, to say the least. Here is a brief breakdown of what I've been up to since our last council meeting:

NomCom Approved Job Postings for SAL Positions

Last week on Thursday, NomCom approved several student-at-large (SAL) job position postings for the following:

- Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee (ARRC)
- Student Group Committee
- University of Alberta Senate
- Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee
- Sustainability and Capital Fund Committee
- Translation Committee

These job postings will be open until June 4th, 2021, and they can also be found [HERE](#) if you want more info on each position. I ask that all of you please share this information with your friends and other groups on campus that you are a part of so that they know about these opportunities!

Met with the Provost, Vice Provost Learning Initiatives, and Vice Provost Programs

I met with Provost, Steve Dew, and Vice Provosts, John Nychka and Tammy Hopper, this week where I got to start some great discussions about my goals for the year. We discussed the implementation of some sort of Credit/Non-Credit Grading System to encourage interdisciplinarity on campus and ways to increase awareness of the Charter of Student Rights and Responsibilities so that students know the rights they have and responsibility they hold when attending the U of A.

Policy Committee Started Renewing Policy

Policy Committee has started to renew policies that are set to expire in April 2022. I'm currently working on the Experiential Learning Policy with Councillors Dhillon, Beasley, and Amer and am excited to see what new ideas we can bring to the policy!

Open Education Alberta Advocacy Group

I had my first meeting with the Open Education Advocacy Group where I met many of my student counterparts and other individuals who are very involved in open education across other post-secondary institutions in Alberta. It was great to hear what other institutions are up to and what areas we as an institution need to advance.

Met with Student Representative Associations (SRAs)

I've gotten the chance now to meet with several SRAs to have introductory meetings, talk about shared and individual goals, and the ways to maintain SU/SRA relationships and communication as we embark on this next academic year. This week I met with the following:

- Medical Students' Association, President
- Law Students' Association, President
- Business Students' Association, President
- Alberta Pharmacy Students' Association, President
- Engineering Students' Society, President
- International Students' Association, VP Academic

I'm looking forward to working with our student leaders and strengthening our relationship going forward. I'll also note that some of these meetings will be between Friday and Students' Council.

Student Evaluation of Teaching and Learning Task Force

Last year the Vice Provost of Learning Initiatives, John Nychka, struck a task force to look at the student evaluation of teaching and learning. Much of the work of this task force looked at the USRIs and improving their functionality and reporting system for students and faculty. I was privileged to sit on this task force alongside David Draper (past SU VPA), and that work has now carried over into this term. We wrapped up last week when the task force completed our draft report/recommendations which will be coming to GFC in the fall. I have fought hard to ensure students continue to have a strong avenue to shape their learning in the classroom and can see their feedback acknowledged and hopefully implemented in the course they are taking.

Action Items

- I am meeting with the Office of the Registrar today (Friday) to get an update on the Zero Textbook Cost Signifier Program that Councillor Batycki inquired about at the last meeting. I should have an update for Council on Tuesday.

The Grand Finale

Now for the moment you have all been waiting for... I came across this picture the other day of Smarty, my assistant who was sleeping on the job and apparently thought that was ok. You know those naps where you wake up and have no idea what planet you're on or what is happening? It was pretty clear that this particular one JUST HIT DIFFERENT...



I hope you found this report interesting and informative! As always, if you ever want to chat please don't hesitate to reach out.

Cheers,

Abner Monteiro
Vice President Academic
University of Alberta Students' Union