

ASSU Executive Meeting

Minutes

Friday September 24, 2021

3:00pm EDT

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

1) Approval of the Agenda

MOVED (Ramadan/Nami) "To adopt the agenda as presented"

*CARRIED

2) Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes – Sept 17th, 2021

MOVED (Ramadan/Nami) "To accept the previous minutes from September 17th 2021 as presented"

*CARRIED

3) Report of the President

F. Nami spoke to SDSF and gave them a quick report on the conversation ASSU had with the Dean's office and told them that ASSU will be stepping back from the group and will only be meeting with them on a need be basis moving forward. She also noted that the committee has expanded to include UTSC and UTM, and a possible change in the representative for UTSU from Catherine Lai (VPPUA) to Alexa Ballis (President). J. Seto asked if they have approached their department to ask for the breakdown of their fees and who makes those decisions. F. Nami mentioned that they had only received gross numbers through FOI, and the impression she got is that cost is by department and not program.

She reported on Arbor and that they are not getting as many applications as last year, so will be sending out a message to last year's applicants to encourage to re-apply.

4) Executive Reports

S. Rana reported that they have closed applications on the selections committee on URC and that they will be selecting 9 members out of the 20-30 applicants. She added that they found a Science chair which happens to be her lab coordinator.

P. Grover went over the budget consultation survey form and the Executives discussed some edits. They talked about having some open-ended sections to engage students better and give space for more constructive answers and ask questions that will give more clarity of what students are looking for in terms of different services like mental health and academic help. Executives agreed that giving categories like these will guide students to share their feedback. Her and G. Nowlan will work on the edits.

B. Ramadan mentioned that they will continue to post Executive intros until Monday.

J. Seto asked for clarification on the first item on the agenda for the Dean's meeting and explained what she wants answers in. S. Rana agreed that there needs to be more transparency on what can be done to instructors that make mistakes, and that she is hearing a lot from her peers regarding issues with their courses such as posting very low-quality lecture recordings. G. Nowlan also mentioned that there are many courses that are continuing to stay online even though they were supposed to be back in person.

F. Nami also noted on the issue of classrooms being overcapacity. J. Seto added that she heard back from L. Feng saying all courses are set to be under the classroom capacity but there may be the odd course where some students that are trying to enroll in the course is in the classroom.

5) Report of the Staff

G. Nowlan reported that he attended the UTEAU meeting and discussed issues on returning to campus and plans to raise awareness on it. He mentioned that CUPE 3902 may start taking action with the possibility of the Faculty Association being involved and wanted to meet with ASSU.. The Executives agreed to have an informal meeting.

J. Seto asked for UTORid for the online election, and that they will need to elect another BRC member from the Executive (C. Choo is one as treasurer). She also asked Executives to start thinking about ASSU clothing. She then went through the budget that will be presented at the Council meeting and explained how the meeting will run. The Executives agreed that G. Nowlan will act as chair again this year.

6) Other Business

G. Nowlan mentioned about a group called FCJ Refugee Center that looks at issues of international student rights, specifically students who are at UofT who have no status in Canada that are being charged international fees (students that may be undocumented). He said that this group has been dealing with international students all summer that has lost their status here because they were stuck in Canada because of the pandemic. They will be putting together a workshop helping these students with their rights and guiding them in the right direction and would like help from ASSU. He said he will get back to

them saying that ASSU will put a team together to meet in a couple of weeks. B. Ramadan suggested adding this to the ASSU Quercus page.

7) Adjournment

MOVED (Ramadan/Rana) “To adjourn”

*CARRIED

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