



APSA General Council Meeting

March 8th ,2021 at 17:00

(Google Meets <https://meet.google.com/kth-byqw-aiy>)

1. Call to order (17:01)
2. Roll call (2 min): Megan, Ayush, Kevin, Garrett, Rachel, Jared, Nicole, Paul, Anthony, Cody, Marzena, Angel, Nathan, Monica, Matthew, Yan, Mandy, Akshita, Navjot, Brianna, Leah, Eliana, Makboolee, Prof. Bharadia, Jackie, Dr. Sanghera, John
  - a. Regrets:
3. Additions to the agenda (1 min)
  - a. COFA Letter Regarding Proctoring - Kevin (5 min)
  - b. PAM/MOU Questions - Ayush (3 min)

**Motion:** To approve the agenda  
**First:** Ayush **Second:** Brianna. **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. Clean Air Strategy - Makboolee (10 min)
  - a. Makboolee - So the last time we talked about this, I was in the GFC meeting and we ended up having a discussion about the smoking and vaping ban on campus. When I talked to the,. They didn't have an exact proposal that I could critique and give to you all to look at but I do have the rundown. In 2018, GFC asked the administration to develop a strategy to reduce secondhand smoke and vape on campus. So the President and Provost made a working group for this. They said that their focus was not to get people to quit smoking, but rather to protect the non-smokers, like we had talked about. After consultation with some of the community members and students, they thought that the easiest and most effective way was to completely make a ban on campus. In terms of feedback from students and faculty and staff there was not an overwhelming support for it, and some of the common themes in the comments from the survey was basically the adequacy of the current policies, what about enforcement? What actually is the health impact of secondhand smoke right now? Is this going to improve it? Freedom of choice, addiction, mental health, and excluding people. A vote took place on supporting a completely smoke free and vape free campus and there was 41.2% of people for it, but when asked to describe their experience 28% said that it didn't bother them, 32% said it bothered them moderately, and 40% said it bothered them very much. So when I spoke with the head of the working group, he basically said that the UofA is going to become a non-smoking campus eventually and it is just a question of are we ready or not. They used SAIT as an example, SAIT started out with just having designated smoking areas and then 2 years later they did a full on ban. Their argument against the designated areas was just questioning the compliance to it, change management, and cost. The difficulty of finding a zone on North Campus because it is so dense that they can use all year round which is both sides. So when I initially came across this ban, I was very questionable towards it. Upon considering it and speaking to other people, I'd like to think of it more and take your opinions, but I want to take myself out of the equation and think of it as future healthcare professionals, future pharmacists, what should our stance be? Should it be protecting the public good? In that sense, how can we do that best, and maybe the policies that they come up with just need to be tweaks. So I wanted to hear back about all of your opinions on this so that in the next meeting I can advocate for you.



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- b. Kevin - I just wanted to say that what Makboolee has presented is that 20% of people were not affected, 20% were somewhat moderately affected, and 40% were significantly affected, and I wanted to confirm whether that was more they were affected by secondhand smoke or affected by the legislation changing?
- c. Makboolee - Affected by secondhand smoke.
- d. Kevin - So they were concerned about secondhand smoke, so I think then that means the numbers are 60% at least to some degree do not agree with smoking on campus and I think we should probably respect that right? Because that's people who put their voices in and we ask them for their opinions and that's the voice that they had. So I feel like I mean, even as a faculty, our whole point is like smoking cessation, we like our pharmacists, we will be pharmacists, like we know what the effect of secondhand smoking can be even for just other side effects that occur health wise. I feel like I would take the position that it seems like everyone else taking there needs to be some curbing and like whether that is a gradual process that eventually happens, and like a smoothing process, are working up to that progress, it looks like eventually will happen. So I think our goal is going to be what we will do is we'll do like a smoothing of the curve right? So instead of it's like banned immediately, lets do like a smoothing of the curve right? So instead of it's like banned immediately, let's do okay so starting this month we're going liit the areas and then the pure areas. Eventually there'll be fewer areas on campus and then I think that's our role. I don't think our role is just that we shouldn't be changing or working around secondhand smoke, because clearly 60% of people have said that secondhand smoke bothers them so that's my thoughts on that.
- e. Makboolee- That's a good point. I think that over time learning more about this and kind of taking that objective role as healthcare professionals, what is the best stance that we could do? I think it is to support something about public health and secondhand smoke but it is a matter of how to get there.
- f. Dr. Sanghera - I agree with you Kevin, I feel like this is an ultimate outcome that we are moving towards, but I think students have a voice in developing policy and balancing the needs of the different parties involved. I spoke to Makboolee and Anthony a few weeks ago. Dr. Davies had encouraged me to connect with APSA to get them thinking about this policy and encouraged the student associations to get involved in this policy in some way or form. So what I can tell you from the various health programs deans is that they are drafting a letter called the Clean Air Strategy which is in support of the Clean Air Strategy as a public health measure for the well being of the University of Alberta community and its visitors. So the Dean of Nursing, the Dean of Public Health, Kinesiology, Medicine and Dentistry, have signed off on the letter that Dr. Davies has drafted. So I'm curious, it's great that you're getting involved and that's what I want, I want your voices heard, and I want you involved in the development of health policy but are any other student associations talking about this item as well?
- g. Makboolee - As far as student's association, I'm not completely sure but I know that all the student representatives from each faculty are tackling it even if they're not health or science related.
- h. Kevin - I can speak to HSSA, I know at our last general meeting this was brought up. I know that other people I believe who sit on HSSA also will be working in Makboolee's role in GF but I don't think HSSA or any other association of students has actually tackled the issue head on as a group.
- i. Anthony - That is good to know. Dr. Sanghera, did you have any further comments?
- j. Dr. Sanghera - No, I think it's really good based on the discussion that we've had here and then privately as well. I think it's a great opportunity for APSA to be involved and show



