



MID-TERM REPORT

Office of Vice President Academic

Shannon Humphrey

savpa@rdc.ab.ca

403-356-4971

Executive Summary

May 1, 2020 the executive team dove in head first to what is shaping up to be a very interesting year with a much different structure than those previous. Stepping into the role of Vice President Academic in the middle of a partial lockdown has been a whirlwind of learning not only a new role but also a new social structure with a completely new set of social norms. The face of post-secondary education as we know is changing. The speed at which these changes occur require a great deal of adaptability and shrewdness from all. It has been quite the adventure with many challenges and successes. I am proud to say that SA RDC is one of the only post-secondary student lead organizations that has a full council and executives as well as staff with in person office hours. Being on campus and working as a team has help us to navigate many of the challenges we face smoothly and in a timely manner. We are very fortunate have such a fantastic and dedicated team and even more fortunate to have had the opportunity and time to build trust in each other and develop very strong working relationships within Red Deer College.

The summer saw many opportunities for team bonding, training, and professional development. The work we have done to train our team and develop our skillset has been essential to our success as student leaders. I am proud to say that the SA RDC team is one of the most vocal and well-prepared teams of student leaders in the province. I feel this training structure and the resources available speak to hard work put into succession planning by previous executive council to ensure their successors thrive.

As a team, we have been working hard to ensure students have the best possible learning experience during this unprecedented time. My goals, specific activities, and workload are detailed below. From involvement on committees both at RDC and for our provincial advocacy group, ASEC, to meeting with students, addressing concerns, and working with various departments at RDC to advocate on behalf of students, it has been a very busy 6 months. I look forward to what the next 6 months bring and continuing on the work of this team and those who came before us.

Vice President Academic and Member Engagement Committee Goals

On June 15, 2020, Executive Council met to discuss and draft their goals for the upcoming year. The purpose of drafting goals is to ensure Executives remain accountable to the members, stay on task, and leave a long-lasting impact for future students.

Goals are the high level tasks that the corresponding Executive will undertake to achieve the Association’s mission and the measure of success are the tangible metrics that we have in place to know that the Executives are on track in completing their goal.

GOAL	MEASURE OF SUCCESS	LEAD
<p>Advocate for increase diversity of language program offerings</p>	<p>One or all of the languages are offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate French • Beginner Spanish • ASL move into credit to ensure students are able to sue their grants/student loans • Introduction to Indigenous Language (History or Anthropology course) 	<p>VP Academic, 1 year.</p> <p>Progress: Ongoing – Currently engaging in research on best practices and program offerings in Alberta. Some of the Indigenous languages will fall under the collaborative work with Indigenous Student services in our Indigenous Student Space Project.</p> <p>To Do: Meet with associate deans and VPA’s to discuss the value of language programming to their specific program areas.</p> <p>Meet with Continuing Education to discuss the current ASL courses and funding available.</p> <p>Create a proposal and best practices document for moving forward.</p>

<p>Assist in transition of students to online learning in terms of accessing resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness and educate students on the current resources available to them regardless whether they are on campus or online. • Advocate for additional resources to ensure students are academically successful regardless whether they are on campus or online. • Students who add value and want to advocate on behalf of students actually participate in College Committees/Councils. 	<p>VP Academic, 1 year</p> <p>Member Engagement Manager</p> <p>Progress: Ongoing – Currently working with Managers of Student Services, Library Services, Disability and Accommodation, the Testing Centre, and the Centre for Teaching and Learning to address this. I have also met with Marketing, IT services, and the Blackboard administrator to discuss the capacities for communicating with students. Currently we are trying to convince the institution to move away from communication through the loop. I believe the longer we remain in an online environment, the more supports and capacities are going to be not only needed but demanded.</p>
<p>Increase awareness on the value of academic council and committees.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students who add value and want to advocate on behalf of students actually participate in College Committees/Councils. • Collaborate with VP CW in increasing program specific clubs. 	<p>VP Academic, 1 year</p> <p>Member Engagement Manager</p> <p>Progress: Ongoing – we have promoted volunteer opportunities through our social media channels and have filled 7/8 spots on academic council. Currently I am working with committee chairs to develop a student engagement strategy and determine which committees and sub-committees</p>

		<p>students can sit on as well as the eligibility criteria. I have upcoming meeting with the Research Commons Manager, Michelle, to further discuss student engagement and involvement from a more academic standpoint</p>
<p>Increase membership engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of followers and overall engagement (numbers of reach) in social media. • Get 15% voter turnout for General Election. • Maintain 11 active student groups in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic. 	<p>VP Community & Wellness, 1 year and continuous.</p> <p>Membership Engagement Committee and Member Engagement Manager</p> <p>Progress: Ongoing – this has been taken over by our Member Engagement Manager. No elections have occurred and voter turnout will not be measurable until our election for the next academic year takes place. The SARDC Social media following has increased since Sept. 1, 2020. On Facebook we have gained 166 followers and on Instagram 321 followers. We have been made aware of 3 active student groups and received 7 individual inquiries about student groups. Some student groups may be “operating” on their own or keeping students in the loop but have not formalized their operations with the SA.</p>
<p>Collaborate with International Student Services to ensure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in engagement with international students. 	<p>VP Community & Wellness, 1 year and continuous.</p> <p>Membership Engagement Committee and Member</p>

