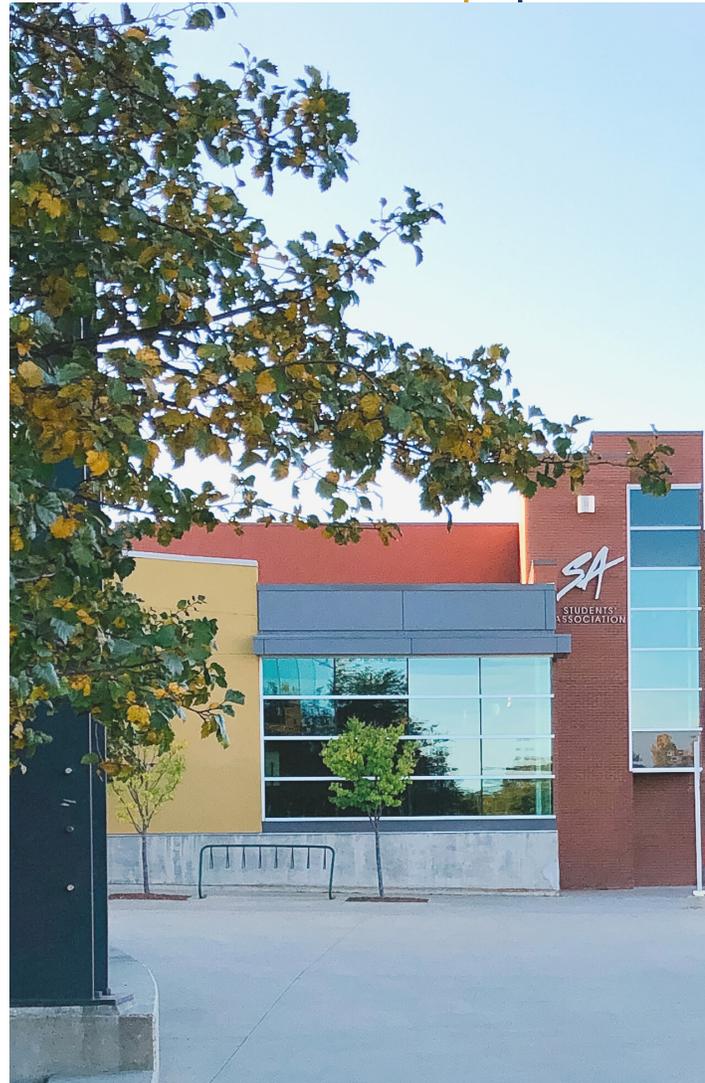


2021

# MID-YEAR REPORT

Savannah Snow  
President



10/19/21

SARDP

AGM

## Introduction

Hello! My name is Savannah Snow and I am your Students' Association President for the 2021/2022 Academic year! I am a fourth year in the MRU Collaborative Bachelor of Business Administration – hopefully graduating out of our heavily anticipated RDP baccalaureate degree in 2023! I have been so honored to serve the students of RDP over the last 5-6 months. Looking out for the wellbeing of students and helping make the institution make the best decision with the students is mind is something I find I really enjoy doing. I'm here for you anytime – office hours are from 9-4 Monday through Friday, but I'm always just an email away.

I'd like to walk you through some of the awesome things I've been involved in since taking over the role in May. We've got lots on the go here at the SA! I'm proud to be a part of such a well-oiled machine.

## Goals

As my time here evolves, so does my role and my goals. I will admit I set some short-sighted goals at the beginning of my term. I have a better grasp on my role's purpose now and have adjusted accordingly. That being said, here's a brief rundown of the surviving goals.

### Build a Relationship with Council

I am proud to say that we are operating with a full Council on board! The process wasn't without its hiccups, but the group we have is awesome: engaged, attentive, and always comes with the best questions! We are anticipating some presentations coming up as well as our formal orientation. A reminder to students at large that you are welcome to attend Council as an observer! You are allowed in the room during public portions, but will be asked to leave during confidential portions.

