Minutes for ASSU Executive Meeting

September 18, 2020 3pm

VIA ZOOM

Ikran Jama (chair), Foti Vito, Martha Taylor, Emma Davy, Victoria Chen, Jane Seto (Exec Co-ordinator), Gavin Nowlan (secretary to the Executive)

The meeting was called to order at 3:05pm

1. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED (CHEN/VITO) “To approve the Agenda”

\*CARRIED

1. Approval of the Previous Minutes- September 4th 2020

MOVED (DAVY/TAYLOR) “To approve the Previous Minutes”

\*CARRIED

1. Report of the President

**Meeting Updates**

UC – I. Jama and E. Davy met with University College LIT, UTSU, and Rotman Commerce to discuss the UC LIT list of demands for the University to accept. I. Jama said that the demands seem like they should have been made earlier in the year, and not already into the term. They discussed accessibility issues, ProctorU, and the recording of lectures. E. Davy said that most of these demands are things the Executive have already brought to the Faculty. Both Davy and Jama reported that they think there could have been more care put into the planning of these demands.   
  
The point of discussion for the Exec was whether the Executive should sign on to this letter on behalf of ASSU. The Exec discussed whether it would be good to add an addendum to the letter to better reflect the views of the Exec. There was discussion regarding whether the Exec should sign-on to this letter notwithstanding the concerns the Exec have to show solidarity with the other student groups taking part in drafting this letter.

M. Taylor asked why there was such a delay in coming out with this letter. It would have been better dealt with before the beginning of the term.   
  
The consensus in the discussion was that the Exec should sign on to this letter, but not before some edits had been made to clean it up.

UTSU- Jama reported on the conversation regarding the UTSU Clubs’ Fair. This would be online do to COVID and have an opportunity for course unions to get their name out there.   
  
Rotman Commerce- Jama reported that they met with Rotman Commerce to discuss how they could get more involved with ASSU. One of the things they are interested in is the CR/NCR proposal.

**URC** – V. Chen is coming on as a co-director with the on-line version of the URC. Jama is reaching out to the instructors. Lynette Ong has already volunteered to chair the Social Science selection committee.

**CR/NCR** – The survey has already gotten 731 responses already. This is great, but we can do a bit better. Some course unions had some questions about the proposal and how these changes would affect the final course average. This question has been forwarded to Lisa Feng, the Faculty Registrar. Next steps for this proposal would be to bring it up to the different colleges. Woodsworth has already said that they want to formally endorse it.

1. Executive Reports

**E. Davy** – Takeover Tuesday is going great. The course unions have been contacted and the schedule is set. There should be in introduction post on Monday to hype the takeover. E. Davy and M. Taylor met and talked about the podcast. They have a timeline for production and how they are going to ask students for people to send in their submissions.

**F. Vito** -Arbor applications for editors closes today. They are 30 applications which are very strong. European Studies is trying to plan in-person events with money from ASSU. Vito had to tell the European Studies Exec that they will not be getting funding for in-person events.

**M. Taylor** -Reported that ASSU Moving on From… is going to be hosted on the ASSU website. Taylor is going to get in touch with students who have said that they want to get involved with the project. Taylor reported that they want to have a “Talking Wall” in October with some Exec as moderators.

**V. Chen** – Reported that URC is going well. She is also going to be an associate science editor for Arbor. For the ASL course proposal, there is going to be a delay due to the COVID pandemic and class not being in-person. Chen met with the Associate Dean, Teaching who said that things were quite overwhelmed keeping the term going. Chen wants to make sure that the pressure is kept up on the program. Chen met with the new VP Equity of UTSU to update them on the program and where they are in the proposal. AMP, the program is paused this year but the CCR team has been notified that the program is going to continue.

1. Report of the Executive Staff

**J. Seto** – The ASSU auditor will be in the office on Monday to start the process even though they are aware that not all the records are in place. Seto is in contact with the course unions to determine how best to get the physical receipts from the previous year to the office. There is still outstanding amounts that are owed to the Union. Hopefully during this situation the audit can be done to the best of their ability.

Zoom accounts have been updated for the staff, so we do not need to pay for them.

Council meetings are getting organized, and the attendees for these meetings will be added to a list for who gets to vote and attend these meetings.

There will not be the same organizing seminars this year as there are not going to be the same financial and organizational issues this year. Seto will have Zoom Q and A sessions instead so that the course unions can have their questions answered.

Seto reported that in conversation with the ASSU CRO they are up and running for the upcoming elections. They elections will run similarly to the March 2020 elections.

Seto brought up the idea of the ASSU office hours being open for the next weeks at three days a week. The Exec were concerned that three days a week was too much. The decision was made that the office would be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the immediate future.   
  
I. Jama asked how the transition during the summer was and how the staff can do their work on-line.

Working hours, should be kept the same for the most part, but the Exec would like a timesheet showing hours of work. There will be some sort of timesheet for the Exec so that they know the hours of work. I. Jama asked that there be some form of a digital hour book so that the Exec had a more transparent record of the hours of work that the staff were performing. There was discussion about the nature of the work of the office, and how work did not stop after those set office hours were over.

**G. Nowlan** -reported that there had been a lot of contact with students over the past week, as it was the beginning of the term and students had lots of questions. There was great engagement across all the ASSU social media accounts which also makes sense as there is just a lot more going on on campus right now. Nowlan reported that he met with the Community Safety office from UofT to discuss how Project: Universal Minds could safely run this year. The office had a number of very good suggestions, and they would follow up with more ideas once they had discussed it among the other staff of the Community Safety office.

1. Constitutional Amendments

Honorarium for Execs -Ikran Jama reported that they think that the Exec deserve honorariums for their work. Most campus groups including colleges and student unions have honorariums and this would encourage Exec to be more involved in the work of the union. For this year, Jama proposes that their honorarium be split and $5,000 be taken out to give an honorarium to the Exec. There was discussion about how much money should be allocated both this year, and moving forward for the Executive honorarium. There was also discussion as to how this would work, as only the President gets an honorarium right now in the Constitution. Seto said that these changes would need a constitutional amendment to make.

1. Other Business

For the next Exec meeting, October 2nd, the Exec meeting will be at 4-5pm

1. Adjournment

(CHEN/DAVY) “To adjourn”

\*CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:07pm

GCN CUPE1281