



APSA General Council Meeting

January 24, 2021 at 17:00

(Google Meets <https://meet.google.com/efk-zzcf-amo>)

1. Call to order (17:00)
2. Roll call (2 min): Megan, Angel, Ayush, Kevin, Garrett, Rachel, Anthony, Jared, Jackie, John, Nicole, Matthew, Cody, Monica, Jessica, Eliana, Marzena, Leah, Navjot, Akshita, Diane, Yan, Nathan, Prof. Bharadia, Mandy, Dr. Sanghera, Brianna, Makboolee
Regrets: Colleen, Scott
Guests: Ray, Tobi
3. Additions to the agenda (1 min)
 - a. Academic Staff Meeting - Dr. Sanghera (5 min)
 - b. PAM - Jared (3 min)
 - c. SU Update - Navjot (2 min)
 - d. Smoke Free Campus - Makboolee (3 min)
Motion: To approve the agenda
First: Navjot **Second:** Ayush. **Motion carries.**
4. Review last meeting's minutes (1 min)
Motion: To approve the previous Council Meeting Minutes
First: Ayush **Second:** Navjot. **Motion carries.**

New Business:

5. Black Pharmacy Students Association - Anthony/Ray (7 mins)
 - a. Anthony - We have a special guest with us today. I don't want to give too much of a spoiler and there has been something in the works for quite some time in formulating a Black Pharmacy Students' Association and they finally received official approval from the university. We wanted to invite a representative from their association to talk about some initiatives they have planned and how this all started. So please join me in welcoming Ray for his presentation.
 - b. Ray - Thanks Anthony that was a really nice and warm welcome. My name is Ray and I'm a 1st year student and the interim VP finance for the Black Pharmacy Students' Association, AKA the BPSA. As Anthony said, we're super grassroots and we initiated this club last semester but got officiated two weeks ago. Our vision is to increase Black representation and engagement in the profession of pharmacy. Our mission is to provide a safe space for Black pharmacy students, to empower them, and to create a strong and extensive network's for them, specifically to advocate for and support current and prospective Black pharmacy students. We have 3 main goals: representation, advocacy, and mentorship. For representation, we want increased representation of black health in the curriculum to help diminish the health disparities that currently exist and we also want to create opportunities for Black students to engage and have leadership roles, so that there is Black representation at all levels of government and decision making within the student body and the faculty. For advocacy, we want to have a collective voice to advocate for Black pharmacy students, staff, and our community at large. We want to advocate for a safe way to report racist behaviours within the faculty and on rotations, and we advocate that the faculty ensures that students and preceptors are provided with skill based anti-racism training, as well as implementation of cultural safety. For mentorship we want to promote the recruitment, admission, and retention of Black students in the program by providing mentorship to prospective applications, and fostering a sense of community among Black students within the program. We also want to create network opportunities for current and prospective Black pharmacy



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students with the Black pharmacists that are currently in practice. A current initiative that we're doing is hosting a webinar titled "Pharmacy School 101" on February 13, and our target audience would be Black post secondary students but anyone who is interested in the event is welcome to join. The goal of the webinar is to raise awareness about the PharmD program at the UofA, provide useful information about the application process, the curriculum once you are in the program, and the opportunities granted upon graduations, so that is what we are implementing on our end. We would love to collaborate with APSA in multiple ways, and a couple options that we could do would be either hosting Lunch and Learns focused on Black health, for example hypertension presentation in Black people, the misdiagnosis of depression, skin cancer, and other illnesses that present differently in the Black community, alongside having Lunch and Learns focused on Black healthcare professionals. For example, 2 days ago it marked the 130th anniversary of the first non-segregated hospital in America, which was funded by Daniel Hale Williams, who was a brilliant Black physician, and he was the first surgeon in the world to successfully perform open heart surgery. So having role models like that I think is very positive, which kind of ties into the next idea, which is hosting events for Black History Month. It would be nice to show the great feats Black pharmacists and other Black healthcare professionals have accomplished, despite the enormous adversities that they had to overcome. Similarly, partnering with the Community Ed director to target predominantly Black high schools, to pique their interest in pharmacy and provide representation to show that there are Black students in the program, that there is a sense of community, and that they are not going to be the token Black student. My last point is that we are wanting to be more involved in orientation to showcase that despite there being a paucity of Black pharmacy students there is still a community that they can join, and this may be especially appealing for our out of province students who don't know anyone at UofA, let alone in Alberta. So that is pretty much the BPSA in a nutshell and if you have any questions you can ask Tobi our interim president who is also here today!

