Graduate Student Representative Report

Ashley Mckibbon

December 1st, 2018

Hi Council,

I first wanted to apologize for my absence from the last two council meetings. The first absence was due to my role as Provincial Representative for the Canadian Federation of Students, and a National Executive meeting happening in Ottawa, and the most recent absence was due to personal and academic travel. As I was unable to provide reports for those meetings, I have combined all three reports into one that covers graduate student specific activity, and my activity over the past 2 months.

SU Committees

*Funding* – Funding committee has met to approve student funding up until the end of November, and was scheduled to meet on Thursday November 29th to approve funding for the month of December. This meeting had to be re-scheduled due to weather, however it is unclear when this has been re-scheduled to. During the November funding discussions there were a large number of undergraduate students who had applied, and it was decided that VPF would seek additional funding for the undergraduate funding budget line in order to be able to accommodate the increased demand.

*NIFD* – NIFD committee last met on to discuss the Strategic plan that had been drafted by Nate Hood over the summer. Due to the President’s busy travel schedule it has been difficult to schedule meetings, and the strategic plan review has not continued as of recent. As this is a very important document for the SU as a whole, I am hopeful that the review will be proceeding soon, so that the goals contained within it may be realized.

 Meetings

*Graduate Student Advocacy Priorities with VPAX –* I was able to meet with the VPAX to discuss some grad student specific advocacy priorities. We have been discussing the creation of a document entitled “current state of grad studies at UPEI”, which is looking at the strengths and weaknesses of the Grad Studies program and aims at making suggestions on how it could be improved by the university. We are currently working on a survey to gather responses from grad students.

*Collaborative Grad Event with GSA and SU with VPSL* – The VPSL reached out looking to do a collaborative event with the GSA for Grad Students, and it was determined that she would collaborate with the GSA Exec on the Annual Wine and Cheese Event. This event was hosted at the Fox and Crow, and went very well.

Update on Grad Student Events and Issues (GSA Report)

*GSA elections* – Graduate Students’ association held their fall elections, and filled all vacant positions on their board except for a nursing representative.

*Writing drop in –* GSA held a writing help drop in session for grad students who are struggling to write at the graduate student level in response to the low number of writing resources for grad students on campus.

*Wine and Cheese Event –* This years wine and cheese event was held at the fox and crow. This event was highly attended by over 60 graduate students and over 20 faculty members. Students and faculty alike were impressed with the quality of the food served by the fox and crow. A big thank you to both the VPSL for contributing a gift basket, and a fox and crow gift card for door prizes, and to Josh (manager) for ensuring the food was such a success.

*CFS Maritime Organizer on Campus –* This week there was a representative from the Canadian federation of students on campus, issuing ISIC cards, and talking to students about current issues in post secondary.

If there are any questions about anything included in this report, please do not hesitate to reach out via email or in person.

Kind Regards,

Ashley Mckibbon