

Governance Report

September 2017



Coalition of Student Leaders

Colby Freel, Chair

As students are preparing to return to their campuses for the fall semester, the Coalition is also preparing for the coming year. We are determined to improve our effectiveness as a governance group so that we can help improve the university community by supporting and informing your decision making as regents.

I would like to take a brief moment to celebrate in the collective accomplishment of University leaders, stakeholders and community members. In April, President Johnsen responded to resolutions from each of the statewide governance groups and several local governance groups requesting system-wide recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day. Because of the collective efforts of these groups and individuals, and the governance process working as intended, each of the Universities and campuses will choose how they recognize Indigenous Peoples Day locally, which is a positive step towards a stronger, more inclusive university community.

Preparations are underway for the Coalitions fall summit to be held in September. We will be embarking with refreshed minds and clear objectives. One of those objectives will be to create a shared vision of our role and purpose in the university community. Student engagement in the University supports in decision making and an “integral part of the university community’s culture.” Therefore, it is essential to focus our efforts on improving our effectiveness in representing students and addressing issues that affect them, as well as advise university leadership, and communicate with our constituents and other governance groups. Dialogue with regents and other University leaders will be essential to achieving those goals. Communication will be most effective when each stakeholder in the conversation is an active participant. We need not only to be heard by, but also to hear from, regents and university leaders on how to better serve the university community.

The Coalition will also continue its work to help prevent sex based discrimination and violence on our campuses. In this area especially, we recognize the important role students have in affecting change in our communities. As we discuss this key issue during our summit, we will look for ways to engage diverse groups of students with Title IX committees at their respective universities and seek opportunities to create a dialogue wherein students can

Looking forward, discussions among student leaders regarding tuition are underway and I look forward to sharing our initial thoughts at the September meeting with the Coalition's solidified viewpoints to be shared soon after. The Coalition will also be digging into Strategic Pathways shortly and begin providing feedback in a timely manner.

The **Statewide Academic Committee (SAC)** has met three times since the May 12, 2017, meeting of the FA. In addition to myself, Chris Fallen and Maria Williams participated in those meetings. Thank you to Chris and Maria for participating in those meetings despite their off-contract status.

