

ASSU Executive Meeting
Minutes

October 25th, 2021

5:00pm EDT

VIA ZOOM

Present: F. Nami (Chair), C. Choo, A. Madhusudana, S. Rana, B. Ramadan, J. Gan P. Grover, J. Seto (Executive Co-ordinator), Y. Minoda (Secretary)

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm EDT

1. Approval of the Agenda

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

*CARRIED

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes – October 15th, 2021

MOVED(Choo/Rana): "To accept the previous minutes from October 15th, 2021 as presented."

*CARRIED

3. Dean's Meeting Agenda

The Executives decided to bring up the following to the next Dean's meeting

- Remind instructors to put on a cap on review sessions to avoid overcrowding in classrooms
- Ask when extracurriculars can resume in-person events

4. Report of the President

F. Nami reported that she and B. Ramadan met with Arbor editors to talk about their roles and responsibilities. She added that they will do one last push with social media and a listserv email on Friday.

5. Executive Reports

S. Rana reported that they have decided to push the deadline for URC abstract submission by one week since they have only received 23 submissions so far. She asked for advice on what else she can do to promote the conference and talked about possibly

extending the conference by a couple of months. F. Nami suggested accepting on going research as well as contacting ROP office (Experiential.artsci@utoronto.ca, Christine.ovcaric@utoronto.ca) and the Jackman Scholars program office (ira.wells@utoronto.ca).

J. Gao reported on her laptop rental program. She said that talking to different colleges, the two big takeaways were that they purchase Chromebooks because it is cheaper than laptops and that they treat it as library material so if they damage it or lose it, it gets charged to their student account. Trinity College charges overdue fees and New College uses software to restrict students from downloading additional programs. J. Seto noted that since ASSU does not have access to student accounts, it will not be able to have the same insurance policies as colleges. Some ideas that came up as alternatives was to get the students to pay a deposit or leave a piece of ID in exchange. G. Nowlan recommended doing a pilot program by purchasing a few Chromebooks and see how it goes.

6. Report of the Staff

G. Nowlan reported that FCJ Refugee Center got back to him with about what they are looking for in terms of collaboration and will be forwarding the details to the Executives. He explained for the new Executives that this is a group that works with refugees and approached ASSU for collaboration to host webinars for international student about their rights and what resources are available amidst this pandemic. F. Nami recommended that they connect with ISAN as well.

G. Nowlan reported that he and J. Seto talked to A. Boland about new documents being made regarding the academic handbook and reminded everybody to let him know if you hear of any academic concerns from students. F. Nami commented that one of her instructor refuses to share his email with the class and told them to tweet him to get a hold of him. J. Seto added that she found out from A. Boland that dates and mode of tests do now have to be specified on the syllabus. Executives agreed that this can be brought up in the next Dean's meeting for clarification.

J. Seto said she will be sending out the November newsletter on Sunday night or Monday morning and to let her know by then if anything needs to be added. She also sent the link for tote bags if the executives were still interested in purchasing some.

S. Rana commented that it might be a good idea for a social media campaign highlighting international student rights but will need help in executing it. They discussed the possible timeline being next semester.

7. Other Business

The Executives discussed weekly meeting times. Someone suggested to send out reports beforehand to shorten the meeting times, but not everybody agreed. They decided to meet the same time next week but will talk to the rest of the Executive to finalize the meeting time for this semester.

J. Seto asked if the Executives finalized the criteria for the Ikran Jama award. The Executives will finalize in their own time and will send the details to J. Seto when it is done.

8. Adjournment

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

*CARRIED

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