

**Notes of the Fourth  
SARDP 2025-2026 Council Meeting  
September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Attendance:**

Nicholas Baker – Councillor  
Marie Eveangelista – Asst. Executive Director  
Lyan Fajardo – Councillor  
Samuel Johannson – Vice President External  
Yiri Olueh-Matimi – Councillor

Jacq Patterson – President  
Elizabeth Sweiger – Executive Director  
Anne Marie Watson – Chairperson  
Eli Wolters – Vice President Academic  
Marian Young – Secretary

**Absent with Notice:**

Bridget Anderson – Councillor  
Esther Owolagba – Councillor

Councillor Olueh-Matimi arrived at 6:14pm  
President Patterson left at 6:18pm, returned at  
6:21pm

**Absent without Notice:**

Criselda Co – Councillor

As quorum was not reached during this meeting, no formal business could be conducted.

**4.0 Call to Order**

The meeting was Called to Order at 6:31

**4.1 Land Acknowledgment – Councillor Baker**

**4.2 Council and Academic Council Vacancy Interviews**

**4.3 Meeting Minutes - Discussed only**

4.3.1 2025-2026 Council Meeting Minutes #3

4.3.2 2025-2026 Executive Council Meeting Minutes #9 - 10

**4.4 Executive Council Reports - Discussed only**

4.4.1 Executive Council Reports\*

Vice President Academic – E. Wolters

Vice President External – S. Johannson

Executive Director – E. Sweiger

\* President Patterson does not have a report as she was out of office Aug 7<sup>th</sup> – Aug 27<sup>th</sup>.

**4.5 Information**

4.5.1 Councillor Anderson's Deployment/Leave of Absence

4.5.2 2025 – 2026 Association Council Schedule

4.5.3 September Association Events Calendar

4.5.4 Regional Stewardship: Student Association Questionnaire – SARDP's Answers

4.5.5 ASEC Stampede Advocacy Attendance Cost Breakdown

**4.6 Adjournment**

Meeting ended at 7:17pm


See the signature page for the Notes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

Signature page for the Notes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting



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President Patterson




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Executive Director Sweiger



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Chairperson Watson



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Secretary Young



## **EXECUTIVE REPORT**

### **Vice President Academic's Office**

**July 22<sup>nd</sup> – August 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Days Off (July 25<sup>th</sup>)**

**Meeting with David Eggen (July 28<sup>th</sup>)**

*See VPX Report*

**Consultation on Recognition of Prior Learning and Transfer Credit Policy (July 29<sup>th</sup>)**

*Trish Nuyten (Dean of Enrolment Management and Registrar), Eli Wolters (VPA)*

We met to discuss the proposed policies and procedure, as they are under review, and Trish reached out for feedback. My main concern with the proposed policy, (and the current), is the lack of clarity of what is eligible for a Prior Learning Credit, and what is eligible for Transfer Credit, especially as there is no cost associated with Transfer Credit, unlike Prior Learning Credit. Most of our meeting was discussing the difference, how to clearly show the difference within policy, and offering feedback to ensure the entire policy is clear and understandable for students. As this policy is currently under review, I anticipate this as an agenda item in the upcoming Academic Council Year.

**Advanced Education Roles and Mandates Policy Framework for Alberta's Adult Learning System Questionnaire (July 30<sup>th</sup>)**

*Eli Wolters, Liz Swagger, Sam Johannson, Jacq Patterson, Marian Young*

The Government of Alberta sought our input on Regional Stewardship, a policy direction under the Adult Learning System, as they are assessing the policy direction since changes to the post secondary landscape since 2019. Regional Stewardship refers to institutional leadership and collaboration with adult learning providers, including the collection and sharing of information and knowledge, leveraging resources and building collective capacity and enabling educational access to the full spectrum of learning in Alberta. Specifically, this refers to post-secondary institutions (PSI) that represent the only PSI in their geographical region; these institutions should prioritize their role as regional stewards to meet the diverse learning needs of several different communities. Please see the added information item for our responses.