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leadership in the healthcare system working to develop this policy. So have they talked about having students involved in the working group or are their students involved in that working group?

- k. Makboolee - I'm not sure if there is student's on the working group but I can check. From what I've seen in the presentation that they gave there wasn't, and the student's feedback is from GFC and surveys.
- l. Dr. Sangehra - I think it would be an interesting working group to establish within APSA and I'm happy to facilitate from student services.
- m. John - Do we know if the working group has any kind of contingency plan for the students who are ultimately going to resist the change and whether or not there's going to be any input from there? I mean, even if you have a group of 10 students who feel like they need to smoke because it's part of their plan to quit smoking and then they're literally at school 8 hrs a day and they don't have an option to. Does that make sense?
- n. Makboolee - So are you asking kind of how are they going to accommodate people who are going to be most impacted by this and are not willing to follow-it?
- o. John - Exactly, it's like a big paintbrush and you're just going to wipe it all down and hopefully nothing shows up under the paint.
- p. Makboolee - That was my biggest concern, because we deal with smoking cessation all the time and it is a difficult process and it's not one that you can just enforce upon people. So basically, they said that they're allowing it to go off campus, so on the outskirts, which was one of our concerns that I had brought up last time, is are we just dumping our problem on the residential area, the hospital area, etc. They said that they'll have those butt out containers at the campus corners so you can butt out on the way to school and then they said that they're going to open communication for resources for people who want to quit. Another point they said is that in the past with other universities, people use this as their reason to quit because they think that okay I'm on campus all the time and I'm not allowed to smoke so maybe this is something I can try. But for those that can't quit they're just going to be inconvenienced to get off campus and try to reach out to the resources. How much resources we have I'm not sure which is another concern cwe can bring up is how are we going to add additional resources or just use what we have?
- q. Navjot - For the students who voted was that all of campus? I think I missed it.
- r. Makboolee - So they sent the survey, I'm going to check the exact date.
- s. Anthony - I believe it was February 2020.
- t. Navjot - So it was a full campus survey?
- u. Makboolee - Yes, they made it available February 2020 and then they had 1620 undergrad students and 180 support staff, upwards of 400 graduate students, 153 faculty and academic teaching staff.
- v. Navjot - The last time that you brought this up, one of my concerns was for people who have cultural ties to smoking and so I guess one of my concerns, you know, still would be that for marginalized communities and smaller communities are not going to come up in these numbers in the large scheme of things and so I feel like if the campus is moving towards a smoke free campus, there's no real stopping it, but I wonder if you know how long it took SAIT to put this in place? Was it pretty quick?
- w. Makboolee - I'm not sure how long to phase it in. I know they took two years to come to that conclusion. As far as marginalized communities that you were speaking about, they did touch base on that.. They said that it wouldn't be banning cultural or ceremonial use so they did consider that.
- x. Navjot - Thanks, those were my two questions and that helps I think if they phase it in slowly,



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I feel like that would probably be a good way to go.

