ASSU Executive Meeting

January 15, 2021

2pm EST VIA ZOOM

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:05pm EST

1. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED (Taylor/Davy)

“To approve the Agenda as presented”

\*CARRIED

1. MOVED (Taylor/Vito) “To approve the Previous Minutes from December 4th as presented.”

\*CARRIED

1. Report of the President

**Ikran Jama** reported that they have been meeting with the Dept of CS to talk about the Same Degree Same Fee issue. The Department has told them that they cannot change the fee structure for the current year, so the team pushing for this is pretty devastated.

Mental Health Committee has been meeting all during the winter break and they have almost solidified their demands and discord channel.

Stature Garden update. The Exec have been in touch with Khalidah Bello about the creation of a black focused statue garden. The next steps are still being sorted out and Jama will update when they hear back from the organizers about how best ASSU can support this project.

WIT Assignments across disciplines. I. Jama has been in touch with the WIT team and they have asked the Executive to submit an assignment that they have that demonstrates great assignments that they have had to get this program started.

Outlook for 2021: I Jama stressed that they want more Executive support for the mental health committees that are being set up. Ikran also asked for the Exec to be more present in the larger mental health meetings. Jama also stressed that they want Exec to be more present on each other’s projects during the remainder of the year. Jama asked for more communication from the team about how their projects and how they are going. Jama wanted to make sure that the policy proposals that they have put forward to the Faculty actually get passed.

Foti Vito said one of the goals for this year would be to make sure that the transition for the new Exec would be strong. There are a lot of transition this year as many Execs will be graduating.

Martha Taylor said that they want to make sure that students feel they are being supported by the Exec

Emma Taylor said that finding a way to better focus the Deans’ meetings on action items is something that needs to be filed up with. I. Jama says that having a debrief after the meetings (which is something that occurred naturally after the in-person meetings in the past) is something that could work to get action.

1. Executive Reports

**Foti Vito** reported that all of the Arbor articles have been edited and they have been sent to their designer for the layout. They will need a subscription to InDesign to do the layout.

MOVED (Vito/Davy)

“To approve a one-month subscription for InDesign for the Arbor Journal”

\*CARRIED

Vito also reported that he is unable to sit on the Deans Student Initiative Fund because one of his groups is going to be applying for it. So another two members of the Executive have been asked to sit in on the committee that decides the awards.

**Emma Davy** said she is editing the next Episode should be out soon. The EDI committee has been rescheduled so she will report on the committee for the next Exec Meeting. Davy said that her and F Vito could work together on getting some speakers to present in March.

**Martha Taylor** reported that Moving on From has been put on a back burner because she has been focusing on her own health. Taylor has asked for some help in the editing of these stories and getting them posted. This can be done in the next few weeks.

**Fatemeh Nami** updated that they took the winter break to rest up and get focused on this year. I Jama said that they don’t need to rush to create a project, they can join another project

**Paavni Grover** reported that the Career Centre was following up with her about the project that they are taking about.

**Victoria Chen** reported that the URC was supposed to be next week, but it’s been moved to the 29th. This will allow the presenters to have more time to get their stuff ready for the conference.

There is going to be a big push to get participants to this conference.

1. Report of the Executive Staff

**Jane Seto** reported that due to the Provincial Emergency Order the office is currently closed. This is an issue for the auditor process as the deadline has passed to get it to the University. They understand the issue but if it is not done by February the University will not issue the 2nd term fees cheque until it is in.

Seto also reported that the ASSU award applications are coming in now and that she needs two members of the Exec to be added to the scholarship committee along with a member of council to go over the applications. The meeting to go over them would be online, obviously.

Seto also reported that the next council meeting would be January 29th at 12pm. Vikki from the new Arts and Science Internship program will be coming in to make a presentation to council. This will take place at the end of the meeting. Hopefully this will not take too long so we can all watch the US President inauguration.

WIT still wants to meet with ASSU to help sponsor an award for best assignment in the Faculty. They have not responded yet for dates for when they can meet to go over these awards.

Equity Studies special project request. J. Seto brought up this application and reported that it is a large expense and the return on this expense is not going to be that great. This is the only outstanding SPF. Victoria Chen asked if the Exec have agreed to fund %50 of the cost of this project.

Victoria Chen said that there have not been that many SPFs this year and maybe the Exec could fund $1000 to this project.

E. Davy raised the issue about how this project is not very collaborative and maybe the money could be spent better on an event to brought more people together. Their SPF also lists students needing help with basic necessities like rent and groceries, yet their request is to give them art supplies. It’s also unfair that they are giving gift baskets to their students yet other course unions have not set up something like this.

Victoria Chen said its not so much like a gift basket but supplies for an event. Its just that there is no event associated with it. Also the shipping costs associated with the event are substantial.

Davy agreed that this is a fantastic initiative, but any money that they give them right now if it’s not the full amount will not allow the initiative to go ahead so they will have to go back to the drawing board on this one. I. Jama agreed with this point.

J. Seto said that she will communicate with the ESSU team about the SPF and see if they can work with a smaller amount or how best they can change the proposal to best fit into what the Exec are asking them to change.

**Gavin Nowlan** reported that he has been answering a lot of questions about final marks and the CR/NCR deadline. Also there is the ongoing issue with STA314 and the regrades that students are waiting on. He was in discussion with the Vice Dean and the Department about the issues with this course. Hopefully it is sorted soon.

P:UM is going well. One of the issues is the quadmester and how some students have moved to courses that are not courses they need help with. In this case the tutors have moved to more academic skills, or planning or helping them get library cards.

1. Other Business

Jane Seto asked if there was any update for the ESSU printing proposal. Ikran Jama said that they had missed the follow up and will check in with ESSU. There was discussion about whether ASSU was interested in putting money towards this, or if this was something the colleges should take care of. Jama said that this is something that ASSU should support it, but she is unsure about how this is going to work in practice. The discussion ended with the decision to schedule a call with Equity Studies to sort out this proposal and the other SPFs.

1. Adjournment

MOVED (Taylor/Davy) “To Adjourn”

\*CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 3:45pm EST

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