**Alberta Open Educational Resources Meeting (AB-OER) (July 31<sup>st</sup>)**

*Cancelled due to Summer Holiday*

**Academic Standing Policy & Procedure – Apprenticeship Students (August 7<sup>th</sup>)**

*David Pye (Dean of the School of Trades and Technology), Eli Wolters (VPA)*

I met with Dave to speak about how Apprenticeship Students fit within this policy, and as it is also under review and I was asked to submit feedback on the proposed changes. I am aware of my gap in knowledge of apprenticeship students, and I wanted to ensure I understood the differences between Credit and Apprenticeship students to ensure this proposed policy also protected Apprenticeship students. I learned that Apprenticeship students are almost entirely underneath the Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act (AIT), and as such their academic



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standing, including required to withdraw, is underneath that framework, not RDP policy. The only exception is for the Dean's List & the President's List. I anticipate this Policy & Procedure as agenda items in the upcoming Academic Council year.

#### **Executive Leadership Team and SA Executive Team Meeting (August 7<sup>th</sup>)**

*Eli Wolters (VPA), Sam Johannson (VPX), Jim Brinkhurst (Vice President Finance & Administration & CFO), Stuart Cullum (President of RDP), Laurel Corbiere (Chief of Staff)*

Major discussion items at this meeting included:

- Proposed Healthtech Centre for Applied Learning and Innovation
  - o RDP is seeking a \$4 million investment from the Government of Alberta for planning and stakeholder consultation.
  - o This would support:
    - 1k new healthcare training seats annually,
    - 20k primary care patient visits,
    - The new Red Deer Hospital expansion to be finished in 2030s, which will require an estimated 2k - 3k additional nurses and support staff,
    - 10 new healthcare related programs,
    - Rural Access through Campus Alberta Central, with a focus on Rural and Remote healthcare,
    - On campus work integrated learning opportunities.
- Planning for the Minister McDougall Visit on August 18th, logistics and agenda,
- Informing the Executive Leadership Team of various elected official visits,
- Fall Enrollment
  - o Domestic seems to be trending upwards, International is unknown until first day of classes; likely won't fully see the impact of the Post Graduate Work Permit changes yet.

#### **Days Off (August 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>)**

#### **Orange Shirt Design Contest Winner (August 20<sup>th</sup>)**

*See VPX Report*

#### **SARDP's Staff & Faculty Appreciation Dinner (August 20<sup>th</sup>)**

*Sam Johannson, Eli Wolters, Various SARDP Staff, Various RDP Staff & Faculty*

Sam and I attended this event to thank staff and faculty for their continued support for students, and we assisted the event by directing attendees to food and handing out drink tickets.

#### **Government of Alberta Student Leader Orientation (August 21<sup>st</sup>)**

*Sam Johannson, Eli Wolters, Honourable Myles McDougall (Minister of Advanced Education), Shannon Marchand (Deputy Minister of Advanced Education), Various Other Student Leaders*



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*from Across the Province, ASEC (Alberta's Student Executive Council) and CAUS (Council of Alberta University Students)*

This was a Student Leader Orientation put on by the Government of Alberta, which brings student leaders together from across Alberta's post-secondary system to learn more about the government of Alberta's role in the adult learning system, engage directly with the Minister of Advanced Education, and presentations on various topics affecting students such as, Student Supports, Student Aid, Alberta Transfer System, and Apprenticeship Education. Unfortunately, due to tight scheduling, our questions were very limited after each presentation, usually only allowing for two or three questions total.

It's difficult to cover all the topics covered, but one of the surprising presentations was the Workers Compensation Board of Alberta. I discovered that Students registered in a secondary school are considered workers of the Government of Alberta while they are attending and participating in a work-experience program. I then found out that it's not mandatory for WBC or the institution the student is attending to inform them of their coverage while in a work integrated learning component. Please note this differs for Apprenticeship students as well. Further research into this topic is needed; specifically, how this information is handled within our institution.

#### **Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) & Open Educational Resources (OER) Survey (August 26<sup>th</sup>)** *Andrea Johnston (Librarian), Sona Macnaughton (Librarian), Eli Wolters (VPA)*

This meeting was an update on the ZTC Survey planned in Fall Term, and for general updates regarding ZTC, and OER. Sona confirmed that we will have access to the data, and the survey is tentatively scheduled for September 22 – October 6<sup>th</sup> but will not be confirmed until after the application is accepted.

