

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE — 2023-2024 #58

February 8, 2024

12:33 PM

ATTENDANCE

Christian Fotang	<i>President</i>
Chris Beasley	<i>Vice President (External)</i>
Pedro Almeida	<i>Vice President (Academic)</i>
Levi Flaman	<i>Vice President (Operations and Finance)</i>
Michael Griffiths	<i>Vice President (Student Life)</i>
Marc Dumouchel	<i>General Manager</i>
Juliana du Pree	<i>Director of Marketing and Communications</i>
Jonathan Olfert	<i>Director of Research and Advocacy</i>
Ari Campbell	<i>External Relations Specialist</i>
Courtney Graham	<i>Assistant Manager, Governance Support</i>

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

BEASLEY/ALMEIDA MOVED TO approve the Executive Committee agenda as presented.
4/0/0 CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

BEASLEY/GRIFFITHS MOVED TO approve the Executive Committee minutes from February 5,
2024 as presented.
3/0/1 CARRIED, ALMEIDA abstaining.

REPORTS

PRESIDENT

- Met with Melissa Padfield about tuition increases and the Sexual Assault Centre.
- Exceptional Tuition Increase Task Force remains relevant.
- Black History Month planning follow-up.
- Met with Dean of Students.

VICE PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

- Received a briefing note from Padfield about lecture capture and classroom upgrades.
- Spending time with upcoming potential candidates for VP Academic.
- Met with Programs Committee today and emphasized the importance of Indigenous course content.

VICE PRESIDENT (EXTERNAL)

- Been answering many emails and engaging with potential VP External candidates.
- Working on CAUS ED hiring process and there are a number of applicants. The pay scale is \$65-75k.

VICE PRESIDENT (OPERATIONS AND FINANCE)

- Gateway interview.
- Attended PAWSOC.
- Attended a meeting about the ISA office in Telus.
- Attended career fair.
- At CAC, initial discussions around potential changes to the process and requirements for DFUs and SRAMFs.
- Gave a tour to an AUFSJ representative.
- Finalized Budget Principles to bring to Council.
- Meeting with prospective election candidates.
- Strategic Planning consultation with InfoLink, Safewalk, and other units.
- InfoLink is receiving complaints about technical challenges with replacement Arc cards.

VICE PRESIDENT (STUDENT LIFE)

- Wrapping up Executive job shadow commitments before LOA.
- Touching base with DoS on sensitive items.
- Working with Residence Services and getting ready for Residence Improvement Fund proposals.
- Supporting multiple committees and engaging in strategic planning.

GENERAL MANAGER

- Focusing on organizational review, consulting with teams.
- Working on finalizing the theatre.

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Supporting UAS-U Got This campaign/event.
- Planning for MHT opening is a massive endeavor, including events and account creation.
- Continuing work on the website.

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

- Finalizing Council Election nomination package, due tomorrow. Includes augmented language about discrimination and harassment.
- The second strategic planning survey is underway with 600 responses, anticipated to break 800, and the first survey's report is underway also.
- The Research Analyst is doing a survey report on student housing.
- Working on an outstanding last-minute question around ISA election data verification.

ASSISTANT MANAGER, GOVERNANCE SUPPORT

- Working on Augustana retreat for late March.
- Working with Aseel to prepare more Council training documents.
- Supporting elections staff. SRAs have been reaching out for additional information.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS SPECIALIST

- Campaign letters to government and University administration are at 1900.
- Working on CASA AGM items.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

- Budget principles will be submitted today.
- The Augustana retreat is planned for March 23. Note that election results will need to be ratified at that meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

