

Date: 02/08/2022

To: Students' Union Council

Re: Vice President Academic 2021/22 Report #20

Dear Council,

I hope you are all doing well. Below are my updates for the past two weeks:

GFC, Online Learning Concerns, and Next Steps

Student Leaders flooded GFC question period on January 31st with questions about students' concerns with online learning this semester. We received fantastic engagement from the Student Caucus to help pressure the University to address our concerns.

After weeks of students sharing their online learning concerns via email and social media, the UASU conducted a survey to confirm many of the problems students have raised and build a unified response to bring to the University Administration. This process was initiated at GFC when we circulated the Online Learning Survey Report to all GFC members and asked several questions during the question period. The response we received from the Provost at GFC confirmed that many of the issues that persisted last year during online learning weren't resolved even though there was an understanding and commitment that they would be. Student leaders and students are justified in their frustration with how the university has handled online learning this time around.

The UASU released a [list of demands](#) to address many of the most significant online learning concerns. Our demands have gotten considerable traction with students, faculty, senior administration, and external media. I have numerous meetings scheduled with the University to discuss the demands and find a path forward. I will be continuing to put pressure on the university to address these issues until the university responds with action.

If any students would like to get involved and has an issue in one of their classes, please have them follow this process:

- Bring their concern up with their instructor.
- If their instructor doesn't address the issue, then bring the concern up with their Association Dean/Chair Undergraduate in their faculty.
- If their AD/AC Undergraduate doesn't address the issue, bring the concern to their Dean.
- Students can also reach out to me at any point and let me know about what is happening. I am happy to help them navigate through their specific situation. It is crucial that when students share their concerns with me and their faculty and me convey which class the problem is occurring in so that we can address it as quickly as possible.

Alberta Student Leadership Summit

At the end of January, VP Fotang and I did a presentation at ASLS about our experiences with leading through challenging times and what we think are some of the most valuable lessons we have learned. ASLS has recordings of all the sessions, so if you are interested in viewing any of the sessions, you can see them [HERE](#).

FURCA Sponsorship

One of the elements of my platform that is important to me is undergraduate research. This year, the UASU will be continuing to sponsor four awards (\$250 each) at the Festival of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (FURCA) to show our commitment to supporting student research and other creative endeavours at the U of A. The specific category we sponsor is "Outstanding Communication," which recognizes students who can best communicate the results and impact of their research to an interdisciplinary audience.

Exploration Credits

The Exploration Credits Proposal is scheduled to come to GFC for final approval on February 28th!

Spicy Goma

Since I love to cook and of my favourite foods is ramen, I decided to take matters into my own hands and recreate my favourite ramen recipe at home! This is my take on the Goma Goma from Tokiwa.



Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abner Monteiro'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Abner Monteiro

Vice President Academic
University of Alberta Students' Union