Sona also shared that she is working on a report with Travis (Office of the Registrar), to accurately calculate ZTC, as the current ZTC report from Kristine (Associate VP, Student Experience), requires manual review of data to remove duplicates (caused by one course having two locations), and to separate lecture/seminar from non-lecture. This must be done as non-lectures should not be marked as ZTC, as the textbook cost is attached to the lecture component, and this can lead students to falsely assume their lecture/lab combination has no textbook cost when registering for courses.

I also asked for information on the previous WIL OER project, and I learned this has been re-planned to take place in Winter 2026. The WIL student would analyze course outlines within an academic year to track textbook vs OER vs no assigned materials, to determine a clearer understanding of actual textbook and OER usage. The current reporting system isn't able to sort for this data. This report would be shared with us when completed and I will continue to receive updates regarding this project as it gets closer to inception.



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### Other Work & Updates:

Completed the Indigenous Canada Course!

Executive Wellbeing is Ongoing

Alberta Open Educational Resources (ABOER) - Cancelled due to Summer Holiday

### WORKPLAN UPDATE:

**Goal 1:** Increase usage of Open Educational Resources (OER) for introductory-level courses.

**Updates** See Above Meeting.

**Goal 2:** Increase awareness and usage of the Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) indicator.

**Updates** I've received some of the requested data: total courses by semester, Fall semester ZTC totals since ZTC's inception. I'm still waiting for Winter Semester ZTC counts, and data from the Campus store. I've begun drafting my ZTC paper as well, but due to the wait for additional data, I will likely miss the September deadline. Also see above meeting for additional notes.

**Goal 3:** Increase awareness of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

**Updates** I've begun researching how other organizations and municipalities have adapted the SDGs to fit within their organization for future SDG Committee meeting.

**Legend:** Progress Neutral At Risk



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**Reporting Period: July 22nd, 2025 – August 29th, 2025**

### **Time Off**

*July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

### **Meeting with MLA David Eggen**

*July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

President Patterson, and Vice President Wolters, and I met virtually with Edmonton-Northwest MLA and critic for Advanced Education David Eggen. We spoke about various topics, including operational grant funding, concerns over funding of private institutions, and the changing landscape of post-secondary in Alberta. We also discussed the specific challenges facing RDP, with recent program closures and RDP's operational deficit being discussed. Mr. Eggen is responsible for holding the Minister of Advanced Education to account, and sharing our perspectives with him allows us to ensure the student perspective is kept in the conversation in the legislature.

### **Meeting with Minister Devin Dreeshen**

*August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025*

President Patterson, Vice President Wolters, and I met in-person with Minister of Transportation and Economic Corridors, and Innisfail-Sylvan Lake MLA Devin Dreeshen at his constituency office. We discussed how RDP serves the Central Albertan region, specifically in the fields of the trades and healthcare. We also spoke about the importance of retaining skilled and educated people in the region. Meeting with the Minister allowed us to share the student perspective on these issues, while also promoting the importance of post-secondary education.

### **ASEC Quotes Survey**

*August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

Our provincial lobby group, the Alberta Students' Executive Council (ASEC) asked its members to provide them with quotes about ASEC's three advocacy priorities (Operational Grant Funding, Food Security, and Mental Health) as they relate to our institution. Myself, Vice President Wolters, and Governance and Student Support Coordinator Young wrote up



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quotes covering all three topics that were then provided to ASEC. These quotes will help us ensure the perspectives of SARDP are present in ASEC's advocacy at the provincial level. I will include the quotes at the bottom of my report.

#### **Meeting with MP Burton Bailey**

*August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

Vice President Wolters and I met with Red Deer MP Burton Bailey in-person. We discussed various issues, including youth unemployment, housing, and affordability. Youth unemployment, particularly in Alberta, has reached highs not seen in many years. We also spoke about how many students with summer jobs may be employed, but in many cases struggle to find full-time work, even if they balance multiple jobs. Housing progress in the Red Deer area was another area of discussion, with Mr. Bailey seeming optimistic about the progress that has been made recently. Another matter we discussed was the costs of practicums, as many students are forced to travel long distances for long periods of time to complete their education. Mr. Bailey seemed open to the idea that students should be able to write off costs associated with practicums. This meeting was a valuable opportunity to connect with our local representatives and was a rare opportunity for federal advocacy.

