



Office of the VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

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Monthly Report - November, 2017

Contribution Hours:
148.5

- CAUS Counterpart Meeting
- Mental Health Week
- Grade Appeals
- Student Speaker Challenge Planning
- #TextbookBrokeAB Planning

CAUS Counterpart Meeting

From November 5th-7th we were able to visit our CAUS counterparts in Edmonton for our second counterpart meeting. This meeting was particularly beneficial for me because I was able to make time with the other Vice-President Academics in order to start planning the #TextbookBrokeAB campaign that all five CAUS schools will be hosting come this January.

This meeting consisted of a round table with all executives, for which we addressed issues such as international student tuition, reconciliation, and many other topics. As alluded to earlier I was also able to meet with all of the other VP Academics to plan events, and build off of each other's ideas. It was really productive, and we planned the #TextbookBrokeAB campaign. We also had a presentation from Shane Scott, the VP Academic about diversity in university student union elections.

While in Edmonton, we also had the opportunity to attend Question Period at the Alberta Legislature, and were introduced by Dr. Swan, the Member of the Legislative assembly of Alberta for Calgary-Mountain View, and member of the Liberal party.

Mental Health Week

Mental Health Week this semester took place from November 20th to 24th. The most notable aspect of the week were the "Calm Cafés" that we ran in conjunction with the Student Success Center from the Tuesday to Thursday. We continued to host "Calm Cafes" until Friday however, for the last day we collaborated with the Smash Bros Club. These took place in the UHall atrium and were relatively easy to execute, drawing in a large amount of people each day. We had board games, coloring pages, coffee and snacks to keep students engaged while visiting. Other aspects of the week included a Comedy Night and Art Therapy Night. All of the events were very well attended.



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Grade Appeals

I have been quite busy this month dealing with student grade appeals, spanning across nearly all faculties and nearly all levels of formal appeal process. As these individual cases are highly confidential, I'm unable to go into specific detail regarding each one. Since November isn't a time when grade appeals actually occur, I simply explained to students the process of a grade appeal.

Student Speaker Challenge Planning

Planning for this year's Student Speaker Challenge is now underway, seems to be going quite well. The event is essentially completed planned out, there are just some minute details that need to be worked on as well as contacting individuals who may be interested in judging or speaking at the event.

#TextbookbrokeAB Planning

The ULSU alongside the Students' Unions from four other Alberta Universities (the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, Grant MacEwan University, and Mount Royal University) is going to run a #TextbookbrokeAB campaign in January. The intention of the campaign will be to create awareness around around on-the-rise textbook prices, as well as to promote Open Education Resources as alternatives to the traditional practice. I have been slowly planning this campaign and I hope to have everything ready to go for January very soon.



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Committees/Meetings, etc., attended in November:

GFC Library – November 29th
Student Speaker Challenge Planning Meeting- November 28th
GFC Academic Quality Assurance – November 28th
Conference Call with other VPAs for #Textbookbroke- November 27th
Student Fee Review- November 24th
ULSU General Assembly Meeting- November 23rd
GFC Curriculum Coordinating Committee- November 22nd
Meeting with AVP Leadership Team- November 10th
Poverty on Campus Presentation- November 10th
General Faculties Council – November 6th
CAUS Counterpart Conference- November 5th-7th
Annual Academic Timetabling- November 2nd
Teaching Center Advisory Council- November 24th
Arts & Science Executive Council – November 3rd
Executive Council Meeting- November 1st, 9th
7 Cups Planning Meeting- November 1st
Various Appeal Consultations

Thank you, and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding this report.

Sincerely,

Sandeep Parmar
Vice-President Academic