

August 9, 2016

Dear Council,

I hope you are all having a fantastic start to August! Here is a snapshot of my duties to date:

1. GovWeek

The applications to register an event or facilitate a session for GovWeek have now closed! I am thrilled by the amount of interest we have received and will announce the final application number in my oral report at Council. I am also currently working to finalize the “Diversity in Governance” panel series I am hosting throughout the week. The next steps are to sort through all the applications, contact the applicants, and schedule the GovWeek calendar. Thank you to all those who applied and helped spread the word!

2. Meetings & Committees

COFA

COFA has not met since our last Council meeting, however I did send them the first principles of the Bylaw regarding defining Department Associations. I have not received any feedback outside when we discussed at COFA last, however will inform council of any further feedback I received in my oral update.

Vacancies

The Students' Union is recruiting students to sit on the SUB Advisory Committee! This committee will work with the Vice-President Operations & Finance to provide strategic direction for various initiatives regarding SUB. Applicants can apply directly here <https://goo.gl/forms/dad43jld1q2Hxt5T2>.

Interdisciplinary Meetings

I have been meeting with many University stakeholders on the possibility of a future conference hosted at the University of Alberta Students' Union on undergraduate interdisciplinary program options. These meetings have been very positive! As a follow up, the SU has been developing research on the existing landscape of interdisciplinary learning at the UofA as well as a conference proposal.

Department Association Meetings

Many Faculties and students have expressed interest to me in strengthening or creating more Department Associations! I have been speaking regularly and answering questions for the Business Students Association as well as students in the Department of Biology about the future potential for Department Associations.

Meeting with the Registrar

The executive and I met with people from the Office of the Registrar last week. It was an exciting meeting where we went over some of our goals for the upcoming year. I was excited to hear they had interest in learning more about the proposed interdisciplinary conference and I will be setting up a follow up meeting to discuss that file more specifically.

Marina Banister, Vice President Academic

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4. Other Exciting Endeavours

CTL

I attend a keynote speaker brought in for the CTL Symposium by the Centre for Teaching and Learning at the UofA. It was very interesting to hear from Sue Bloxham on her attitudes towards on improving student assessment to be valid, fair, and transparent. I agreed with her sentiments that moving towards a more learning outcomes model of education would help with comparable and consistent assessment methods. Councillor Angus, ISSS representative Yidi, and myself also spoke at a panel for new professors hosted by CTL last week! It was a great experience and the new professors very much enjoyed the students thoughts on what made for an excellent professor.

City of Edmonton Youth Council

Last week was my last meeting as Chair of the City of Edmonton Youth Council. I still have a few more duties to finish in my capacity with the City however the bulk of my responsibility has concluded. I have learned so much from my time with the CEYC that I am sad to see it end. However, the CEYC and Council consistently reminds me how the future of our City is in good hands.

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

Marina Banister