



APSA General Council Meeting

February 22th, 2021 at 17:00

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

1. Call to order (17:01)
2. Roll call (2 min): Megan, Ayush, Kevin, Jackie, Paul, Nicole, Cody, Rachel, Jared, Angel, Garrett, John, Eliana, Anthony, Marzena, Makboolee, Monica, Leah, Brianna, Jes, Matthew, Yan, Navjot, Diane, Dimitar, Mandy, Prof. Bharadia, Dr. Sanghera
  - a. Regrets: Scott, Colleen
3. Additions to the agenda (1 min)
  - a. End of the Year Housekeeping - Megan (4 mins)  
**Motion: To approve the agenda**  
**First: Brianna Second: Matthew. Motion carries**
4. Review last meeting's minutes (1 min)  
**Motion: To approve the previous Council Meeting Minutes**  
**First: Brianna Second: Navjot. Motion carries**

New Business:

5. Faculty Appreciation Initiative - Anthony (10 min)
  - a. Anthony - I hope everyone had the chance to read my Facebook post in our APSA Councillors and Officers page over reading week. Traditionally, as the post mentioned, at the end of PAM, every year the VP CAPSI Sr. and President work together to put on some sort of event for faculty just to show our appreciation. In my first year it was over the lunch hour and we had some snacks and tea and were able to mingle with the faculty members to give our appreciation. Jes who was the president at the time, gave a little speech thanking the faculty for the support throughout the entire year. Considering that once March is over the year is basically done because we enter into transition meetings and final exams. Last year we couldn't do anything in person due to COVID so we were able to create a pretty stellar Faculty Appreciation video, which Scott got the idea from some other presidents at other schools when he attended PDW. It honestly worked out really well with the timing of COVID and everything. Ayush and I were talking and we didn't really have any ideas jump out at us and I don't think we're opposed to doing another video but it would be nice to change it up, so we thought that we've got a creative bunch in our APSA council so why don't we throw the idea out and see if they have any thoughts. I just kind of wanted this to be an open floor so if anyone did have any thoughts or wanted to give any suggestions we are more than open to it.
  - b. Matthew - We could always aim for something tactile, like a physical representation of things that they can have on hand. I don't know, a thank-you card or some sort of basket delivered to whoever's working in student services or something like that. Overall just something a little bit more physical since we're learning in BASE you always want something people can walk away with in their hands.
  - c. Anthony - That is a good idea and it will be a bit constrained with time and cost. I know Ayush spent some time over reading week getting the PAM packages ready so I don't know if we'd want to tackle that again but it is a good idea.
  - d. Leah - I was thinking along the same lines like maybe a little card or something because what I liked about the video last year is that we had one for every member of the faculty that was like a personalized thank you. So maybe we can run with that kind of idea again this year to



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make it a little bit more personalized. I think we could try and do a virtual appreciation event but the calendar is filling up very quickly so if that is the route we want to go down you'd have to think of something quickly.