NO ITEMS

DISCUSSION PERIOD

UASU Membership

- Questions arose about UASU membership for people not currently enrolled in one course for credit, in the context of leaves of absence and health care coverage.
- The context is a student who had an accident, went on LOA, and lost access to their health care in Fall Semester, but has since regained it. Means will be explored to support them in conjunction with the University.
- There would be many complications to creating broader categories or forms of UASU membership; the UASU cannot simply charge people the fee and make them a member without contravening UASU legislation. UASU membership comes with several specific abilities (e.g. running a DFU or SRAMF campaign, running for office, filing a DIE Board complaint, accessing services).
- The insurance company is only willing to extend insurance to UASU members. They would be concerned about us expanding in ways that call into question their actuarial projections and potentially insurance contracts.
- A hypothetical associate membership was discussed for these cases, and also SAMU's 'honorary membership' model. There are related disparities and access issues.
- The UASU used to have honorary memberships as a rare honorific, e.g. extended to past University Presidents.
- A complication to shifting membership definitions in relation to leave is that, for many undergraduate students, approved academic leave is not well defined; ALMEIDA has been trying to engage with that. There would be a compounding logistic concern that a student going on leave would need to seek this out. Appropriate mechanisms to address students who fall through the cracks might be possible but would take significant time.
- In Australia, associate memberships let other members of the campus community opt in to student association services, but that is a separate discussion.

ISA Request

- The ISA has requested the UASU's assistance in setting up recorded sit-down meetings/interviews with University leadership over tuition increases.
- Facilitating meetings might be possible, but whether the University would agree to sit down on camera with ISA leaders at this late stage is unlikely.
- The ISA has also requested to be part of the ongoing letter writing campaign. They can send the joint letter, share the link and posters, and have the option to help with class talks.
- The tuition town hall took place; the ISA was invited.

- It is important to focus on international students' needs, living conditions, food insecurity, etc.

ASA Question

- The ASA wanted to run a plebiscite question during elections about the unique Augustana schedule. The ASA has no official opinion on the 3-11 system and the faculty wants to know what students want.
- The legislative deadline has passed but the legislation does not specifically contemplate faculty-specific non-fee plebiscites, except for cases where FAs need to run a plebiscite to deviate from UASU Political Policies.
- There may be options for Augustana students participating in elections to be redirected to off-platform surveys.
- There may also be analog solutions.
- ASA's current surveying systems do not have the capability to ensure one response per student (unlike Perks, which has low Augustana uptake), causing credibility issues at the faculty council level.
- There is a precedent issue. All referenda and plebiscites run by FAs must be in line with the PSLA, specific to student affairs. There are reasons for processes to have high thresholds.
- This decision may come before the summer, impacting incoming students. University calendar changes can take significant time.

Endorsement Request for Bill C-223 on Guaranteed Livable Basic Income

- A group has invited the UASU to sign on as a validator.
- The main questions here are around whether this specific call is in scope as an issue that the UASU can speak on, and related to highly visible association with political parties.

Election Forums

- The Elections Office has set up three forums last year (Myer Horowitz, CSJ, Augustana) which take a significant amount of time and money to do right.
- A flag has been raised that this year has a lot of contested races and referendum/plebiscite campaigns, so one North Campus forum may not be enough.
- Bylaw 320 explicitly allows external parties to organize forums as long as all candidates get sufficient notice. Last year, for example, LHSA ran one at the CRO's request, and ISA ran one. These required significant elections staff time but were independent events, not official Elections Office Forums under bylaw. UASU did include last year's external forums in the elections advertising.
- Last year the Myer Horowitz Forum ran 40 minutes over time.
- The residence forum has not seen significant demand.

- There are outstanding questions around the ISU and whether they would want to run a forum.
- The Elections Office is independent and decides what election forums there will be. The Bylaws state that there should be at least one forum and allows for external forums; any group can do so.
- Last year saw major last-minute changes to forums, causing major problems for candidates, Marketing and Communications, etc.
- For years, there were too many forums and it suppressed turnout.
- SRAs/DFUs have reached out to Governance with concerns that there would be a lot of forums; they were satisfied that three would be manageable. In the past, it has been 50/50 whether SRAs/DFUs participated in forums.
- There may be other mechanisms and opportunities to ensure that SRAMF and DFU campaigns get full and fair opportunities to engage with students.
- There is potential to discuss this at CAC next week.

CLOSED SESSION

BEASLEY/GRIFFITHS MOVED TO go into closed session.
5/0/0 CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.