### Increase the Number of Student Groups on Campus

As a former founder of a student group on campus, I am a firm believer that they are the backbone of student engagement. They build a sense of community and allow students to make friends and broaden their network. I am currently working on the policy through BARC to identify areas that are barriers to starting and operating student groups so it is easier for a student to begin one of they want to. I am also looking for ways to strengthen the continuity of student groups. We understandably lost quite a few over Covid, but as we return to normalcy I'd love to see those groups come back too!

## Advocate for Degrees

RDP NEEDS DEGREES was our (very successful) Day of Collective Action organized by Brittany Lausen last year. Though we aren't out there with our picket signs now, the push for degrees continues. In every speech, in every interaction with our government and our senior admin, I advocate for the release of our degrees currently in CAQC review. That's the thing about advocacy: It's not always loud and in your face. Sometimes a subtle and steady burn is the way to go. That being said, there will be a point in time in which we may have to dig out our art supplies again!

## Council

One of my main tasks is to lead Council. As mentioned earlier, I am very proud of the recruitment efforts put out by the SA to fill Council seats. We have a full table! Our fifth meeting of the year is being held on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> after our Fall Orientation event. I am very proud of the engagement I've seen around the table. There's a spirit of engagement and excitement as RDC officially transitions into RDP. We're excited to help shape the future of polytechnics in Alberta. We've encouraged members of senior administration to come and present their plans, which is coming soon. We've got a full plate this year!

## Board of Governors

As President, I am fortunate to have a seat on the RDP's Board of Governors. I share this responsibility with our student-at-large representative, Will Langille. The Board has lots of work for us to do this year, and we're both very excited to embark on it all! I am also sitting on the President Search Committee, which is incredibly exciting and a phenomenal opportunity. I am looking forward to the future of RDP in the hands of this very capable Board.

## Alberta Student Executive Council (ASEC)

I was elected to the ASEC Board of Directors in a special by-election in September. ASEC is one of three of Alberta's provincial student lobby groups. Members of ASEC are given the opportunity to advocate for student needs at the provincial level. Here's an overview of my roles within this group.

### Board of Directors

We make overarching decisions regarding advocacy action as a group. There are two representatives from each sector (large, medium, and small) and a sort of "wild card" member drawn through open democracy (me!). We are lucky to be operating with a full Board. There are various subcommittees of the group for working purposes, including Executive Director Compensation and Review (I sit on this), and the Financial Audit subcommittee.

## Lobby Team

This group goes to Advocacy Week: A week-long event meeting face-to-face with politicians of various ridings to discuss student needs. The Lobby Group provides training through documents and hands-on experiential learning. I am also a part of this group, with Advocacy Week happening the week after this report is being given. Wish me luck!

## Board of Governors Support Group Liaison

The Board of Governors Support Group is just what it sounds like – a support group for student representatives on various Boards across Alberta. We group source our conversation material, generally focusing on various issues that present themselves that come with being a student representative on the Board of Governors. I am this group's liaison, which means I write up the results of the meeting and present on them at the Board of Directors.

## Alumni Association

I have been temporarily appointed as a member of the Alumni Association Board. We discuss various ways to engage both the alumni and the students (fun fact – you're considered alumni if you've completed 30 credits!). We've just completed a round of focus groups regarding different areas of the Alumni Association's strategic plan.

## Academic Council

There will be more details on this in Shannon's report, but Academic Council is one of the highest governing bodies at the institution. Matters regarding classes, programs, and curriculum pass through this group. We have a great student cohort in this group and always have great conversation regarding academic matters at RDP.

## Conclusion

I am very proud of the work I've completed so far. The definite highlight of my days is when a student takes the time out of their day to come and speak to me. I'm always on and I'm always down to champion issues for students! This is why we exist – to make sure students are getting adequate supports and that their voices are heard! Thanks for taking the time to read/listen. I hope your Fall semester finishes out spectacularly and that your Winter semester is just as good if not better!