- e. Anthony - That's a good point thank you.
- f. Diane - I'm wondering what the budget is for this, is it a bit larger this year?
- g. Anthony - I'm not sure, I'd have to look at the budget again and talk to Jackie but I would anticipate if anything it is probably less than what it has been just knowing we were going to be online and I think we probably moved some funds around.
- h. Diane - I was thinking that maybe we could do a postcard collage or have a postcard of APSA council or students who are involved and then just mail them out. That might be more cost efficient. I know London Drugs does printing like that and then stamps aren't that expensive so it might be an alternative option.
- i. Anthony - Good idea thanks!
- j. Garrett - I just thought I would speak a bit to the sending of physical gifts to the faculty. I don't think it's a bad idea but logistically I don't know how well it would turn out. Just after doing all of those PAM packages we realized mail is extremely expensive and so mailing anything more than a letter sized card, the price is really going to add up very quickly.
- k. Anthony - I unfortunately found that out as well over the holidays that mail is not cheap. I think a card is definitely reasonable and it doesn't require people going into the post office because if they have a stamp at home they can just go to their nearest mailbox and send it that way.
- l. Ayush - I was going to say that one, in the CAPSI budget that I proposed, in the MOUs to APSA for the PAM packages we ended up coming much lower than anticipated so we have wiggle room to put the PAM video through the MOU and then use APSA funds for the appreciation event, so we do have flexibility there. The other thing I was going to say is one of the things I was thinking we could do is essentially create like a postcard template and then if students themselves are wanting to write a personal thing they could print it off and send it. I guess the only concern with that would be students needing addresses of faculty.
- m. Anthony - There may be a way to send them to Student Services and they can disseminate them from there because I agree that is something to consider because I don't know if we'll be getting all the addresses of different profs and other staff.
- n. Navjot - I think people think it would be great if we'd have another idea but I think that if we did the video again, that the faculty would appreciate it just because I don't know how many people have their cameras on during lectures and it would be nice to see faces again so I think I do like that idea if we were to do that again.
- o. Anthony - I think it was really well received and fairly manageable. I think given our pretty tight timeline and the online environment that is a good point.
- p. Kevin - I have two points. I was thinking that with regards to mail, if you want to put more money towards a care package instead of mail then we can have a drop off at the University and then just have faculty members pick them up themselves when they get a chance and that way we don't have to spend any money on mail. I assume most faculty members live in Edmonton given that they teach at the university so we don't need to worry about mailing out to a different city. The other thing I was thinking about was TikTok is one of the bigger things right now and a trend I am seeing is the style of Zoom video where everyone picks up papers and they have a note on their screens and so you see old faces, I don't know if you have seen these where it is like thanking a teacher and so it would be differentiated from last year where it was a stream of videos. Everyone is living in Zoom world right now so we can try the format and make it so it's more friendly, more welcoming, and more warming and it



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- has a different vibe than last year.
- q. Anthony - That's a good idea, so it would be like we all hopped on a Zoom call and did it that way?
  - r. Kevin - Exactly, and you can cycle through the screens and pin different people so we could do both aspects so that is something to consider. It might be easier because it is just one time for a Zoom thing, everyone gets on, everyone has their notes and then we're done.
  - s. Anthony - That is a good idea, thanks!
  - t. Brianna - I really liked what Kevin said but I was going to suggest one of those sticky note websites where you write personalized notes. I know that doesn't include the video aspect which I think would be missed but it is just another option to consider.
  - u. Anthony - THAT is a good point as well. I know Megan sent out that Padlet for Margaret Wing and we've done similar things within our classes for professors or Student Services, just as a little eCard. I appreciate all the input and great ideas. Ayush and I can discuss these and then let everyone know what the plan is moving forward so thank you all for the contributions.
6. COVID-19 Vaccination Letter - Kevin (10 min)
- a. [Vaccine Advocacy Draft for Review](#)
  - b. Kevin - So I think we are all aware that we are going into placements coming up for those of us in first and second year because if I recall correctly third years don't have any this year. Right now, the Faculty of Medicine Government Council sent out a letter to all Health Sciences looking for faculties to sign on to a letter regarding getting health care students vaccinated alongside the healthcare team that they serve on, when those healthcare teams get their vaccine. I have released the letter to a bunch of people who are in APSA and outside of APSA. So I just thought to bring up some background on it. COVID-19 vaccinations have already begun as I'm sure you are all aware and different groups have different priority lists at this time. For phase 1 which is the phase we are currently in, healthcare workers in intensive care units, healthcare workers in emergency departments, and healthcare workers in COVID-19 units, medical and surgical units, and operating rooms are all in phase 1. Depending on what your placement is looking like, you may or may not get a placement that includes the above categories but probably not and so therefore you're not included in phase 1. However, in phase 2 we see healthcare workers providing direct and acute patient care, who have a high potential for spread to high risk individuals is included and that is more likely applicable to any healthcare students like us in our placements, so that would be part of phase 2 in April to September in Group C. There is no exact timeline for when Group D will be able to go. The hope is that either we push Group C forward or hope to have us on that same level or seek to lobby the government to get moved up in placement so that we do get vaccinated beforehand. So one concern is to make sure the language and wording is important that we don't say everyone wants it, it has to be if they want it they can get it as a healthcare worker, so that is something that we should consider as feedback from a member. I also got some feedback regarding the letter itself, the one you can see today is actually one that the executive council spent a lot of time on editing it so thank you to the executive team for looking at that letter. I guess other than that, the only other bit of feedback that I got was that the letter is technically due sometime in March. I emailed the government committee and they haven't gotten back to me on exactly when but they did say sometime in March so that is our deadline. Does anyone have any thoughts?
  - c. Garrett - Do we know the timeline when phase 2 C is supposed to start for vaccination rollout? If it isn't supposed to start until later in the summer then I don't know if this letter will necessarily be helpful. If it is April 1st then that is pretty soon. Another issue that I had with this letter is the executive council did put a lot of amendments into it and a lot of



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corrections that I strongly agree with a lot of them. So I think that if the student association that is looking to send this doesn't put in a lot of the edits that the executive council has made on the document I'm not sure I would fully support putting APSA's name on it, just because I think there are a lot of really good points that are put forward by the people that have edited the document.

