

2022

MID-YEAR REPORT

Savannah Snow
President



Executive Summary

I am so happy to be back for a second term as President! Being back on campus and able to engage with students is amazing and not something I will take for granted!

This year has been quite busy and I am proud of the work I have to show for all of this. My goals are going well for the most part, with some hiccups and delayed work – to be expected. A full breakdown of my workplan and progress can be found in this report.

I'd like to take a moment to highlight mental health supports. November is a hard month – your exams and group projects are beginning to ramp up, the snow has fallen, and seasonal depression begins to set in. I am aware that counselling services is backed up and we are looking at upwards of three week wait times. We are working on it with senior administration to figure out how to better support the students. In the meantime, I would like to remind all of you about mywellness – an online counselling tool that we provide to you. You do not have to be on our health and dental plan to access mywellness! You can go to our website, navigate to the health and dental page, and click the mywellness portal. You will reach a paywall – it is around \$50-\$75 for a session and they will provide you with a receipt to send to your healthcare provider for remittance. Mywellness is available 24/7 and the turnaround to get an appointment is usually same day. If you are struggling, please don't suffer alone!

On the topic of mental health, the issue of food insecurity is also paramount. We are seeing unprecedented usage of the food bank by students and are working to make sure this is a sustainable service. We have turned to the institution for help and are happy to say that they are supporting us in whatever ways they can. The way the faculty and staff have pulled together to support us has been incredible. We are very grateful for all of the help that we have received.

Thank you all for your continued support of the Students' Association. Being able to support you all through your academic journey and create positive change for future students is what gets me out of bed in the morning. Best of luck as we enter finals season! You got this!

Savannah Snow, President

Report

GOAL	TACTIC	OUTCOME	PROGRESS
Promote wholistic wellbeing to build a safe community	Establish a Peer Support Program for buddies for events and outreach	Partnerships agreement with counselling for supervised training Introduce a pilot program	Partnership agreement reached, have been added to an ongoing initiative that we are applying for funding for
	Develop a non-abstinence-based drug education program covering safe use, withdrawals, and overdoses	Count clicks and viewers on the podcast ~50 in the pilot year Have commitment from interviewees	Partnership struck with Turning Point First episode completed, posted on RSS and working on putting on Spotify Featured on Recovery on Campus's social media for December
	Engage in activities that benefit the students and increase SA visibility	Increase interest and participation in Students' Association events Increase Council involvement and retention	Limited turnover in Council Nearly full participation since September Attended multiple institutional and external community events to promote the SA, including Residence Move-In, New Student Orientation, Palate, Open House, Pride in the Park, Red Deer City's Anti-Racism Campaign, and Long Night Against Procrastination
Continuously advocate for EDII	Advocate for Indigenous Student Space	RDP's Board of Governors treats external Indigenous organizations and community Elders as partners	Ensured that Indigenous Elders were included on the ownership linkage plan for the Board of Governors

		Get a commitment to build an Indigenous Student Space	Wrote a support letter to apply for a grant to fund an on-campus medicine garden
	Advocate for the adoption of OERs provincially	Commitment to implement an OER strategy	Joined the Alberta OER Group Designed and ran the AB Textbook broke campaign provincially. We had 95 respondents. The second leg of the campaign will run in January
	Support inclusivity measures internally set by VP Academic to set an example to the institution	All Councilors and staff are provided with training focused on Reconciliation	A free Indigenous education course was provided to Councilors Supported adding land acknowledgements to the Council agenda Supported adding pronouns to the Council meeting placards
Improve Councilor retention and increase awareness and interest in Executive positions	Develop report assessments for Councilors to give feedback on Executive Council reports	Satisfaction of ~80% from Councilors on reports	No movement yet, am hoping to have the assessment ready for our last meeting in December
	Organize recruitment tables with Executives and Councilors for visibility	Peak interest of students asking about elections, students are informed	Promoted the byelection Have not needed to do much work here as Council has been mostly full for the term. Majority of this work will happen in the Winter semester as we prepare for the general elections
	Host town halls for potential candidates to submit questions to	~50 students in attendance, 100+	This tactic will begin work in January

	sitting Executives and Councilors	organic views on social media platforms	
Increase SARDP presence within provincial and federal political landscape	Take an active role within Alberta Students' Executive Council	Get elected as a Board member Meet with around ~50 politicians and attempt to influence	I was elected Board Chair in June, but was forced by their membership to resign alongside my Board on October 14 th . This tactic is no longer viable. I have offered my support to the newly elected Board and the current Chair does rely on me for advice and support
	Take an active role in the Federal Student Advocacy Alliance	Engage with ~40 MPs and Senators	Did not get elected as the FSAA representative. I had stepped in as acting Executive Director for a short period in October but am no longer needed with the new Board. We are unsure if federal advocacy week will go forward in February. This tactic may no longer be viable
	Support Get out the Vote Campaign	Collect ~1000 pledges from RDP	We are working with the Council of Alberta University Students to determine the viability of us joining their campaign. They have invested in a pledge collection software. Regardless, this campaign will go forward as planned.

Committees, Working Groups, Councils

- Bylaw Amendment and Review Committee – Chair
- Student Well-Being Working Group – SA representative
- Board of Governors – Student representative
- Student Success Planning: Modernization of Spaces – SA representative
- Academic Policy Committee – SA representative
- Curriculum Committee – SA representative
- OER Champions – SA representative
- Academic Council – Vice Chair (completed October), student member
- Palate Planning Committee – SA representative (completed)
- Alumni Association – SA representative (completed)
- Alberta OER Group – RDP representative
- Symbols and Traditions Project – SA representative (completed)