#### **Meeting with Minister Myles McDougall & Campus Tour**

*August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

Minister of Advanced Education and MLA for Calgary-Fish Creek visited RDP alongside Red Deer-North MLA & Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services Adrianna LaGrange and Red Deer-South MLA Jason Stephan. This is the part of the Minister's goal of visiting every publicly funded post secondary in Alberta. Vice President Wolters and I had a chance for a brief 15-minute meeting with the Minister at the end of his tour. We spoke primarily about operational grant funding with a brief discussion about Open Educational Resources (OERs) near the end. The Minister spoke about the tough economic realities facing Alberta in the near future, noting that provinces around the country were all facing budget crunches.

#### **Orange Shirt Contest Winner Presentation**

*August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

Vice President Wolters and I attended an event where the winner of the Orange Shirt Design contest was recognized. I spoke briefly about the importance of Orange Shirt



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Day/the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This event was a valuable opportunity for us to recognize the importance of truth and reconciliation and demonstrate the Student Association's commitment to it.

#### **FARDP Social**

*August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

President Patterson and I attended a social hosted by the Faculty Association of Red Deer Polytechnic (FARDAP). I spoke briefly about the Students' Association and the various student supports and services we offer, and to encourage faculty to pass this information along to their students during the first weeks of the school year.

#### **Meeting Alberta NDP Leader Naheed Nenshi**

*August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

President Patterson, Vice President Wolters, and I met with Naheed Nenshi, Leader of the Alberta NDP, Leader of the official opposition in Alberta, and MLA for Edmonton-Strathcona in person. We discussed our concerns over operational grant funding and student affordability. This meeting allowed us to share our concerns in further detail with the official opposition.

#### **ASEC Report**

ASEC has had a busy few months preparing for the year ahead. ASEC's advocacy document is nearing completion. Aswell, the ASEC Board's various committees are beginning their work including the finance committee and the advocacy committee. The Board has been planning for the year ahead in recent meetings, including discussions about our approach to collaboration with other organizations during the upcoming year, our approach to media relations, and our approach to federal advocacy. If any councillors have further questions about ASEC's recent activities, please let me know.



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### Other Work & Updates:

#### WORKPLAN UPDATE:

**Goal 1:** Plan and execute a Get Out the Vote Campaign for the 2025 Municipal Election

**Updates:** Some good news and some bad news. The City of Red Deer has firmly said a polling station on campus is not possible, due to provincial legislation requiring early submission of polling locations to the provincial government. Free transportation is, however, available on election day. The good news is the Mayoral candidate's forum is picking up steam, with there now being four official candidates, three of whom have been invited. (The fourth will be invited as soon as I can find a contact email.)

**Goal 2:** Investigate the need for an Advocacy Committee for the Association

**Updates:** No updates

**Goal 3:** Increase awareness regarding the discount programs and add 5 additional businesses providing student discounts.

**Update:** As of the writing of this report, we have seven new discounts confirmed. I've contacted dozens of businesses by email, with many more left on my list to be contacted. The new discounts will be on the website soon.

**Legend:** Progress Neutral Halted

#### ASEC Survey Quotes:

##### Operational Grant Funding:

"Over a seven year period RDP has faced four years of cuts to Operational Grant funding (2019 to 2022) followed by three years of stagnation (2022 to 2024). This has led to Operational Grant funding accounting for 38% of RDP's revenue."

"To compensate for the a lack of sufficient Operational Grant funding the Government of Alberta encouraged Institutions to seek alternative revenue sources. RDP's stop-gap was to increase International Student Enrollment by 455% between 2019 and 2024. When faced with sudden Federal Policy changes in 2024 this revenue stream was



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devastated resulting in a \$10 million deficit."

#### **Mental Health**

"At Red Deer Polytechnic, the demand for Counselling Services continues to reach new highs. In a single year alone, the number of Counselling Services appointments increased by 12%."

"With four full-time Counsellors, one Practicum Student from September to April, and one Sessional Counsellor from September to May, Red Deer Polytechnic has an approximate ratio of 2,372 students to each counsellor. The average wait time for an appointment at RDP's Counseling Services is 3 – 5 weeks."

#### **Food Security**

"Since 2019, student enrollment at Red Deer Polytechnic has increased by 29% while the Students' Association of RDP's Emergency Student Food Bank usage has increased by 356%."

"Currently the Student Emergency Food Bank is funded primarily through SA Membership fees and unpredictable donations from our students, staff members at the Institution, and Alum."