- c. Anthony - That was amazing Ray, I really appreciate it! I agree, really, really excited with this initiative, and you know future collaboration, and definitely work that needs to be done. Kudos to you for getting involved and to Tobi as well. I know we had some conversations throughout the semester and she is doing some great work behind the scenes as well so thank you!
- d. Ayush - I was going to follow up to say for you to be in 1st year and to take this upon yourself is very impressive, and I've had the chance to work with you on the PAM committee so I'm really happy you brought this forward. Something I wanted to say was with PAM, one of my focuses is highlighting diversity within our profession, so any opportunities to collaborate please let me know and I will reach out to you and Tobi and see what we can put together.
- e. Dr. Sanghera - Congratulations again for the approval, I am very excited for the group. I also want to extend that student services serve you as we serve all of our student associations. So we will discuss budgeting and mentorship and whatever else you need. APSA is going to be your best friend in terms of mentorship as well. Let's all collaborate and give this group the recognition it needs and the outcomes that it wants to achieve. We have our first EDI committee meeting next Monday and many of you are on that committee, and I know Tobi is a representative on that committee because of the BPSA.
- f. Anthony - As a first year it's incredible! There are so many other things going on and so many other things you can focus on but it just shows the passion you have and the value behind that and it is really great to see.
- g. Morgan - It was awesome, really great! We're really excited for you!



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- h. Dr. Sanghera - It was great and we are super excited to start the advertising campaign, I know Ellen has been working with Tobi and the group so they're excited.
6. APSA Bear - Ayush (2 min)
- a. Ayush - I am excited to give the APSA bear to 2 people it is going to Makboolee and Nathan. The reason I wanted to give it to them as I think a lot of us are in positions that are very front facing, but they have done a ton of behind the scenes work, advocating for pharmacy, advocating for student services, and I was looking at both of their counselor reports earlier this afternoon and the amount of meetings and the amount of training that they've had to attend is truly amazing. I also wanted to just recognize that Makboolee also got elected alongside Megan onto the CAPSI National Council so I wanted to congratulate you on that as well.
 - b. Anthony - Agreed very well deserved!
 - c. Mak - Thank you!
 - d. Nathan - I appreciate it thank you!
7. Additions to the Agenda
- a. Smoke Free Campus - Makboolee (3 min) (*Due to the GFC meeting occurring at a concurrent time, this item was moved to the beginning of the meeting*)
 - 1. Makboolee - Currently at the GFC meeting we will be voting soon on possibly implementing a smoke free campus at UofA. I know it has been implemented in other places and I am all for public health and improving smoking rates, however, I feel like there are a lot of caveats with a policy like this. Number one is we all know how much effort and resources it takes to help a patient through their smoking cessation journey, so with all the budget cuts, people who have already lost their jobs, other staff who is already overworked, who is going to actually care for these patients/students that are going to be impacted by this? Second of all, it is an addiction so it is not that easy to quit and willingness to quit is one of the factors that really translates to patient success. We're already pretty restricted in the world right now so how are we going to feel with another restriction? Again, I am all for creating awareness about smoking cessation and helping people but to make a policy like this, where is the demand right now? Are we able to handle it? If this policy is for the sake of public good to have a smoke free campus what does that mean about the public around us? What I see happening is that people who do smoke are just going to go outside the university ground into the areas of the hospitals, clinics, residential areas, and on the path where people are working out. I was thinking maybe if we could have people stick to designated areas in low traffic and non-critical zones because I know secondhand smoke is a problem. I wanted to know if there were any people who were for this motion and what kind of counter arguments you had, because I wanted to understand if there could be benefits or amendments to this motion.
 - 2. Garrett - I do have an opinion on this, you can't force individuals to quit smoking, this would just be forcing them to not smoke while they're on campus, which results in the possibility of them going through withdrawal. Would this be for all outdoor spaces on campus or just indoor?
 - 3. Mak - It would be indoor and outdoor spaces. I know you can't force people to quit. However, if you take away the ability for them to smoke, I know school is a stressor and it's a trigger. Their options would be either to quit or to move to the outskirts of campus, which is just defeating the purpose of public good.



