

December 21, 2021

Fall 2021 - Semesterly Counselor Report From Vice President Academic (Amandeep Garcha)

(1) Curriculum Committee (CC)

CC continues to work to improve the PharmD program as each course goes through review. Student representatives on the committee include the first, second, and third year class representatives and the APSA VP Academic (standing member). I continued attending meetings over the summer, as I transitioned into my current role from second year class representatives. As CC meetings typically require 2-hours and overlap with courses, this semester Dr. Hall would meet with student representatives prior to CC meetings, to best optimize the 1-hour students could commit to.

I continued to review first and second year courses, and participate in discussions as new third year courses came through the committee. This semester, Dr. Hall provided all student representatives with an introduction to the course review process. At each meeting, I provide an APSA update, thus I have shared resources APSA has created, upcoming events, and information regarding how the student body is coping with the challenges of this pandemic. Next set of course reviews will likely take place early 2021.

(2) Student Advisory Committee (SAC)

SAC is composed of a faculty representative as chair, VP Academic, first, second, and third year class representatives. Over my experience with the committee last year, we noted that SAC turned into a support system for class representatives by providing a safe environment and a place where we can come up with solutions. This year, the mid-semester feedback form was sent out by the faculty representative Dr. Ken Cor. We met with Dr. Cor after the survey to discuss the results and any concerns each of the cohorts was experiencing. Year 1, 2, and 3 Class Representatives created virtual comment boxes which are shared with their cohorts as a means to allow students to provide anonymous feedback as well as have an outlet to address concerns.

My role thus far has been to organize meeting dates, sharing my templates for feedback, and ensuring all representatives have a chance to discuss their concerns. A meeting can be called by any of the committee members.

(3) APSA's Awards Committee (AC)

AC is chaired by the VP Academic, and is composed of: faculty representative, VP Social, VP Fundraising, VP Finance, and a representative from each four cohorts.

Over the summer/early this semester, I worked with our VP Finance to discuss the budget for Awards this year. The committee worked with CAPSI to help with awarding the Guy Genest Award in November. Additionally, the committee members met to re-evaluate the current APSA Awards criteria and updated the applications for the 2021/22 year.

The Awards Committee re-structured the awards this year to engage more non-APSA councilors. Any awards with 2 recipients, one of the recipients will be reserved for a non-APSA council member. We hope that this diversifies the applications and allows us to give back to more students. The focus during December and early next semester is to promote APSA awards.

(4) Professionalism Committee (PC)

PC is chaired by the VP Academic, and is composed of faculty representative, APSA President, Past-President, VP Student Services, and one active APSA member who is not on council.

As VP Academic, I have presented a professionalism presentation to all of APSA Council/Officers and to the first years during orientation.

An extension from last year's professionalism committee initiative, **Career Series** was officially launched and four sessions took place this semester. Both Jadin Chahade (VP Academic 2019-2020), Ellen Doty (Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (FoPPS) Development and Alumni Engagement Officer), and I have worked to organize and deliver one session this semester and postponed the second planned session to early next semester due to low engagement in virtual events from students this past semester.

(5) Academic Appeals Committee (AAC)

As the VP Academic is a voting member of the faculty's AAC, I am not in a position to be able to provide students with advice heading into their appeals meetings. I partake in appeal hearings and am able to provide students with resources regarding the steps towards the appeals process itself.

(6) Council of Faculty Associations (CoFA) - Advocacy Board

As a member of the CoFA Advocacy Board, I brought forward three pieces of work to APSA's attention from the University of Alberta Students' Union.

1. *Lack of Sexual Violence Resources* - The SU VP Student Life and SU President brought forward statistics relating to campus sexual violence. They created a public statement to bring light to the situation and to get the University to act more on providing resources.

2. *Zero Textbook Cost*- This initiative started back in 2018 as a way to showcase instructors' commitments to accessibility in their classroom, remove financial barriers for students wanting to take their class, and easing the financial strain on students so that money can go to paying for groceries, rent, etc. University of Instructors now have the opportunity to add a 'Zero Textbook Cost' indicator to their courses on BearTracks via a google form that was emailed to all of them.

(7) Pharmacy Undergraduate Journal Club (PUJC)

This past semester, we had two PUJC presentations. I have had students reach out expressing interest in PUJC, however they have been hesitant to present at the first meeting they attend - thus I am hoping that a PUJC veteran will present early in the semester to engage more students. If you are interested in presenting or tackling a clinical question/topic for a class email feature -please feel free to reach out to either myself or Alan Min!

(8)Other

- Lunch and Learn with Janice Kung for students to have a refresher or introduction to our clinical resources. This event occurred virtually.
- APSA Executive Council created a survey to get feedback from students regarding any concerns they currently have. Over this Winter break, the team will be consolidating a document addressing the concerns that were brought forth in the survey. We will share this document with APSA members early next semester.

Sincerely,



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