

April 12, 2017

Dear Council,

I hope everyone is having a great last few weeks of their semester. This will be my last council report as your VP Academic. It has been an absolute pleasure to serve with you all this year on UASU Students' Council. I am thrilled that many of you will be returning next year as councillors, and for those moving on to other endeavours, I wish you all the best! I will likely be using the live stream to attend our meeting on Tuesday as I will be out of town at the time. I am humbled to announce that I am being sponsored to represent University of Alberta students at the honorary citizenship ceremony for Malala Yousafzai, a globally known human rights activist. This ceremony is through the Government of Canada and takes place in Ottawa. Malala is an inspiration to many young women, including myself, and I am thrilled to be in attendance for this important moment of Canadian history.

1. Projects

Interdisciplinary Learning

I am pleased to say that the report highlighting the conversations held at the Interdisciplinary Conference is now complete! Please find it included in these order papers.

2. Meetings & Committees

Student Governance

This past week I have chaired all the various Council of Faculty Association meetings for the last time. In them I inquired about how their faculties are responding to budget announcements, how their transitions are going, as well as what could be improved with COFA next year. I was pleased that my successor, Shane, was able to attend and got a lot of value out of observing. I also attended the Political Science Undergraduate Association elections which was very fun! I was involved with that department association for several years, so it is great to see the growth of the organization and what it has been able to accomplish. Lastly, Rebecca Taylor and I attended a FaUNA (Faculty Association for ALES) executive meeting to touch base with their organization. They were able to fill all but one of their executive positions in their elections, and we chatting about how the SU supports FA's as well as by-elections.

CAUS

The majority of my time this week was spent attending the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS) Advocacy Week. It was a great experience! Not only was I able to meet and bond with incoming SU executives in other universities, but we had very productive meetings with a number of MLA's and Ministers about post secondary education. You can check out the #AdvoWeek on twitter if you would like to get a glimpse of some of the meetings we attended!

4. Other Exciting Endeavours

Service Corridor Tour

The executive and I were able to get a tour of the UAlberta Service Corridor. It was very neat. Basically it is the plant that heats and cools our buildings. It is awesome that the UofA uses this efficient energy source. This is a topic I did not know much about, so I learnt a lot.

SAMU Ground Breaking

This Friday I will be joining the rest of the UASU executive in supporting our friends south of the river! The Students' Association at Macewan University (SAMU) will be having a ground breaking ceremony as they are able to build their own students association building! This is very exciting and we are happy to celebrate their success with them.

Thank you for reading this report and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Marina Banister