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4. Dr. Sanghera - I love how you are taking a 360 look at the issue. It's not as simple as don't smoke, if we don't provide spaces for smoking therefore people will quit. We know that is not what happens even though that's the ideal. What I've seen happen in the past is people moving into the residential areas, there's lots of schools around campus and other health clinics. You're also going to increase littering as well, because at least we have safe disposal sites for cigarettes on campus, so those are my concerns. I like the idea of designated areas that one can avoid, if they would prefer to not walk through an area where there's high congestion of those who are smoking.
5. Anthony - Dr. Sangher, you may be better versed in this but with the whole academic restructuring, I know they were looking at condensing the footprint of the actual university campus as well. So what would that look like? If the official university space is condensed is there opportunity for people to go off campus and smoke but still not be breaching those residential areas?
6. Dr. Sanghera - If we lease out some of our space to other organizations, I believe that's what they mean by condensing, I believe that they are looking at selling off or leasing out space for other companies, but what is to say that those companies won't want the same policies in place, so it is hard to predict. I think it is about finding designated areas with safe disposal that allow people an option, like myself, I get triggered by smoke to walk in a different entrance, and so forth.
7. Navjot - I agree with the approach Makboolee has put forward and I'm not sure if this is in conversation as well, but one thing to consider is also the ties with smoking and cultural practices as well, so just what would be the impact on a complete ban from campus sites altogether in that regard?
8. Makboolee - Good point, we met about this as the students from GFC and a concern was enforcement. I think it would be the campus police who would be enforcing this who already have a history of discrimination, so that was one of their worries as well.
9. Kevin - I think the current policy is you can smoke anywhere as long as you are not near the entrance of any buildings is that correct?
10. Makboolee - No, there are designated areas.
11. Kevin - Will those areas be the same areas that are currently used for marijuana smoking, because I know marijuana has designated areas. Do we have any data as to how effective those are? I mean, when I was on campus no one goes there so really how effective are the current policies in place? Do you have any data on any of the other similar things like what kind of specific areas for smoking? Will these designated areas be the same areas?
12. Makboolee - I haven't seen any data on this and that was another thing I was concerned about, what is the demand for it? How many people are actually affected by secondhand smoke and is it a huge concern? I've never personally experienced walking through clouds of smoke? I don't like smoking personally and I have asthma but I've never been completely restricted to an area where I can't breathe because there's smoke around.
13. Kevin - What does this policy extend to? Is it only cigarette smoking or does it extend to cannabis as well as vaping products? I think we have all experienced vaping clouds in the bathroom.
14. Makboolee - It would be vaping, smoking, and marijuana.
15. Anthony - It would be better to get more information to kind of see where they are coming from, if there is any evidence behind the decision, etc.
16. John - My question was also whether this encompassed vaping or cannabis because I



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think the major concern right now is vaping. Did they provide a reason why they want to make it a smoke free campus other than just the health benefits and why did they decide to do it all of a sudden?

