

Date: 05/30/2019

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Academic 2019/20 Report #3

Dear Council,

I am back from the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) Conference in Dublin where there were some important sessions and discussions had. There were university presidents and representatives from approximately 20 major research intensive universities from across the globe, and this year for the first time - student representatives. It was an incredible opportunity to collaborate with other institutions, and student associations and discuss some of the major issues common to us all. There were sessions on tuition, undergraduate research, liberal education, mental health and others. It was quite interesting to notice overall how great of an institution the University of Alberta is, and how we as a Students' Union do an incredible job - though there are still many areas that need work. As the week ended - we as the WUN student delegates worked on a document which is still in the making - that will be presented to the presidents of all the universities, with the intention of actualizing change on campuses.



I was able to attend Edmonton's Economic Future conference on Monday, where I was the only student representative among some influential business owners, city councillors and others. I was able to press into the importance of Work Integrated Learning (WIL) for students at postsecondary institutions, as a priority. This will hopefully influence some of the work that the government is doing - and I know Vice President Brown is working on this topic as well. This was also discussed at GFC on Monday. The proposed international strategic plan was discussed and I am excited to see that work-integrated learning is specifically addressed for

Joel Agarwal, Vice President Academic

2-900 SUB | 780 492 4241 | vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca

international students. We already know that international students have a higher-than-average desire for work-integrated learning, but far lower-than-average access to opportunities and participation rates - so it is great that this is a priority.

The free expression working group met to discuss timelines, consultation pathways as well as how we aim to proceed over the next months. As you may be aware, the new government may be mandating mandatory free expression policies for all post secondary institutions, and the University of Alberta is hoping to work on this preemptively instead of doing so by force. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this important issue - as such policies and statements are inevitable and will happen.

We are planning a research event for one or two days - so if you are interested in the importance of undergraduate research, and willing to be part of a brainstorming discussion session in the next few weeks, please let me know. I have already received interested from some Councillors.

I'm always willing to meet up for coffee or to chat with yall - just send me an email and I'd be more than happy to grind that grain.

Other than that - I am away this weekend for a wedding in Oklahoma which I am excited for.

Cheers,



University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President Academic
Joel Agarwal