

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

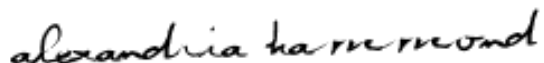
In its fourth year of publication, a time of reflection was in store for the Political Science Undergraduate Review (PSUR). As the promotion of undergraduate research continues in the Political Science department, how can the PSUR be better utilized as an opportunity for students to take their scholarly work beyond the classroom? Our conclusion was the PSUR can better act as an introduction to the peer-review process by creating a collaborative educational process between author and reviewer, while striving to curate the best content our department has to offer.

Multiple changes were implemented this year to ensure that the PSUR can be made more accessible for authors and peer-reviewers alike and to better promote scholarly publication. For the first time, the PSUR has defined and published reviewer guidelines making the peer-review process more transparent and trustworthy. While striving to make the peer-review process more accessible to students, this year the Editorial team worked closely with University of Alberta Libraries Sonya Betz, Head Library Publishing and Digital Production Services, to modernize the submission and review procedure of the PSUR. As a result of this work, the PSUR is now hosted on journal management and publishing system, Open Journal Systems, which enhances the reliability of the double-blind peer-review method and for the first time allow authors to engage with peer-reviewers directly to implement revisions. These changes have made the peer-review of the PSUR more of a collaborative learning process and we thank Sonya for making this possible.

The editorial team must be recognized for approaching this publication with enthusiasm and dedication. Heather Taskey, Sarah Clifford, Anusha Kav, Shahroze Khan, and Aryssa Hasham brought their knowledge and experience to create a PSUR edition which I believe maintains the highest level of academic integrity. The Political Science Undergraduate Association must also be thanked for their support on this initiative. To Micah Leondia, our PSUA President, I must thank you for your guidance and your continued advocacy in the department on behalf of the PSUR.

I hope that the PSUR continues to be a source of connection for political science students and remains a point of access for students who are willing to take the risk to share their work. If you find a favourite article, make sure you reach out to the author. It's important we tell our colleagues when they have done good work.

Enjoy the read.



- ALEXANDRIA HAMMOND, Managing Editor
Vice President Academic, Political Science Undergraduate Association 2018-2019