

Fall 2020 – Semesterly Report

SU Representative | Pharmacy Councillor on the UASU Students' Council
Nathan Brandwein

Spring/Summer:

- Attended Council meetings every 2 weeks beginning May 4th
- Successfully appointed to two Council committee positions:
 1. Policy Committee:
 - Drafting and amending policies for renewal by conducting research, holding team meetings and following consultation pathways
 2. Nominating Committee:
 - Interviewed dozens of applicants to fill several SU positions, including the Sustainability and Capital Funds Committee, Student Group Committee, Sustainability, GFC vacancies, Equity Diversity & Inclusivity Taskforce, Aboriginal Relations & Reconciliation Committee and the Senate
 - Attended presentation on adopting an EDI approach to appraising applications
 - Evaluation and recommendation of nominees for Council's ratification
- Attended GovCamp between June 3 – September 23 (40 hours total)
 - Participated in breakout sessions, book clubs, reflection activities and eclass discussions regarding: Advocacy, Governance, Indigenous Knowledges & Reconciliation, and Allyship

September:

1. Council Business
 - Addressed sexual violence and harassment at the U of A
 - Inquired about budgeting changes that would occur during restructuring process
 - Spoke to need of recognizing staffing concerns in an EDI committee and the pervasive reluctance of paid staff and volunteers to complete mandatory sexual assault training
2. One of four writers assigned to the Deferred Maintenance policy (1st and 2nd principles) and the Student Financial Aid Policy (1st and 2nd principles), both of which have since been passed through Council
3. Advocated for fall Upass, reduction in non-academic fees, creation of SU EDI taskforce and a perennial research scholarship in honour of UofA Iran plane crash victim

October:

1. One of three writers drafting the 1st principles of Student Employment Policy
2. Reviewing the appointments of various student-at-large positions, including SCF committee and GFC representatives (only two GFC vacancies remain as of Dec 7)

November:

- Two meetings with SU president regarding academic restructuring
- Two special Council meetings leading up to two seminal Council votes on International Students Association becoming a Student Representative Association (talks spanning 3 months; voted in favour; motion passed) & Myer Horowitz renovations project
- Helped edit Class of 2023 letter/petition supporting Student Services during restructuring

December:

- Final debate and vote on the Myer Horowitz renovations and expansion (voted in favour of financing project; passed)
- Meeting with Student Services regarding administrative restructuring
- Drafting 2nd principles for Student Employment policy, which includes re-writing some of the approved facts and aligning them with evidence-based resolutions. The final version of this draft will be brought to Policy committee on December 9th and, subsequently, to Council for a vote on December 15th.

Moving Forward:

I will continue to voice my concerns on issues important to my Pharmacy constituents, and plan on further liaising with the faculty and APSA through consultation with key stakeholders, particularly on the issue of academic and administrative restructuring. While I have cast dozens of Council votes thus far, I will strive to uphold the Oath of Council, which maintains that each Councillor promises to make decisions with their fellow students' interests in mind, not their own. I will continue to exercise this vital principle as I carry my duties into the winter term.