- y. Makboolee - I know John you were asking about what if people resist, they probably will be giving power to the peace officers on campus to enforce maybe ticketing measures or warnings at the beginning if people just don't adhere to the act.
  - z. Anthony - Great thanks Mak for the update and thanks everyone for the fruitful discussion. I think next steps moving forward is I'll touch base with Makboolee further offline and we'll try to develop some sort of plan moving forward. Dr. Sanghera, I know Dr. Davies had talked about a collaborative statement so definitely discussing that further.
6. General Election Update - Paul (5 min)
- a. Paul - I just wanted to update on the election itself, we actually had a pretty decent turnout in terms of sort of the spread for positions that people apply for, there are just a couple positions that will have to go to by-elections and they are the CSHP representative, all 3 class rep positions, 3 year social rep, the grad co-chairs, and then I don't know of anyone that applied for the GFC position. I do know that we've got an SU representative application and in our constitution it says they'll sit on the GFC until that can be filled so it is a separate position but our constitution so that our SU representative sits on that until it gets filled basically is how I understand it. Other than that, I had originally planned to do a live Q&A session sort of similar to what we did with Garrett during the presidential election. I just think timewise, it's a time constraint with midterms and a bunch of other stuff so it's not really feasible, especially with a lot of the positions running uncontested it doesn't really make sense to try to get all 20+ people into one Zoom group at the same time. So I think I'm going to do what we did last year, where if your position does have somebody running for it, you submit a question that you'd like them to answer in a 1-minute format and I'll get them to record a video and I'll put that on the APSA page once they're all recorded. If they want to expand further on it, they can have their own Facebook pages to do that as well. I just wanted to update people on what positions are going to be by-elections and if there are any questions or concerns about the switch up there.
  - b. Nathan - I was going to say, I did reach out to the deputy returning officer for the SU who just discussed how as of 5pm today we did not have a GFC representative. So I can confirm that I do not mind taking that position in the short term until we find someone leading up to the election. I think Makboolee can speak to this but I believe you were able to run through a by-election, like a month or so later so if anyone is interested or if you know other students who may be interested in our faculty once again involved, you can message Makboolee to find out more about the role. It is a great opportunity so get involved.
  - c. Anthony - I agree, getting involved is a great thing and APSA hasn't had any representation on GFC in the past. I think this is the 1st year so we definitely don't want to make that just a one year thing. We want to continue that.
  - d. Navjot - I had a question for you Paul, I know you said that you're going to do the same way as last year. I'm wondering are you going to keep the same timeframe for the responses to the questions that we have for the people incoming to our positions?
  - e. Paul - I was thinking of keeping it to about one minute response unless people think that's too short of a time, I can do longer.
  - f. Navjot - Sorry, I meant, I think Llsa had a window of time that people had to have their response recorded by.
  - g. Paul - I will make a post on the council page tonight, if I could get all the questions by Friday afternoon that would give the candidates the weekend to create their video and I would probably post them Monday morning which would be the day before voting would open. So it does give people kind of that full day to read it or watch all the responses and then still ask



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questions during the campaign period and I think that would give them enough time.

- h. Navjot - Okay thanks, I think last year Lista only kept it open for the noon hour, the turnaround was pretty quick because the responses are supported to be pretty quick, like right after the questionnaire release so I'm wondering are you thinking about keeping it to the same that way within the noon hour or do you want to do two-days?
  - i. Paul - I have a meeting with the candidates tomorrow, so I can kind of see what their opinion is and then if on the Friday that lunch hour works for them, if I released it at noon then they could get their videos in by one I think that is a pretty good idea. I do like the idea that the responses should be more off the cuff. It shouldn't be an issue. I don't think on the counter there's much for that class specifically that they would have to do but yeah, just with having a lot of online stuff the reason I couldn't do the Q&A was just trying to find an hour where everything would work.
  - j. Navjot - Okay thanks, I think just similar to the way the presidential one was done and the way that this has historically been done, that they should be off the cuff as much as they can be with the environment so thanks I appreciate it.
  - k. Megan - I was just going to add that you wouldn't be able to do Friday because there is a lunch and learn for PAM on Friday but Thursday is open and then other than that the next open day would be the 17th which is voting day if we're doing a lunch hour.
  - l. Paul - Another way I might be able to do this is if I get the questions, I might find a time where it works for everyone and I could just have a Google Hangout where I would read them the question, they would answer and then just have that recorded sort of as if it was going to be live and then it's a bit easier just to record of find a time that works for all of them without conflicting with everyone else's' schedules.
  - m. Anthony - Good point, Kevin I saw your hand raised but I feel like Megan answered it.
  - n. Kevin - Yeah my event is on Friday at lunch so please like don't make something go on during it.
  - o. Anthony - Yeah it looks like Thursday at lunch works.
  - p. Leah - If Thursday at lunch is kind of what works better I feel like counselors can probably get their questions to you a bit sooner, I think a lot of us probably have been thinking about what we want to ask so if you need to put us on the spot a bit more I think that would be okay.
  - q. Paul - I think I'm going on that because I like that idea. I think Thursday would probably work best. I'll make sure it checks out with all the candidates tomorrow during the meeting and then I'll make the post tonight to make sure I get all the questions in time, otherwise I'll start hounding people by email.
7. APSA Bear - Marzena (2 min)
    - a. Marzena - Hi everyone, so this week I wanted to give the APSA bear to Leah. She has been very accommodating with all my IPSF initiatives and very helpful and I just appreciate everything that she has helped me with so congrats Leah!
    - b. Anthony - Well deserved Leah, I'm looking forward to Blue and Gold which is fast approaching, can't wait.
  8. Additions to the Agenda
    - a. COFA Letter Regarding Proctoring - Kevin (5 min)
      1. Kevin - Alright so I think just to give background, so I believe on November 30th, that would be last semester, we looked at 2 letters from COFA that Navjot presented to our group. There was one that was on workload and one that was on online proctoring. So it looks like as far as I'm aware, from what I've read through the meeting minutes, and Navjot you can correct me if I'm wrong, the one that we