- d. Ayush - My first question is would APSA be associated with this? I think it is if we were to sign on. My second point, playing a bit of a devil's advocate, I think that many of us that are going on rotations as healthcare workers have the appropriate PPE needed to protect us, whereas the goal of vaccination is to protect the most vulnerable from dying and that's how it has been approached. So I don't know since we have ways to protect ourselves, and I get that the healthcare teams around us are being vaccinated but is the risk really that great for pharmacy students? I don't know the answer to that but I do think that for the most part we're able to protect ourselves with proper PPE and the preceptors have been notified to not give us high risk activities as well. So I think those are points to consider when we sign on to something like this because I don't think that advocacy can hurt but the decisions that were made in regards to vaccination I think were needed in my mind to protect the most vulnerable people from getting the illness.
- e. Anthony - That is a good point.
- f. Diane - I'm just wondering because I think some pharmacies are starting to roll out COVID-vaccinations and there was some talk about RxA advocating for pharmacists and getting the vaccine so I'm just wondering Kevin if you ever got in touch with them or saw what they're doing because it might overlap with some of the things you brought up here.
- g. Kevin - With regards to RxA, I don't talk to RxA, I think that is more of a VP External and it's not exactly in my scope as Interprofessional Director. The only reason I'm taking this on is because I got a letter from another Faculty Association which is why I'm doing it. I think RxA is partnering up with the Alberta Government to do pharmacy mediated COVID-19 vaccinations through pharmacies but that's all I'm aware of on that front. As far as I'm aware those vaccines are for the groups outlined and the people who are vaccinating are not going to get vaccinated themselves for COVID-19 for doing that.
- h. Dr. Sanghera - I just wanted to provide an update that we actually checked in with AHS 2 weeks ago regarding vaccine availability for our current students on rotation and they said at this time there's no plan to include students in this space, mind you that was when there was a lack of vaccines available and still are. We can't bring the risk completely down to zero. I know students are given PPE, we've instructed preceptors that maybe if there is COVID positive patient that the student doesn't have to be face to face or in the same room so we're having those discussions in experiential education. I work with Ann Thompson to manage those situations but we've also told our students that if you're not comfortable providing certain activities or being on a certain unit you can talk to us and we'll figure it out. That is the reassurance I want to provide you on our end but we did check in with Alberta Health Services and they said they're completely aware the students are asking for these vaccines, they know it's on their radar, but not at this time.
- i. Paul - I just watched the most recent live update from Minister Shandro and Premier Kenney and I believe Minister Shandro had mentioned that the predominant way that they made these phases was age related based on how Israel did their vaccinations and age was the number one factor that they're going with. SO I think with this letter it is going to be difficult not only to convince them that our students who are only in a place for 1-2 months are high enough risk for us to even get considered for the vaccine, but also because of our age. So I just wanted to add that might be another barrier.



