

2022

MID-YEAR REPORT

Erin Bast
Vice President External



Executive Summary

I am excited to be newly elected to my role as Vice President External at the beginning of October. Thank you to all of you that voted me into this position, my hope is to make you all proud.

Although my time has been short, I feel as though I am taking all the right steps in not only achieving the points from my platform when I ran for VP External, which were mental health supports for students and volunteer and employment opportunities, but also looking out for students and advocating for their wellbeing.

Mental Health is so important to me, and I am from a generation where Mental Health was to be sucked up and shoved deep down. There are so many opportunities for students to achieve and maintain good mental health, this is so exciting for me and I am here to make the most of those opportunities. My job is to work with what is already in place here at the SA and help it grow, by coming up with new ideas and suggesting other avenues when certain ways don't seem to be working for students any longer.

We are in a post-secondary world where it's more difficult to support ourselves, the SA Food Bank is suffering, and we are feeling that pain. Getting the word out and working with RDP to make food bank bins more accessible has been Part 1. I have more things in the works when it comes to helping students in the ever-growing cost of living, so stay tuned.

I look forward to serving you all in the days and months to come.

Erin Bast, Vice President External

Report

GOAL	TACTIC	OUTCOME	PROGRESS
<i>Expand opportunities for student to successfully prepare for the workforce, gain direction for their career, and obtain meaningful employment</i>	Volunteer opportunities available on the SA website	I met with a lot of folks during the volunteer expo at the forum last week and spoke to them about group and individual opportunities	Will be meeting with Liz and Jessica in December to roll out our design and ideas for the SA Volunteer webpage
	Dress for success	SA will be hosting an event with CEED colab	Meeting with Jessica and Hannah (CEED)
<i>Enhance student experience, well-being, ability to thrive at Red Deer Polytechnic</i>	Future winter term Mental Health Pop-Up Events	Met with Jessica and Linnea	Booked a number of recurring pop-up events that we had this last fall term Came up with a number of new ideas for events and times for events that we will try in the winter term to increase student involvement
	Given go-ahead to have 3-4 more Food Bank Bins made	Met with Matthew Zess and Dan Serrasin and discussed placement of SA Food Bank Bins	The big food bank bin that was located in the Loft is now located in the main entrance across from security. If you don't see it there, it has gone on a trip to an event where a member of the SA will be using it to collect donations. We had posters made to have placed in the other food bank bins that are located throughout campus. Going to work with the carpentry trade to have more smaller, lightweight bins created to have place in other locations.

	I attended the School of Arts and Culture Council Meeting where they invited me to promote the SA Food Bank Initiative.	Collected a number of donations that faculty and students brought to the Council Meeting	Connected with the United Way group and discussed possibilities of future colab
	We received word that the wait time to meet with a counsellor through the RDP Counselling Services was over a 3 week wait.	We have spread the word.	I have been invited to be on the hiring committee to hire 2 more Counsellors for the Counselling Services, this takes place on December 9 all day.
	Communicating with Amanda from Rez as well as Elysse and Mahima from International to see what we can arrange for students on campus over the winter break.		Meeting with International Services tomorrow afternoon
<i>Eliminate barriers for accessing post-secondary education</i>	Talking Circle	Been invited to participate in the Talking Circle with Brenda from Counselling Services	Meeting with Jessica, Brenda, Talitha at the end of the week to discuss schedule and SA involvement.
	I hosted the National Stress Awareness Day Event	Volunteered with Counselling Services	Since it was such a great turn out considering there was a blizzard, I realized that we should be hosting more events in this fashion (at the Forum for a few hours) to increase student participation. This in turn will increase student education on the subject matter being presented.

Committees, Working Groups, Councils

- Mental Health Committee – Chair
- Honorary Degree Subcommittee – SA representative
- Student Awards Advisory Committee – SA representative
- Student Homelessness Project – SA representative
- Bylaw Amendment and Review Committee – SA representative
- Student Well-Being Working Group – SA representative
- Academic Policy Committee – SA representative
- Curriculum Committee – SA representative
- Academic Council – SA representative
- Alumni Association – SA representative