ASSU Executive Meeting

Minutes

Friday March 12, 2021

3pm EST VIA ZOOM

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:13pm EST

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

MOVED (Taylor/Davy) “To approve the agenda as presented)

\*CARRIED

1. **Approval of the Previous Minutes -February 26th 2021**

MOVED (Vito/Grover) “To accept the previous minutes as presented.”

\*CARRIED

1. **Report of the President**

**Mental health committee update**: Victoria Chen and Ikran Jama met with the SMART team to talk about their mental health group. Jama and Chen met with Lucinda Qu to discuss the issues that Jama and Chen had with how the organization was set-up. One of the issues they had was the number of working groups and whether it made sense to limit them.

Victoria Chen said that they thought that the idea for something like SMART was to be a long-term organization that would deal with systemic issues about mental health on campus. Chen reported that the best plan would be for ASSU to organize something with the original organizers of the emergency taskforce for mental health to make it a more long-term thing. One of the other issues identified by Chen was the way that the open nature of the organization right now meant that though it was open to everyone across three campuses, the actual leadership of SMART was limited to a few members only.

Fatemeh Nami asked how a new streamlined mental health council would fit into the other groups on campus and their work on mental health. Jama anticipated that this smaller council would deal with goals that could be accomplished like academic policy changes. Jama also identified an issue with institutional memory in a group like SMART with too much turnover from year to year and replication of work over time.

1. **Executive Reports**

**Fatemeh Nami:** The applications for the open mic night have closed and a full program is going to be ready soon.

**Martha Taylor:** The last three Moving On From stories are going to be live soon, hopefully before the end of the term.

1. **Report of the Executive Staff**

**Jane Seto**: There is a joint SPF from three Course Unions (PTSA, CSBSU, UTPA) and they want to give out a Nintendo Switch as a prize for a trivia night. The SPF application is in the slack channel and needs some discussion from the Exec about whether this prize is something that the Exec can justify spending money on.

There was discussion about the equity of this type of prize, and E. Davy used unparliamentary language to register their disgust at the idea of giving such a valuable prize to a small group of students.   
  
There was other general discussion about the equitable nature of the prize. Fatemeh Nami said that the Exec should still approve some sort of prize, but nothing so large for such a small group (the event is capped at 80)

Seto asked the Executive if the regular gift card amounts of roughly $25 gift cards for these types of events was in order. The Executive directed J Seto to respond to the proposal with a breakdown of how regular prize amounts have been, and if they want to direct this money to a large prize that’s fine, but that ASSU will not cover such a large prize.

**Election Help Honorarium:** J Seto brought up the issue of ASSU’s elections being aided by Kelly Jay, a staff member at UofT who verified all the candidates. It would be a nice gesture to give her a gift card.

MOVED (Jama/Vito) “To give a $50 gift card to Kelly Jay for her help with ASSU’s Elections”   
  
\*CARRIED

**Office Hours**: The office was open again this week and it was pretty slow. Jane and Gavin will re-evaluate how it’s going over the next two weeks to see how it goes.

**Awards Social:** The idea is that there would still be an awards social with winners and the Dean and family and friends.

**Gavin Nowlan** brought up the idea of striking an academic committee that would meet over the summer and address policy issues that the Exec could work on and present to council over the academic year. He will present some terms of reference to the Exec to decide on.

1. **Other Business**

None

1. **Adjournment**

MOVED (Davy/Taylor) “To adjourn”   
  
\*CARRIED

The meeting adjoined at 3:51pm EST

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