

VPAX Council Report

October 14th Council Meeting

The following document is a summary of the tasks, events, and responsibilities, the office of the VPAX has participated in September 24th - October 14th 2018.



Grad Orientation Presentation

- SU execs presented during the opening of Grad Orientation
- Each exec spoke about their specific area they are responsible for in the SU
- VPAX spoke about all things advocacy, and Get Out The Vote this fall

Meeting With Ashley (GSA)

- Spoke about Grad work with CASA
- Add more to provincial work
- Joint publication with Grads: What is the Grad experience at UPEI?
- This will be a valuable project for the University to be presented as they try and grow their grad program.

Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee (APCC)

- Discussed and approved new Ph.D in Psychology course curriculum

Alumni Awards

- Presented awards at ceremony
- Was for young alumni who have stood out in the community

Meeting with Tara at Experiential Education

- Reviewed draft of experiential learning provincial framework
- Spoke about what projects to work on next
- Consultation on how to market and communicate skills development badge program

Meeting with Ryan Giddins

- Have been connecting with Ryan over summer months on progress of online registration for grads
- Update: Has all faculties and departments on board except Island Studies
- This switch from paper registration to online is ultimately up to the individual supervisor therefore as of right now the University has done the framework as how Grad programs to do this, however it's up to the individual

Academic and External Steering Committee (AXCOMM)

- Discussed rewording to Tuition Regulation updated policy (this was sent back as per last meeting)
- PRC Colin and I discussed purpose and progress on new Residence Policy that is being developed
- Possible avenues for SU to look into "Co-housing" in order to provide some short-term solutions to housing crisis

Meeting(s) with Board of Governors Rep: Owen

- Spent time reviewing Sexual Violence Policy proposed to Board on October 4th
- Explained SU's stance and research on the topic
- Prepared notes and key points to speak about on behalf of SU at Board meeting

STRIDE Meeting

- First ever STRIDE meeting OCT 4th!!!
- Spoke about purpose of our working group, the program, and the timeline I have in mind for the group and it' success

- Meeting predominantly consisted of identifying and discussing specific barriers women and non-binary people face 1) before putting their name forward and 2) when campaigning (running)
- Group identified that biggest barrier would be confidence as it is the key root as to why someone would or would not run, and their ability to run a campaign
- Discussed some potential new members with different perspectives to bring into the group (this is open to everyone!)
- Next meeting: November 8th @ 5:30

APCC

- Discussed possible collaborations with APCC working group to create annual student surveys to assess teaching and learning at UPEI

International Student Working Group

- Had our first meeting!
- Discussed possible barriers to health card if visa does not say student can work and it is only a study visa (EAP and other students heavily affected by this)
- Look into different gaps in funding both from donors of grants and bursaries, and gov?
- May turn into project/program as opposed to policy however still in early stages!

Get Out The Vote

- All merch and supplies have been ordered
- All posters + graphics have been sent to the Graphic Designer for creation
- Invitations for Live Debate and Pints With Politicians have been sent to candidates and media
- Advo-team has been contacted with InfoKit

Meeting with Jackie Podger

- **Met new Sexual Violence Prevention and Response office coordinator**

- Spoke about UPEI Gym issue to check in how University was addressing both 1) contact with student and 2) re-analyzing gym dress code?
- Questioned decision to discuss and motion in-camera (not accessible by public) concerning the new Sexual Violence Policy (as this questions transparency and good governance)
- Questioned about the 8 day delay on the publication of the policy, considered no student besides BoG rep was aware of the status of policy during that period (does not reflect well on university considering VPAX co-chaired the task-force on this policy and was not kept in good communication about this)
- No justifiable answers were provided therefore reached out to Board of Governors directly and am awaiting response

Textbook Committee

- Spoke about current resources via Pressbooks for Open Educational Resources at UPEI
- Classes at UPEI that have converted to OERs
- Potential research/employment opportunity for student to collect all data on all classes that utilize OERs at UPEI (potentially funded by SU), as this would be an ongoing resource for students to access and refer to online (if looking for more affordable courses to take) and tool for university to connect professors who do/don't use OERs

Council Orientation!

- Discussed history of Student Union, Aspiria, Campus Trust etc.
- President and VPAX present their role and their mandate as they will not be present at next council meeting :(
- Had loads of fun talking about policies and government!!!

Senate

- Strategic Plan passed
- Discussion around committees for Dean selection process for each faculty

Misc.

- Ongoing meetings with Robert Gilmour and Sharon Cameron at the V.P. Academic and Research Office to have good relationship with University and discuss ideas

