

ASSU Executive Meeting

Minutes

Tues June 4th, 2024 5:00 PM

Present: Firdaus Sadid (President), Farida Kayed (Executive), Mia Rodrigo (Executive), Michelle Wong (Executive), Safia Zaman (Executive), Gavin Nowlan (Secretary to the Executive), Jane Seto (Executive Coordinator)

Called to order at 5:31pm

1) Approval of the Agenda MOVED (Kayed/Zaman) “To approve the agenda as presented”

CARRIED

2) Approval of the Previous Minutes – May 13th, 2024 MOVED (Wong/Rodrigo) “To approve the previous minutes as present”

CARRIED

3) Report of the President

F. Sadid emailed the UofT web design club to start the process of updating the website. S. Zaman will also take on the project.   
  
Emily from USSU emailed the Exec about co-signing a statement regarding the encampment. The team has already decided on not issuing a statement at this moment and communicated this with Emily.

F. Sadid has been in touch with UTSU regarding orientation and is still waiting to hear back about ways that the team can collaborate with UTSU for the Fall orientation.

4) Report of the Executive

M. Wong reported that the Arbor journal is almost ready to go. There is still some design work to be done and the honorarium to be paid to the editors.

S. Zaman and M. Rodrigo have been researching the divestment movement at UofT over the past few years and have been put in contact with Prof Paz from Hearing Palestine. There is also a program where you can earn a credit in Arabic while you tutor an English language learner from Syria or Palestine.

F. Kayed asked a question regarding what sort of academic limitations the topic of Palestine faces at UofT when it comes to classroom teaching and curriculum.   
  
S. Zaman responded that issues regarding indigenous representation or even the teaching of history could be limited.

M. Rodrigo brought up the Equity Studies course available on the history of Palestine, and that the University has said they are open to expanding the tutoring abroad program.

S. Zaman said that the Hearing Palestine group is trying to raise awareness of the history and culture of the Palestinian people on campus and it is a group that the Exec should support. Zaman said she is willing to do the research to find out which other groups on campus have similar issues in their programs/departments.

The Exec agreed that more information is needed to understand the problems facing the teaching of culture and history across the Faculty and Zaman and Rodrigo will take on the research to present to the Dean’s office.

5) Report of the Staff

J. Seto reported that the auditors will be in the office in the next few weeks.

G. Nowlan reported that there needs to be clear policy regarding academic misconduct and the timeline for hearing back about their allegations

6) Travel and Exam Grant Approval Structure

F. Kayed said that in the past the Exec have been giving out more money at the end of the fiscal year as they see what is leftover, as opposed to the earlier students who got their applications in and got less.   
  
F. Sadid proposed that maybe changing the guidelines so that there is a cover of percentage of the total cost up to a total cap. The Exec will do some research

MOVED (Sadid/Wong) “To increase the Deferred Exam Fee Grant to $73.50 for one deferral and $120 for two deferred exams”  
  
CARRIED

7) Executive Orientation Planning (June 15th)

J. Seto brought up the set planning agenda for the day and some of the set sessions. Seto also asked for the Exec to brainstorm ideas they wish to discuss.

One of the suggestions for the team was an in-depth breakdown of the organization chart of faculty and university so that the Exec have a better idea of who the major figures are.

F. Sadid said that they want to host some bigger events connecting course unions with business leaders or industry leaders as a way to connect our students with the greater community.

8) Other Business

F. Kayed brought up the idea of a anonymous form or dropbox for students to bring complaints to the team about issues on campus

9) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:28pm

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