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did sign which was the one that said we want to limit the workload to eight hours that one did not get enough support. So that did not become an actual letter that was sent out. However, the one that online proctoring, the one that we did not sign on, that one has gotten enough support. Now the reason I bring this up to us today in council is because it made the news so on CBC I don't know if you saw there are a couple articles on this on what the SU and the COFA letter itself says about online proctoring. So students asked me about it and I said APSA vote no, we did not vote to support the letter and I sent them the meeting minutes on the 30th of November to take a look at them and see them. They came to me with a major question and this is because one of the 3 major reasons why we didn't vote was because as Navjot put in that letter accreditation was maybe put in jeopardy because we don't have proctored exams. Now, I told them as far as I'm aware, that is not the case. Accreditation does not require proctoring but I think given that this is like the 3rd person who has messaged me about this or talking about this I was wondering if maybe APSA could maybe address this or like maybe put something so that people know like whether or not like faculties or having discussion in curriculum or stuff like that. I just want to know more of the position that we will be taking as a group before I continue to field questions like that.

2. Dr. Sanghera - I'm curious too, I've been asked that as well, whether there's a link between proctoring and accreditation. So I'm curious to find out if somebody spoke to Dr. Cor because my understanding and having been on accreditation I don't have anything tangible to point to that but I would love to learn more to see clarity.
3. Navjot - Dr. Sanghera, I think when the conversation came up around proctoring and equitable access to resources, it was a number of things. So at the time, the discussion with PSA council was that we weren't sure that this applied to us, from a Faculty of Science perspective, some of the concerns that they've had with flagging on exams, they've been more prominent, whereas with us we know from Dr. Cor if something does get flagged it doesn't really do anything to the exam and everything gets watched over. So from a pharmacy perspective, the discussion was understanding and that this isn't an issue that applies to pharmacy students and so after that discussion it was as majority vote and we voted to not sign on to that joint call. I let David know about that and then I did follow-up with him afterwards and he said there wasn't enough support for the first joint call for the workload so that there was no point in moving that forward. However, they were able to move forward the second one with regards to equitable access, access to course materials, and he also mentioned workloads, so from councils perspective it would have gone to GFC so it might be on Makboolee's radar, I did follow up with Makboolee as well so she might have more information that I would because it's no longer on councils plate at this point.
4. Makboolee - So as far as that exact topic, it hasn't really been touched at GFC. The only thing we've discussed is just online learning in general and kind of accessibility and a lot for international students who aren't able to access recorded lectures and that kind of stuff but online proctoring we haven't really discussed.
5. Dr. Sanghera - I just wanted to be clear and that's the one meeting I missed and I'm kicking myself for missing it but I couldn't attend. I just want to make sure that there's no clear link being made between accreditation and proctoring so that's good. I think it's great that you're having discussions on equity, equitable access to learning and such because we've been talking about that in our program and even



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some of the Student Services feedback, we're getting over. For example, we have a lot of students participating in Ramadan next month and so supporting them as well with online learning. If they're up really late for their cultural and religious practices, how are we managing their work with us? So I think that's a great discussion to have, I also hope to bring forward to the next APSA council what our tentative plans are for fall so we can plan accordingly regarding an online environment if that's what we're forced into next term. So great discussion and never hesitate to come connect with myself, Dr. Hall, or dr. Cor on any of these matters, you don't have to take it up to the Dean until we've discussed it.