<p>international students feel welcomed, supported, and fully aware of the services the Students' Association offer.</p>		<p>Engagement Manager</p> <p>Progress: Ongoing – this is a collaborative effort between all executive members and staff. Currently the discussions on this revolve around how to best support international students in the online environment and how to help them navigating relocating to Central Alberta when the time comes or maintaining their student visas until their studies are complete. There have been additional conversations regarding a community mentorship program that may be more in the forefront during wither semester due to requests from different community organizations for mentorship roles in the community.</p>
<p>Collaborate with Indigenous Students Services to ensure indigenous students feel supported and fully aware of the services the Students' Association offers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in engagement with indigenous students. • Collaborative events with Indigenous Student Services and the community organizations such as the Red Deer Native Friendship Society. • A recognized Students' Association indigenous students group. 	<p>VP Community & Wellness</p> <p>Membership Engagement Committee and Member Engagement Manager</p> <p>Progress: Ongoing – currently we are collaborating with Indigenous Student Services and Community Relations on an initiative identifying short term, medium term, and long-term goals for indigenization on campus. This includes the creation of safe spaces on campus as well as culturally relevant spaces for things like ceremony to take place on</p>

		<p>campus. We have created a working group, identified stakeholders, and are in the consultation process for a formal proposal. We are in the second round of consultation for this project and all involved are very excited and engaged.</p>
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Work Plan Update

Progress of work is as follows:

Ongoing:

- Advocate for student accommodations to be met and clarify available options
 - Paper tests
 - Availability of Profs during exams
- Lockdown browser research re: privacy issues
- Academic Appeals Process for School of Education re: Acting Dean
- Attend and participate in all committee or sub-committee meetings including:
 - Academic Policy
 - Curriculum
 - Academic Relaunch
 - Disability and Accommodation
 - International
 - Campus Store Advisory
 - Research and Scholarly Activity

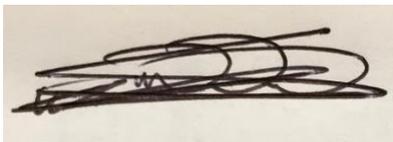
In Progress:

- Identify committees or sub-committees that students at large or members of council can sit on and create a backgrounder or recruitment strategy to engage students
 - Include requirements, experience, time commitment, etc. – **ONGOING**
(TOR's are currently in the process of being updated)
- Research best practices and benchmarks for:
 - Open Educational Resources
 - Reach out to ASEC – **DONE**
 - Language Programming
 - Go through emails between Ester and Janelle to see if I can find language program offerings at other schools **DONE**
 - Reach out to ASEC **DONE**
 - RDC historical evidence
 - Identify or create funding opportunities to make American Sign Language more accessible to all students

- Indigenization on Campus
 - Treaty Flags and Indigenous Ceremonial Presence and Visibility on Campus - **ONGOING (Participate in the Indigenous Student Spaces Working Group)**
 - Reach out to Lloyd in Indigenous Student Services **DONE**
 - Reach out the Red Deer Native friendship center, urban aboriginal voices society, and local elders. **ONGOING**
 - Price out flags, poles, and accessories **DONE**

Complete:

- Recruit and fill Academic Council Student Caucus – currently we have 1 vacancy
 - Ensure our academic appeals roster is full at all times and all members are trained via training video of Torban.
 - Build training module for incoming members to be delivered August 13 – **Rather than doing a training session during our first student caucus meeting we had a round table discussion to provide clarification and guidance on anything members had questions on. The training piece is happening as an ongoing process at the Academic Council level. I have found this discussion-based model more engaging than a training-based model. To increase engagement, I am recommending a small learning module be created for new members of Academic Council to complete prior to their first meeting. This will not be exclusive to the student caucus.**



Shannon Humphrey, BBA (They/Them/Theirs/She/Her)

Vice President Academic

403-356-4980 (p) 403-347-8510 (f)

100 College Boulevard, Box 5005, Red Deer, AB T4N 5H5

Red Deer College recognizes that our campus is situated on Treaty 7 land, the traditional territory of the Blackfoot, Tsuu T'ina and Stoney Nakoda peoples, and that the central Alberta region we serve falls under Treaty 6, traditional Métis, Cree and Saulteaux territory. We honour the First Peoples who have lived here since time immemorial, and we give thanks for the land where RDC sits. This is where we will strive to honour and transform our relationships with one another.