

ASSU Exec Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2020

4:00pm

VIA ZOOM

Present: Ikran Jama (chair), Victoria Chen, Emma Davy, Martha Taylor, Foti Vito, Paavni Grover (sic?), Jane Seto (Executive Co-ordinator), Gavin Nowlan (Secretary to the Executive)

The meeting was called to order at 4:09pm

1) Approval of the Agenda

MOVED (DAVY/VITO) "To approve the Agenda"

*CARRIED

2) Approval of the Previous Minutes – September 18th, 2020

MOVED (CHEN/TAYLOR) "To approve the previous minutes as presented"

*CARRIED

3) Introductions

Ikran Jama began by introducing themselves to the new Exec Paavi and asked each Exec to go around and mention which year they were in, which college they were in and what their program was. They also included a fun fact to spice things up.

4) Council Meeting

F. Vito reported that now is the time to reach out to Josh Hass to at Student Life to talk about the winter term levy and whether it can be raised. Course Unions have been asking if they can add Exec bonding to their budgets. J. Seto said that she has reached out to them this week to talk about their budgets and that they can apply for funding above the regular budget items. In the past most Course Union budgets have been for food and drinks, so there is not a need for so much funding this year.

I. Jama said that Course Unions had been approaching her to talk about the base level of funding and that students are not going to be on campus so there is an issue of equity. I. Jama said that

the issue seems to be that Course Unions may not understand that there is some flexibility to the funding and that a better job needs to be done to convey this to the Couse Unions.

E. Davy said that there was also an issue when some members of council did not seem to understand the ASSU budget in general. E. Davy brought up the issue of Couse Union honorariums and that they have to have an answer by the middle of October.

I. Jama said that realistically it is not possible for Course Union Exec to get honoraria, and that it should be framed better to them. The issue should be that Couse Unions get an Exec bonding line item be encouraged to be used.

I. Jama said that they have been getting a lot of good responses from Couse Unions about academic issues

5) Report of the President

UTSU/CU- I. Jama met with the UTSU VP Campus Life to talk about the cancelled clubs fair and how they can move forward with a different clubs fair to be held online at the end of the month. The regular system that was designed to only admit recognized UTSU clubs did not work and this is where the issues came with for the system.

F. Vito had a number of questions about how this problem even arise and cast doubt on the explanation from the VP Campus Life.

URC- Selections committee hopefully can get done by the end of today. Then they can send out emails to those chosen. Abstracts for the conference are also now being submitted. A lot of first years have submitted their interest in being part of the program. There are a number of ways these students can be engaged. More will be discussed in the future.

Student Concerns – I. Jama reported that there were a lot of really good student concerns that have been sent to her. Exec and Staff should make more ways to keep channels open.

6) Executive Reports

M. Taylor reported that for the past few weeks they have been talking to students to participate in the ASSU Moving on From... project. The first post should be up soon. M. Taylor reported that the Podcast with E. Davy still waits for its first episode. The first episode should be recorded this weekend and edited and released this week.

E. Davy reported that the 2nd Takeover Tuesday was great and other than a small hiccup in the password due to being in other country, things went really well. The Arbour Journal call for submissions has gone out but Davy is worried that submissions have not come in as fast as they thought they would be.

F. Vito said that much like E. Davy, the Arbour journal is going ahead but that they need more submissions. For a speaker event, Vito thinks that the new UN HCR delegate Malual could be a great speaker. He is going to pitch this idea to the campus UN group. I. Jama said that they would be a lot of student interest in this kind of event. The event would obviously be free.

V. Chen reported that besides everything that was covered by I. Jama, things are moving forward. For the ASL course proposal, the project is pretty far along now and the course was supposed to have been launched in winter of 2021. The Associate Dean, Teaching said that they wanted to do development work before the 2nd semester. Chen is trying to touch base with the new Exec of SLUGS. People are busy right now so they will touch base next month.

7) Report of the Executive Staff

G. Nowlan reported that Project: Universal Minds applications are now underway and that there is a need for students in the high schools for tutors. In the next two weeks we will have an idea of how many U of T students have signed up to be tutors.

J. Seto reported that the auditor was still looking for the Course Union receipts and that even then, things are still hectic from last year.

For the office, things are going well on the two-days a week schedule. Students know that those days are ones we are open, and that students have been keeping safe with the measures in place.

By-elections need to be held for the final ASSU Exec positions. These will be following the regular rules. Josh Bowman has agreed to stay on as CRO for these by-elections. The dates will be sent out to the Exec.

Course Union budgets, because there is no BRC there needs to be some sort of policy that will determine what is regular expenses versus what should be approved separately. J. Seto suggests posting outlying budget questions to the Exec to have them vote.

Most regular budget items will be approved if submitted.

One of the questions that Course Unions had was for the physical printing of journals. The consensus was that physical printing of journals is something that still should be paid for, because it is the culmination of all of the hard work of making a journal.

The Equity Studies proposal for subsidized printing was discussed and the consensus was that the Exec wanted more information.

8) Other Business

I. Jama asked for proposals for language to respond to budget questions for the next council meeting.

9) Adjournment

MOVED (VITO/GROVER) "To adjourn"

*CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:50pm

GCN CUPE1281