Executive Meeting

**Minutes**

Friday January 11th, 2019 5 p.m.

Present: H. Hassaan, I. Jama, J. Bowman, V. Chen, M. Taylor, S. Wong, F. Vito, G. Nowlan (Student Advisor), Y. Minoda (Secretary), J. Seto (Executive Coordinator)

1) Approval of the Agenda

MOVED(Jama/Vito): “To approve the agenda as presented.”

\*CARRIED

2) Approval of the Previous Minutes

MOVED(Chen/Taylor): “To approve the minutes of December 7th, 2018.”

\*CARRIED

3) Report of the President

H. Hassaan noted that he will be working on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays this semester. He reminded everybody that the URC is coming up on Friday January 25th and executives are expected to help out through the day and be moderators for each room.

He also mentioned that he has been talking to Kiana Habibagahi, the mental wellness commissioner for UC LIT about a possible partnership to talk about mental health at SS lobby and doing a survey about services on campus and how students relieve stress. He will get more details on dates and times and how executives can help with this campaign.

He reported that he has sent a follow-up email to Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and is still waiting for a response.

He reminded everybody that Open Mic coffee house is next week and expect everybody to be there and help out. He and J. Bowman will be MCing the event.

4) Executive Reports

F. Vito reported on the Arbor Journal and that he went through all the application during the break. He noted that he did not get enough editor applications for the Physical Sciences (PHY, MAT, CHM), and wanted to see if an email can be sent out to relative course unions. He said that he still needs a design editor, and also that I. Jama will be working with him on this project as co-editor.

V. Chen reported that the URC is coming up in 2 weeks, and that her, H. Hassaan, and J. Seto has been going over the schedule and the logistics of the day. She also reported on the AMP and said she was hoping to plan a soiree for the AMP for January and get a guest speaker to do a workshop.

S. Wong reported that so far 13 students have signed up for the open mic night and samosas will be ordered for the event. She will be meeting with students from VUSAC to iron out the details and décor for the event.

J. Bowman made a quick update on the ASL course proposal and that he is still waiting for the stats he asked for at the last Dean’s meeting. He is hoping that something will be done by the end of the semester. He reported on the Pow Wow and that they will be having their first meeting next Friday. G. Nowlan will be attending but asked other executives to attend as well.

He also made an update on the anti-calendar project and that they are trying to set up a template for smaller course unions so they can bring it to their respective departments for support.

I. Jama reported that she met with J. Grondin about the laptop ban campaign, and discussed what can be done. She said she will possibly bring it up during the council meeting and have council members sign petitions during the meeting so that it can be brought to A&S Council. She asked executives if they have experienced any laptop ban in their courses, but nobody did. V. Chen did mention that one of her classes did not have a ban, but that the professor had asked the students with laptops to sit on the sides and people using notebooks to sit in the middle to avoid distraction.

M. Taylor reported that she has started to contact different professors that might be interested in talking for her Moving On Form campaign to talk about their academic journey.

5) Report of the Executive Co-ordinator

J. Seto reminded the executives that there is an outstanding travel grant request on SLACK, and that she and G. Nowlan will be taking holidays in February.

6) Referendum

H. Hassaan started the discussion by going over the details of the referendum and that it needs to pass through council at the meeting on Tuesday. Some main points he made that this needed to happen this year was, return funding to course unions, increase more awards and scholarships, and put money back into awards that we had to cut back in.

J. Seto added that it is traditional that ASSU holds a fee levy referendum every 5-6 years to keep up with inflation and COT. She said by increasing the fee which will result in increased budget, will allow to fund more course unions, add new awards, etc. She added that it failed 2 years ago which means it has now been 8 years since the last successful fee levy, and because of this, ASSU has had to cut back and give less in travel funds, donations, course union funding. She said that the ASSU has started to dip into the surplus over the years, but has gone too long. She explained that the surplus fund is there for emergencies, and that ASSU cannot keep dipping into these funds. She agreed that this year is a good year to hold the referendum, because the executives are well connected and is engaged with student body.

H. Hassaan added that he talked to J. Kao from the Varsity and that they will do an article on the referendum for ASSU.

G. Nowlan explained the second part of the question and what a CPI is. He noted that if the second question passes, ASSU will not have to do a referendum again.

M. Taylor asked what changed in the last couple of months that prompted to have to have a referendum this year.

J. Seto explained that ASSU is already currently operating below what is usually used, and is dipping into reserve funds. She reiterated that this year will be a good year because the executive team is strong and the vibe on campus is better.

I. Jama asked where the money will be allocated if the referendum passes. J. Seto explained that the referendum passing will mean that it gives ASSU an extra $76000/year which will go back into course union funding, recognize new course unions, increase bursary winners, increase scholarship amounts, put money back into all the line items that have been cut back, and run bigger events.

I. Jama asked what the campaign process will look like once it passes. J. Bowman explained that the campaign will kick off at the next council meeting. Once it passes through council, Course Unions will be asked to get involved with the campaign as much as possible. He suggested of creating a compilation of 1-minute course union videos talking about why ASSU is important to them. He wants to make this a collective campaign, and noted that they already have endorsements from New College, VUSAC, SMCSU, UTSU, to name a few.

H. Hassaan added that campaigning will include tabling, talking to students directly, handing out flyers, and focusing on explaining the victories that ASSU has had in the last couple of years including past test bank, fall reading week, lockers, Moving On From, AMP, Exam Jam, CR/NCR, etc.

J. Seto noted that this referendum is needed to make sure ASSU continues to do what it has been doing, and continue to be fiscally responsible at the same time.

I. Jama made a point that it will be important that everybody understands everything clearly and to have a clear laid out plan with a clear budget, and discuss as a group of what is to happen moving forward.

7) Other Business

None.

8) Adjournment

MOVED(Jama/Wong): “ To adjourn.”

\*CARRIED

Secretary to the Executive

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