



EXECUTIVE MIDTERM REPORT

President J. Patterson

May 1st, 2025 – November 7th, 2025

Jacq Patterson

Hello, and thank you all for joining us for our Annual General Meeting. I am Jacq, your current SARDP President. A little bit about me: I am a recent graduate of the RDP BA Multidisciplinary Degree program. I am a lifelong learner, so I am still enrolled in classes at RDP, as well as courses at the University of Athabasca, where I am pursuing my Masters of Interdisciplinary.

Something that not everyone is aware of is that I have been part of RDP for over 13 years. I was a student here from 2013 to 2015, where I participated in the History University Transfer Program. During that time, I had friends who were actively involved with the Students' Association, but I never truly understood the SA's role and the impact it has on students. It was not until I got involved in my second round at RDP that I truly saw how amazing our Students' Association is.

We play a huge role in the students' experience. Everything, from free breakfast to grade appeals and political advocacy, is done here. The Students' Association staff keep the fire burning year-round, and I cannot emphasize enough how dedicated the team is to the well-being of the students. Each and every staff member always puts the needs of the students first. If you see them, please feel free to say hello and introduce yourself. They love to connect with the people they serve.

As for me, my role as President is to represent the needs of students in all spheres. I serve on the Student Council, Academic Council, and the Board of Governors, where I represent the student voice. In addition, I chair the SA's Governance Review Committee, which is responsible for making sure the SA's policy and bylaws are current, relevant, and in the best interest of the student body

As for the rest of my job, it is difficult for me to condense it into a specific label, but I view my role as the person who fills the gap. My primary goal is to ensure that the Student Council's goals are met or, at the very least, on track to be met. It is also my job to help people feel valued in the work they do! The role of a president isn't to tell people what to do, but to make them believe in what they can do. (Sorry, I know this is cheesy, but it's true.)

I would like to invite you to learn more about the accomplishments we have made during the first half of our term in office, outlined below.

SARDP Executive Training

As incoming executives, our training begins immediately—before we even step into the office. We dedicate an entire week to immersing ourselves in our roles, studying bylaws and governance documents, and setting strategic goals for the year ahead. Our executive training



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program is among the most comprehensive in the province, truly setting us apart. By the time we complete it, we have the confidence and knowledge to sit at any table and effectively represent the voice of our members.

Here are some of the courses and training programs we do to get us ready for our office here:

- Indigenous Canada - University of Alberta Course
- Onboarding and Retreat
- Executive Wellbeing
- Crucial Conversations
- Effective Committee Chairing
- Know Your Why by Simon Sinek
- Advocacy Training
- Fall Council Orientation
- Policy Governance

Events

Part of our role as executives is to actively engage with and support the communities of Red Deer and Alberta. These events provide valuable opportunities for advocacy—spaces where we connect with leaders, organizations, and community members who share a vision for positive change. No matter the setting or conversation, our focus always returns to one thing: advancing the needs and voices of students.

Here is a list of events we have had the privilege to attend so far:

- Dress for Success Speakers Panel
- Coffee with the Executives: Meet the SA Executive Team (President, VP Academic, VP External)
- Trades Completion Breakfast: a special breakfast to celebrate trade students' graduation.
- Alberta Student Executive Council Leadership Conference
- Meeting with Ahmadiyya Mosque
- Stampede Advocacy
- Red Deer Polytechnic Pancake Breakfast
- New Student Orientation and Welcome Week
- Alberta Student Executive Council Annual General Meeting
- Mental Health Strategy Launch: The wellness team of Red Deer Polytechnic officially launched their plan to increase mental health care and awareness on campus.
- Perspectives Conference – Student Session

Institution Committees



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Having a student voice in decision-making conversations is why we are here, and it is one of the best ways we can influence the decisions being made at the polytechnic.

Below is a list of committees I sit on currently:

- Learning Management System Committee
- Red Deer Polytechnic's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Student Committee
- Academic Council
- Sustainable Development Goals Committee
- Red Deer Polytechnic Graduation Symbol Committee
- Awards of Excellence Committee
- Convocation Committee

Governance Review Committee

This committee is committed to keeping the student associations' policies and bylaws up-to-date and relevant, ensuring that students are served in the best way possible. This review is part of good governance. This year, we are reviewing:

1. Referenda Policy
2. Building Fund Policy
3. Lobby Efforts Policy
4. E-Motion Policy

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors is the highest governing body at the polytechnic. It is composed of representatives from administration, faculty and staff, community members, and two student representatives. The Board plays a vital role in shaping the institution's direction, as its members are appointed by the Minister of Advanced Education and are responsible for overseeing the overall governance and strategic operations of the polytechnic. The president sits on the board by virtue of their position and is there to ensure the student perspective is heard during decision-making processes.

- Kathrine Thompson was elected by the student council as the second student member on the Board of Governors, and she has received her Ministerial Appointment from the Minister of Advanced Education

Projects

1. Pursuing Graduate Studies Handbook: As RDP offers more degree programs, more students look at pursuing a master's program. We noticed that other institutions have some resources to help students on their journey. This handbook is not meant to be a full how-to document, but rather some tips and tricks.



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2. SARDP Specific Land Acknowledgment: The SA would like to honour the land we share with the indigenous community and would like the new land acknowledgment to reflect the students' perspective.
3. Work-Integrated Learning research and report for the upcoming RDP Committee: The province and RDP are aiming to have every program offer a WIL opportunity. We would like to make sure students are kept in mind when decisions are being made and are not being taken advantage of.

FYI

Elections:

It's never too early—or too late—to get involved!

If you've ever wanted to make a difference or learn more about student leadership, the Students' Association is a great place to start.

While the General Elections don't begin until March, you can reach out to us at any time to learn more about what we do.

Although I won't be running again—having completed my two-term maximum—I wholeheartedly encourage anyone interested in leadership to book a time to chat with me. When I first put my name forward, I never imagined how profoundly the Students' Association would shape my life. This experience has given me confidence, strengthened my leadership abilities, and equipped me with skills I will carry into the next chapter of my career.

If you are ready for a new adventure, please connect with Marian at sagov@rdpolytech.ca to get started!