17. Makboolee - I know they created a working group back in March so this is something they've been working on for awhile and other campuses have implemented it and it was just added to the agenda now.
 18. Anthony - Thanks for bringing this forward and I hope that discussion helped your tailor your points to bring up at the meeting and please keep us informed.
- b. Academic Staff Meeting - Dr. Sanghera (5 min)
1. Anthony - Dr. Sanghera, I was thinking that maybe I can post on our Counselor and Officers Facebook page to see if anyone has an interest in attending the meeting and then if we get a couple people we can kind of go from there to see what they could present on. Does that sound good?
 2. Dr. Sanghera - Absolutely, I want to encourage you that whenever we are circulating memos from APSA, but if there is a time when you feel it is best to convey that messaging in person in an ASM don't hesitate to reach out to myself and you can be part of my agenda item. So I just want to encourage you to not distance yourself from the faculty, if you feel announcements are better served at ASM, we have them during the 3rd week of every month, they're usually at lunchtime and it's on Mondays.
- c. PAM - Jared/Ayush (3 min)
1. Ayush - I don't know how many people know this but PAM has been renamed to Pharmacy Appreciation Month in the effort to recognize not only pharmacists but all the other regulated professionals and unregulated professionals that we work with in pharmacy. Part of PAM, one of my thoughts was approaching businesses to offer discounts to pharmacists, pharmacy students, essentially by showing a license. So Jared will give a bit of an update on who he has contacted and what other information he wanted from council. But essentially, we want to recognize that it's been a tough year and just any way to support students and pharmacists, it would be great to do that.
 2. Jared - We've reached out 3 local businesses so far, Remedy, Chachis, and one that I can't remember the name of but Ayush reached out to them. I was just wanting to ask if anybody knew any local businesses that we can maybe reach out to in the Calgary or Edmonton area to kind of see if they would be interested in giving a 10% discount and joining the initiative. We are kind of hoping that the incentive could maybe increase some of their business revenue and we understand it's been a difficult year for local businesses and would love to work alongside them and help support locals if possible.
 3. Anthony - Nothing is coming straight to my mind but I will keep thinking.
 4. Brianna - They're not local but usually Chapters does something like that where you can get 10% of proceeds going to your organization and I think Panada Express does it as well.
 5. Anthony - Good to keep in mind. I think local businesses around the university area would maybe be a bit more inclined if you were a university student approaching them but if someone has a business in mind they can reach out to Jared.
 6. Jared - If you come up to any local business in Calgary, Edmonton, or other areas of the province, I'd love to hear it and I can kind of handle it from there.
 7. Ayush - I was going to show the PAM calendar quickly. During PAM, a lot of counselors are putting on different events, and I can circulate this to the faculty when it is more finalized but I am looking for any speakers that we can bring in on burnout because I know the PAM committee has expressed interest in bringing someone in for this topic



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and the speaker we had in mind didn't work out. If you are planning an event that is not on there please let me know because I want to showcase everyone's work on the calendar and in the booklet that we will create.

8. Kevin - Can we have a pharm tech come and talk about what their training is like and what they do? If this can be Pharmacy Appreciation Month it seems short sighted and silly to just only have things to focus on pharmacy instead of the whole of pharmacy including pharm techs.
 9. Ayush - Yeah we can look into that.
 10. Anthony - I believe it is NAIT has the pharm tech program.
 11. Ayush - I can see if Gillian might know of someone or if she is willing to present.
 12. Anthony - I know that the presenter we had in our SRHR seminar last semester teaches in the pharm tech program and we could consider reaching out to her.
 13. Dr. Sanghera - I believe it is actually Norquest and RDC that have the programs and they would like to get involved as well.
 14. Ayush - If anybody has other topic ideas, just send me a quick message because we have a lot of lunch sessions and I am trying to move things to the evenings, especially if we are bringing in external speakers so it is a little bit of a break for students.
- d. SU update - Navjot (2 min)
1. Navot - I just wanted to give all of council an update, I did connect with Dr. Sanghera, as well as exec. So the joint call that we had signed on to standardize course workload didn't get enough faculty associations to sign on to it, so it didn't move any further. What I did hear is that there was going to be a discussion at GFC today to discuss online learning. They are going to push forward with more discussion around proctoring, workloads, equitable access to course materials, and equitable access to assessments. I don't know of any other COFA meetings as of right now but I think I might hear something after today's GFC meeting.
 2. Makboolee - It is on the agenda but nothing has been resolved. We have spent 45 minutes discussing the agenda and it's already been a couple hours and nothing has been resolved. A lot of people are voicing their concerns so we might have another meeting to discuss this further but I will let you know what the updates are when we have them.
 3. Anthony - Thanks for the update.
 4. Kevin - So you said for the first part which is standardizing how much workload and was the one we signed on to that it didn't get enough support. So what happened to the one that we didn't sign on to?
 5. Navjot - I didn't hear about that one but it sounds like because proctoring is on their agenda at GFC that is something they are discussing as part of their online learning discussion with GFC.
 6. Kevin - Is there any way we could see or find that letter? Let's see exactly who signed on to it.
 7. Navjot - I can ask David where that one is at.
8. Adjournment (5:35)
- a. **First: Navjot Second: Kevin**