

VPAX Council Report

September 23rd Council Meeting



The following document is a summary of the tasks, events, and responsibilities, the office of the VPAX has participated in September 9th-23rd 2018.

Bilingual Multidisciplinary Symposium

- Symposium thinktank held at Alumni
- Partnership between UPEI and College de L'île to create new bilingual undergrad that will be multidisciplinary
- Participants from UPEI Administration, BoG, Faculty, College de L'île, Acadian community organizations, partner school the University of Bretagne du Sud, UPEISU (VPAX)
- Want to provide new innovative option for students graduating from PEI immersion programs, and attract bilingual Canadians to take a one-of-a-kind bilingual degree, and wanted it shaped by those who know best in the field
- Hoping to begin focusing in Arts and Science, and eventually grow program into Business too
- Great opportunity for the student voice to help shape a brand new program (that is very unique!)

Academic Planning and Curriculum Committee (APCC)

- Overview of Strategic Plan with Alaa + Administration
- Discussion around increase of deposit fee for MEd student, as it is currently lower than the Registrar's min, and there is a high "no-show" rate (causes pain for admin)

- Would like to increase deposit (which goes back into student account) from \$150 to \$500? This item was tabled

Senate

- First Senate meeting of 18/19 academic year
- Looking at unofficial numbers registrar has received for enrollment Fall 2018
- President Alaa would like to make official invitation for Saudi students with over 60 credits who must change universities, to convocation to receive an official UPEI Degree
- This is something that these students are already eligible to do, it is simply a formal offer if a student so chooses

Meeting with Faculty Association (FA)

- As per the settlement from the Collective Bargaining agreement, the Enhanced Teaching and Learning Committee was formed
- The SUs number one priority for this committee, (and the reason it was created in the first place), was to address the concerns around the Student Opinions on Teaching Surveys
- This meeting was to listen to concerns of FA around SOTS and learn about why they have the concerns that they do
- Purpose of this meeting was to consult and discuss the position of the SU on SOTS and what we will be working on this fall with the ETL Committee
- FA is against commentary going to deans, is not for or against SOTS, would like to see the committee move away from SOTS
- SU recommendations were voiced clearly, and took into consideration the FAs concerns
- Now awaiting the first ETL Committee meeting

PEI Experiential Learning Steering Committee

- Steering Committee created in June 2018
- Comprised of UPEI ExEd Office, Dept. Workforce + Advanced Learning, Holland College reps, Dept. Education, UPEISU (VPAX)
- Starting adding alterations to official draft framework
- UPEISU provided insights specifically into un-paid internships and the negative effects on students employment opportunities
- Also shared UPEISUs official policy and stance with various recommendations
- Added that it is essential to add technological platform as integral piece for facilitation of ExEd at UPEI
- Have a one on one meeting with Tara Corman (ExEd UPEI) to discuss additional critiques to the ExEd framework
- Very excited about this project because as one of our policy priorities, it is essential that we have university and government on board (which for this project we do!). Looking forward to seeing the successful outcomes from this project

Air Bnb Regulation Think-Tank

- Idea spurred from meeting with Alex + Zac of Charlottetown Youth Matters to bring everyone around the table to discuss
- Meeting comprised of:
 - Alex (Youth Matters)
 - Zac (Youth Matters)
 - Sidney MacEwen (MLA)
 - Hannah Bell (MLA)
 - Clifford Lee (Mayor and Provincial Housing Director)
 - Heath MacDonald (Minister of Finance)
 - Paul Ledwell (Deputy Minister of Policy and Priorities with Premier MacLauchlan)
 - Greg Rivard (Councillor)

- Alex Forbes (Manager at Planning and Heritage Charlottetown)
- Emma Drake (VPAX at UPEISU)
- Meeting concluded with the Manager of Planning and Heritage and provincial liaison connecting to meet with Tourism to discuss ways to move forward with possible recommendations
- 3 *unofficial* primary recommendations:
 - 1) Limit the number of properties a host can have on AirBnb
 - 2) Create mandatory provincial registration agreement for hosts with AirBnb
 - 3) Tax on AirBnb fares through consumer, that would then be distributed to province for affordable housing projects

Meeting with Queer Collective (QC)

- Met with Tanner MacKinnon, President of QC
- Discussed overview of working group for STRIDE @ UPEI (identify specific barriers to underrepresented groups to run in student government)
- Agreed to get working group together in next two weeks to start discussing

Misc.

- Gerald Wandio - Faculty Development Office
- Board of Governors meet + greet
- Minister Heath MacDonald (call)
- Dawn Wilson - PEI Coalition for Women in Government
- PEI Coalition for Women in Government Strat-Plan
- Gwynne Dyre @ UPEI (!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)

Policy Work

- C06 - Professorial Accountability and Review at UPEI (Updated)
- F03 - Tuition Regulation at UPEI (Updated)
- F05 - Creating Student Dedicated Affordable Housing (Developed)
- Policy on UPEI residences (in development)

Get Out The Vote

- Planned new event; Pints with Politicians @ Fox and Crow the week of voting on Campus
- Designed t-shirts, logo, and pledged buttons