

— V P A c a d e m i c —

M i d - Y e a r
R e p o r t

SA



Esther Schilling
Vice President Academic

Students' Association of Red Deer College

P: 403-356-4971 F: 403-347-8510

100 College Boulevard, Box 5005, Red Deer, AB T4N 5H5



Office of Vice President Academic

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Esther Schilling

**Unfortunately, my last day at the SA was Monday, October 28/2019. My doctor has put me on sick leave until next year. I have enjoyed working with everyone over the last few months and getting to know you. I wish you all the best of luck in school and in your lives! - Esther :) **

Goal #1: Open Educational Resources

- On September 25, the SA collaborated with the RDC Library to host an event to make students aware of what and OER is and to gain their support.
- Pizza, popcorn, and candy were provided to students
- In the two hours that we were in the forum, we talked with over 250 students informing them of what an OER is. Along with showcasing a few examples of OER's and answering any questions they had.
- The SA collected over 200 signatures of students who were in support of implementing OER's at RDC (understanding this would be a long-term goal and most likely only possible for the entry level courses)
- The next few steps would be:
 - Have another event:
 - Long Night Against Procrastination

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- The winter semester of 2020
 - OER discussion with FARC
 - OER discussion with other interest groups (ex. School Councils)
- This a long-term goal that will hopefully be passed down to whoever is in the VPA office for years to come

Goal #2: University Transition

- I was on a committee (Role of Governance Task Group) that focuses on the governance transition aspect of becoming a university
- The new body that will replace Academic Council in fall of 2020 (hoping all things go well) will be called Academic Governance Council
- The body will be made up mostly of faculty, since we were wanting to closely reflect a General Faculty Council, which is what we will be once we are a well established university
- Dr.T. Andersen has presented the work of the committee to all School Councils, the Board of Governors, and to the Students' Association Council
- The next step of the committee is to send it to the Minister of Advanced Education for final approval
- The committee is hoping to implement the new governance model for fall 2020

Goal #3: Academic Awareness (correlated to OERs)

- I spoke with S. Pomeranz, Academic Manager, regarding different key things students should know, such as their academic rights and responsibilities

Goal #4: Maintaining Courses at RDC

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- J. Grue, Governance Coordinator, did research on other post-secondary institutions and what languages they offer, and up to what level
- Her findings showed that MRU and MacEwan (RDC tends to look at these two post-secondary institutions, or model themselves after them) both offer French and Spanish, and more than high school level
- President Lausen and I spoke with Dr.J. MacNeil at the beginning of May to discuss the possibility of re-implementing the second level of 200 French as it would benefit many students, especially those wanting to work for the government in the future, and those who are on their way to becoming a teacher. We were told by Jane that the class needed more than a break even number to run. After discussing my findings at my monthly meeting with Dr.P. Hanna, she said as long as we are able to have a break even number in the class, RDC would be able to run the class
- I presented Dr.J. MacNeil with about 20 letters from students who were interested/needed to take the 200 level of French
- When the executive team presented our goals to the BOG, this is something that I thought the BOG would be interested to know
- Next step would be to write a letter to Senior Administration

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