

ASSU Executive Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, July 14th, 2021

10 a.m.

Present: F. Nami (Chair), C. Choo, S. Rana, B. Ramadan, P. Grover, J. Seto (Executive Co-ordinator), G. Nowlan (Student Advisor), Y. Minoda (Secretary)

Via ZOOM

1. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED(Ramada/Rana): "To approve the agenda as presented."

*CARRIED

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes - June 23, 2021

MOVED(Nami/Rana): "To approve the minutes of June 23rd, 2021."

*CARRIED

3. Report of the President

F. Nami reported that she has been meeting regularly with SDSF but still deciding if ASSU wants to sit on that campaign, depending on the Dean's office budget consultation process.

The Executives started discussing what to put on the agenda for the next Dean's meeting.

B. Ramadan wanted to bring up what the process is, on bringing in guest speakers for courses with the ongoing censure, and what they plan to do to make sure that students still have access to guest lecturers/speakers. S. Rana pointed out that guest speakers are an integral part of some courses and C. Cho added that some courses are solely made up of different guest speakers.

S. Rana asked if it is possible to continue self-declaration absences from last year, because students are having difficulty accessing in person clinics.

F. Nami asked how to continue the talks of return to campus at the Dean's meeting. G. Nowlan said that we should discuss lecture recordings and a policy on making them available. S. Rana pointed out that having lectures online have increased discussion from before. F. Nami wants to clarify what supports are available for instructors regarding lecture recordings. J. Seto mentioned that instructors are probably just getting emails on availability of lecture recordings but not being encouraged, which might be something that can be clarified by the Dean's office. G. Nowlan said this can be framed as a

positive thing for the instructors, by making this available, eliminates work for them where individual students request recordings on a case-by-case basis.

F. Nami wondered how this information goes out to instructors. G. Nowlan and J. Seto answered that there are CPAD (Chair, Principals, and Deans) meetings on a regular basis where information is shared.

F. Nami said she will focus on asking for lecture recordings for the bigger classes. S. Rana pointed out that for science-based courses, tutorials are where students get a lot of the valuable information, so would be helpful for students to get those recordings as well, and if not, to upload notes from the class. F. Nami asked her if Accessibility Services will be willing to upload notes from notetakers, but S. Rana said that would be challenging.

The Executives agreed that they will publicize the infographics of the survey and let the Dean's office announces and explain why they have decided on their full return to campus (non-hybrid) decision.

After much discussion, the Executives agreed on the following agenda.

1. Explanation to student on the decision of no hybrid option.
2. Lecture Recordings
3. Guest Lecturers
4. Self-declaration absence
5. Budget Consultation

4. Report of the Executive

P. Grover asked who can join her for the meeting with the Career Center. S. Rana said she will be available.

B. Ramadan asked G. Nowlan if there have been any updates from Prof. Ju on Quercus. G. Nowlan said that they are waiting for IT people to get back to them.

5. Report of the Staff

J. Seto reported that the audit was complete and that everything looked fine. The document has been signed and it will be released and sent to the Vice-Provost. She also noted that the staffed opened the office on Tuesday and had 2 students come by for locker key return and was finally able to meet B. Ramadan in person.

G. Nowlan reported that there are multiple students in serious situations who are unable to get the vaccine for various reasons who also live in multi-generational homes that make it extremely hard for them to come to campus. He continued that these students need accommodation in getting enrolled in UTM/UTSC courses which will be

available online but are having difficulty getting assistance from their registrars. S. Rana agreed that this is a high priority issue and should be brought up at the Dean's meeting.

Y. Minoda reported that she has finished working on the Course Union social media list and is now double checking that the links are all correct. She also reported that she will continue to offer Project: Universal minds online but also work on a hybrid solution, so that students and tutors can choose whichever they are comfortable with.

6. Other Business

F. Nami brought up some questions that were asked by the Executives in a previous meeting that was unanswered. Questions included the theme and hiring process of editors and selection committees of the URC. J. Seto answered that there was no specific theme, and the hiring process was done through resumes and interviews by the Executives. Another question was regarding Project: Universal minds and if the program was more focused on academics than mentoring. Y. Minoda answered that the program's focus is on academic tutoring, but depending on tutors/students, there are portions of mentorship as well.

7. Adjournment

MOVED(Nami/Rana): "To adjourn."

*CARRIED

Secretary to the Executive

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