

Date: 30/6/2020

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Academic 2020/21 Report #5

Dear Council,

It's been a busy two weeks! Check out my report for an outline of what the past two weeks have been like for me, but don't hesitate to ask me any questions if you want more information!

Updates to previous questions

- I did not receive any questions at the previous council meeting which require additional information.

UASU Nom Com

- The UASU Nominating Committee met and have brought forward nominees for ratification for the Student Group Committee and the Sustainability Committee. Currently we are in the interview process for the Senate. The Applications for the Sustainability and Capital Fund Committee as well as the EDI Taskforce are up! At our last meeting the Nominating Committee also had a guest speaker, Dr. Dia Da Costa the Associate Director of the Intersections of Gender signature area of focus at the U of A! Dr. Da Costa gave the committee a lot of advice on the role the we can play in combating structural racism and how to operationalize the committee's commitment to EDI in the work that we do.

GFC Meeting

- The General Faculty Council met last monday and by extension the GFC Student Caucus met the friday before. Of important note in the meeting is the ratification of the new student member for the faculty of Pharmacy, the approval of the Academic restructuring guiding principles, and issues with GFC members being muted during their speaking turns. This was also the last meeting of GFC for President David Turpin, his term comes to an end on July 1st when the new President Bill Flanagan will take over!

Meeting with provosts

- I had a great meeting with Tammy Hopper and John Nychka this week. We discussed information surrounding OERs, Experiential Learning, joint surveys and online education best practices. This is a part of my monthly meetings with them, which i have found to be very helpful in shaping the way the fall semester is looking.

Public Health Response Team

- The Public Health Response team meeting on Wednesday morning was spent discussing how to encourage best practices for online education, the duty to accommodate students, academic freedom, and the merits of asynchronous course delivery! A lot of great ideas and discussion at this meeting.

1-1 meetings with FA presidents

- I have booked one on one meetings with the president of every Faculty Association to go over their goals for the year as well as to figure out how we can best support each other. I have been keeping track of shared and unique concerns that FAs have brought to me and am working with the relevant parties to address these concerns.

GFC ASC

- This was the last scheduled meeting of GFC ASC, as come the fall the committee has been folded into the new GFC Programs Committee. Here I asked questions surrounding assessment guidelines for

classes which receive exceptions to take place in person, and if assessments will also take place in person for those classes.

A Day In The Life

- On wednesday the 24th I did an Instagram takeover for the UASUExecutive page! Sharing a day in the life of your VPA! It was a really fun experience and i'm looking forward to sharing my work days more in the future!

Student Life Group

- The Student Life Group met twice this week! We talked about the transition and preparation of some of our services for the fall. There are some very creative solutions coming from our individual services and after these meetings I grow more confident in our abilities to not only maintain service quality but to excel.

Personal life Update

- This meeting is sadly the end of pride month. Although there were no formal celebrations in the form of parades or festivals, the spirit of pride is strong across the world in the protests against injustice by our society. My first report during pride month showcased the importance of solidarity and protest, and I hope this one serves to remind you all that the work is not finished, and even though pride month is coming to an end, we must continue our commitment to building a society as inclusive, equitable, and diverse as possible.
- In other news, i have finished my project of retrofitting my drumset in order to have it be as quiet as possible so i can still practice in my apartment. The process has included purchasing mesh drum heads, and special cymbal mutes in order to reduce the sound coming from the drums directly to the point wherein it is possible for my partner to watch tv in the same room as I play, as well as the acquisition of a drum riser. This riser works to absorb any vibrations that may come from the pedals and diffuse them so that the apartment below doesn't hear a thing. Overall this project turned out better than expected and I am very excited to be able to return to practicing the instrument I have spent over half of my life playing, especially in a way that removes any possible inconvenience for my neighbours!

Remember, don't ever hesitate to reach out to me if you want to chat or have any questions!

All the best,

David Draper

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University of Alberta Students' Union Vice President Academic