6. Ayush - I was just going to add I don't think the discussion that we had during the APSA council meeting was purely on accreditation. I think the other reason we chose not to sign it was the fact that a lot of students actually found that having proctored exams and closed book exams forced them to study and learn the material and so I think that was another important discussion point. So I think if students were concerned about that they're more than welcome to come to council meetings and bring that up but I think that it's important to remember that there was more than one reason as to why we didn't sign that letter. I think it's a conversation for GFC now but appreciate the discussion as well.
7. Nathan - I just wanted to add one last thing, the discussion at the university level is at its infancy. It looks like there will be some sort of a partial ban that is being at least deeply considered for the upcoming year and I'm gauging this based on a few things. Firstly, maybe this is a more naive approach with all the candidates that ran in the SU elections last week; they overwhelmingly supported either a partial or complete ban on e-proctoring and this also notably came from the incoming president and VP academic. Secondly, President Flanagan and the Provost Steven Dew have had meetings with the current executive council and they claim that they are committed to creating a task force in the near future on remote proctoring. So obviously, the reality is that proctoring will likely be dependent on the professor and the faculty but a move towards altering traditional proctoring methods may be what the university ends up supporting but I think this will obviously be applied to more non-traditional exam courses, like essay based courses. This is my understanding of it and I think as a result, it might leave pharmacy out of the picture but once again I'm not entirely sure that is sort of more hearsay at the moment.
8. Anthony - Thanks, I just want to reiterate, I think what Ayush touched one and everyone else who's been apart of the discussion, it was on our radar, we made a decision, and I think at this point it is still somewhat off our radar and we'll leave it up to GFC and incoming SU council to kind of standardize an approach and hopefully if there's changes to be made next year, and again if we're online or if we're in person, that all kind of dictates things, but leaving it in their hands, and then we can kind of accommodate based on the hand we're dealt with.
9. Kevin - Okay so just to confirm, so basically we're going to have to wait for whatever happens with the working group, what they decide on, and then our official position is that we will work with faculty, I assume and curriculum to see if any changes do occur and we will be preserving accreditation as our number one always I think is the final conclusion here.
10. Anthony - I don't think accreditation, as it's been mentioned, doesn't pertain to proctored exams or not so I don't think accreditation needs to be mentioned.
11. Kevin - So students are coming to me asking about accreditation that's why its in this



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conversation because I know it's not relevant as far as I'm aware it wasn't relevant because I read through and looked at the standards and I know it was brought up in the meeting but that like I think we figured that it's not but people have come to me asking about it.

12. Anthony - Any sort of accreditation concerns can be directed to student services if they're worried about accreditation concerns.
13. Dr. Sanghera - Don't even try to paraphrase accreditation because it is context so just refer.

b. PAM/MOU Questions - Ayush (3 min)

1. Ayush - The PAM video was officially launched today and so I just wanted to give a shout out to Jackie, Lena, and Ray who helped me come up with the script. So if you're willing to share that on your platforms, our goal of the video is to educate the public and so the more people that share it, the more the message gets out there. I just wanted to give a shout out to those students for helping out. The other thing was that it is International Women's Day and we have our panel event coming up this Saturday. I think we had about 80 student signed up and just something I wanted to encourage all the guys in the room was to sign up just because I think that the conversation is not just for females to have and especially if you're going to be in a leadership role next year, I think you need to understand and know how to be an effective ally. So if that's something you're interested in learning more about and hearing other perspectives, I encourage you to sign up, there is still lots of room and we have practicing pharmacists, we have faculty, we have students from across the country joining that session and so I think it'll be a good discussion on the issues of women in pharmacy leadership. Lastly I wanted to just mention, I was having a conversation with Dallyce today about MOU submission and so I think from the sounds of it Dallyce just wants you to get a heads up that if you still have MOU submissions this year, just because last year we had a deadline for MOU submissions and so Jackie can further comment as well but if we have a deadline and if we can let people know that and if you are spending something out of the faculty MOU if you can send Dallyce and Tony a heads up that would be nice just so they have it on their radar as well.
2. Jackie - So I just heard back from Dallyce 5 minutes ago saying that Tony would like everyone to have their MOU submissions preferably by the 3rd week of March. I know that is pretty soon so if you need any more accommodations or anything just let me know and I can work with you and the faculty to make sure it all works out.

9. Adjournment (17:39)

- a. First: Ayush Second: Jackie