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- j. Anthony - I have a question Kevin, you said another faculty association forwarded it to you as Interprofessional Director of APSA. Was there an ask like they want to get as much weight behind the letter as possible or would you be willing to sign it? What was their approach?
  - k. Kevin - The approach, as far as I'm aware, was that they have a government committee who lobby or try to interact with the government side of things. They sent a letter out to healthcare so it actually went through them to HSSA, back to them, and then back to us. Essentially, at the end of the day, their goal is to get as many healthcare students who will have placements or practical rotations to sign onto the letter because they want to make sure that students are being heard in this process that they do want to get vaccinated alongside their healthcare teams. I think that the main point here is that we are not asking to be pushed up forward but if the team I'm working with gets vaccinated and I'm not vaccinated, I wish I would be on the same level as the people I will be working with. So with community pharmacy which has been brought up the question is not I want to be vaccinated it is that if my community pharmacist can get vaccinated, then I as a student on my placement should also be vaccinated alongside them. If I am a student who's working in a hospital and the rest of my healthcare team is vaccinated but I am not, then there's a distinct issue that arises. It's not that they want to be pushed ahead, it's if the other team gets vaccinated we get vaccinated alongside them, because at this point, it's not clear whether or not we'll be vaccinated alongside them. It's not that they want to be pushed ahead they want to be at the same time with the other people they'd be working with.
  - l. Anthony - We will pause the discussion there due to time. I think steps moving forward would be take that feedback to the committee that sent the letter to see their thoughts, and then at our next General Council meeting we can have a further discussion and either they accept our edits or they don't and then from there we can make a motion to either sign on to the letter or not.
  - m. Kevin - If we don't want to sign on to the letter but we've already worked on a letter, is there any possibility that we have APSA send a letter?
  - n. Anthony - I think that is a discussion for a further meeting. Thank you for bringing this forward and thank you to everyone who brought up points for discussion.
7. APSA Bear - Nicole (2 min)
- a. Nicole - This week I would like give the APSA bear to Marzena because I know she's been doing lots of work with IPSF and she's been working really hard on some public health initiatives and drafting all the new documents to get a junior to her position so I wanted to thank her for all her work.
  - b. Marzena - Thank you!
  - c. Anthony - Very well deserved. She also joined the Constitution and Policy committee so we appreciate that.
8. Additions to the Agenda
- a. End of the Year Housekeeping - Megan (4 mins)
    1. Megan - Again, sorry everyone for forgetting to put my own agenda item on the agenda. As Anthony mentioned at our last General Council meeting the end of the year for APSA is coming up soon. Please get any suggestions for the constitution for your specific role to me by Tuesday March 2nd at 5pm. The Constitution and Policy committee is meeting later that week a couple times and we want your feedback on things you see fit to be changed for your specific roles and we will go from there. The next thing is semesterly council reports will be due Friday March 19th at 5pm,



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since our AGM is on Monday March 22nd. At the AGM, Paul will announce the winners of the elections and it will take place from 5-6pm. I don't think it will take the full hour but it is scheduled for the hour. We will have our last General Council meeting of the semester following the AGM, so it will be a long day of meetings for us that day just so everyone knows. The Monday following is going to be our Spring Transition meeting on March 29th at 5pm. The Spring Transition meeting is when we officially transition APSA to the incoming council. We know that normally that is not a week that General Council meets but just with where Easter, exams, and elections fall that is the only day we can do it. If you are unable to attend please let Anthony and I know ASAP and then we will work something out from there.

2. Anthony - Thanks Megan, I know we were discussing back and forth a bit yesterday and it is a tight schedule coming up for sure. In regards to the Spring Changeover meeting, I believe the focus is just to officially transition old APSA council out and new APSA council in, but we're going to leave it up to you as an outgoing councilor to arrange a meeting with your incoming counselor to actually go over transition documents and talk more about how the transition is going to go. So the Spring Changeover is more of an official thing that we need to do but if you can't make it we understand because it was kind of a last minute schedule so please let us know.
  3. Megan - Adding on to that, please make sure you have your transition packages completed for your successor when you do those transitions.
  4. Paul - I had a question about changeover if there is a preference for how or when by-elections occur? I'm assuming with a quick turnaround from the AGM it would occur after the changeover because I'm sure there is going to be some unfilled and then the appointed positions and I just wanted to make sure that isn't an issue.
  5. Anthony - I don't think so.
  6. Megan - It normally happens after the changeover.
  7. Navjot - Megan, I'm just wondering do you have a suggested date for when transition documents should be done? Is it changeover the 29th or the week before?
  8. Megan - It is on the 29th, So I would suggest having it done then, but if you're not transitioning with your individual person until that Friday then it just needs to be done for when you transition with your successor. These only get uploaded to the drive and they don't get submitted anywhere else so if you're transitioning earlier or later than you just need to have it done for then.
  9. Kevin - Maybe I missed this but do we have a template or a list of things that we should have in our transition documents?
  10. Anthony - So typically, what I did when I transitioned, I just updated the document I was given and added some more relevant things that happened throughout the year, I added my own little insights, removed some stuff, changed some of the contacts that are expired. So no, there's not a template but I'll just say kind of tailor the document you were given to make sure it's relevant and up to date.
9. Adjournment (17:33)
- a. First: Navjot Second: Nicole