ASSU Exec Meeting

Minutes

Friday October 16, 2020 3pm

VIA ZOOM

The meeting was called to order at 3:05pm

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

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

MOVED (Davy/Vito) “To approve the addenda as presented”

\*CARRIED

1. **Approval of the Previous Minutes –October 2nd 2020**

MOVED (Davy/Chen) “To approve the previous minutes as presented”

\*CARRIED

1. **Report of the President**

CARSSU –I Jama brought up the issues arising from the email from CARSSU about why their Course Union has not been recognized. The issues raised in the email are very important and they need to be addressed. CARSSU says that not recognizing them is an issue of equity, which I Jama thinks is important to address. E Davy asked if there is a framework that can be used to determine how best to recognize programs that fall outside of our regular course union rules. J. Seto said that CARSSU used to be a recognized course union that was allowed to continue for years after they fell under the number of students enrolled in the department. J. Seto asked why is there such a limited demand from the students for studying in the program. I. Jama asked if the Executive wanted to pursue a change of their framework to allow for funding of a union that fell under the required numbers, but was from an equity seeking group?

J. Seto said that it would be very difficult to create a framework like this that would capture the course unions we want to help, while not opening the course union recognition process to so many unions that would want to be recognized. I. Jama asked whether it is true that ASSU Course Union rules may disadvantage historically marginalized programs. E. Davy said that they do. I. Jama said that because there is some interest in trying to revisit the framework for Course Union recognition, they will start sharing some docs with the Exec. I. Jama said that they will redouble their efforts to scheduling a meeting with the CARSSU folks.

WIT Program Assignment Database –I. Jama had a meeting today to discuss the creation of model assignments that instructors could turn to. They are reaching out to ASSU to get students to commit to gaining feedback about course design. The WIT program wants to create awards to celebrate the best assignments that exist in the Faculty. The idea is that this award will be a joint ASSU/WIT award and the idea is that ASSU chip in with money and help choose the winners.

I. Jama also asked if there was interest in holding consultations with WIT and students to see if there was interest in these awards and the program in general. The WIT folks are very interested in reaching students so have asked for ASSU’s help in reaching students.

ProctorU –I. Jama has been in touch with a number of course unions about this as well as the UTSU. There does not appear to be any policy in place in the Faculty for these programs. This is an issue that has to be brought up once again to the Dean. I. Jama said that ASSU should get the Faculty to put in place a policy regarding third party proctoring services.

F. Vito asked what is the case against these services? These are the same services that students use for their LSATs.

Jama said that there are a number of issues, including privacy and the fact that many students cannot take tests with family members in the room. The other issue is that these services are not entirely reliable.

V. Chen said that there is a difference in scale between the MCAT and LSAT and these quizzes in UofT.   
  
E. Davy said that it’s not reasonable to expect students to have something as simple as a private space to do their work or quizzes. Davy said their needs to be some guidance about what academic misconduct is and whether you can opt out of these services.

1. **Executive Reports**

F. Vito –reported that both E. Davy and himself met to go over submissions to the Arbor team. They still have a number of good submissions but still need to edit it down.

E. Davy –said that her and Martha Taylor will meet tomorrow to record their first podcast episode which is exciting. And the takeover Tuesdays is going great.

V. Chen –the URC needs to be pushed because they are sill under where they expected the submissions to be based on past submission numbers. Maybe they need to reopen the call for about a week so make sure they get good submissions. A big social push needs to happen too.

1. **Report of the Executive Staff**

J. Seto reported that the Faculty has finally sent us the breakdown of the ASSU fee for the year. The fee is higher than what ASSU budgeted due to a number of factors including more students, and also not incorporating SCI numbers into the account.

J. Seto said that this extra money, should be added to course union budgets so that they have more money to spend for the year. This also eliminates the need to change how much ASSU should charge to students for the second semester.

G. Nowlan –reported that P:UM is going good and that lots of tutors are applying.

There are ongoing issues with what is or is not academic offense in the Faculty which leaves students in the lurch. Something that was brought up with the meeting with the OSAI office and Associate Dean about academic offenses was that a lot of weak cases are making their way to OSAI. Also the Associate Dean needs to reiterate to instructors that no material can be uploaded or assignments due during reading week. The Associate Dean said that they would prepare a document to instructors beforehand.

1. **Other Business**

The next ASSU council will be November 20th at 9am

1. **Adjournment**

MOVED (DAVY/CHEN) “To adjourn”   
  
\*CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 4:40pm

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