



APSA General Council Meeting  
March 4, 2022 12:00pm

1. Call to order (12:00)
2. Roll call (2 min) Marzena, Alyna, Alyssa, Amandeep, Bojana, Chelsea, Daniel, Diane, Garrett, Ivy, Jared, Jasmine, Jonathan, Molly, Naomi, Sydney, Talia, Tegan, Zoria, John M, John C, Saad, Rachel, Kallie, Mostafa, Monica, Daria
  - a. Regrets: Mahnoor, Katie, Carolina, Nathan, Rokhand
3. Additions to the agenda (1 min)  
**Motion:** To approve the agenda  
**First:** John. **Second:** Diane.
4. Minutes of the last meeting (1 min)  
**Motion:** To approve the previous meeting minutes  
**First:** John. **Second:** Daniel.

#### New Business

5. Blue and Gold Budget Increase - Daniel/Garrett (15 mins)
  - a. Garrett: When we started this year off, we didn't anticipate Blue and Gold to be happening, so we didn't budget any money for it. Daniel is here to give us a budget proposal and then we will have a vote to approve the funds.
  - b. Daniel: Blue and Gold is happening and it is tough because the faculty usually sponsors a portion of it and this year they declined to do so because we were anticipating that events like this wouldn't happen. I tried to allocate as much as I could with the leftover money that we had from typical spending. I want to give you a brief update of what it will cost. We don't really know how many people will attend, but each ticket will cost \$60 and we will use EventBrite and there is a charge from the website which puts the tickets at roughly \$65. I am estimating an attendee amount of 400. This is our first large event in a while, so it might be more than that. We already have \$5000 deposited from two years ago from the faculty. The expenses include the hall rental, catering charge, DJ contract and decor. A lot of our expenses are offset by the revenue from the ticket sales. We are looking to spend around \$6000 that wasn't accounted for in the budget. At the beginning of the semester I was forecasting for a negative balance. I will request more than the \$6000 just in case we need more room. I will propose that APSA is ready to spend an additional \$9000 that is not accounted for in our year-to-year budget and this is to give Jared and his committee enough money to make sure that Blue and Gold does happen. Depending on how many people will go, that amount may change. This is probably the only wide scale event we are able to host all year and this is why we wanted to prioritize this budget wise. Over the semester, I tried to make sure I approved councillor requests while keeping in mind that we should save to make sure we had enough money for this event.
  - c. Garrett: I wanted to remind everyone that the University has asked us to spend the money in our bank account so that they can approve our student group for next year. Although it will run a deficit, I don't think that is a bad thing, it helps decrease our liability going forward. We are decreasing it by having graduation ceremonies too, but this is another way to do so. Even with spending this amount, the next council will still have funds to operate next year.
  - d. Diane: I am wondering what the situation on COVID is? Will we be testing and should we account for that in the budget? Should we prepare students to take a test?
  - e. Daniel: I will let Jared explain that because we have some checks and balances to make sure we have some policies in place. I want to reassure you that we do have the money to support this and that we will have enough money for next year's council.



APSA General Council Meeting  
March 4, 2022 12:00pm

- f. Jared: I will give a brief update, but John and I are making finishing touches on our package that we will post containing all the information. John, Daniel and I decided a few days ago that we want everyone to feel comfortable coming to an event on this scale. Our plan is to get everyone to bring in proof of a rapid test to come to the event. I think faculty will feel better about that and I don't think it is a huge ask, as they are free of charge until Sunday. We will try to have a few for people who may forget, but it will be in the document. That is the only thing you need to bring other than a mask. The masks are able to be removed during eating, drinking and taking photos. This is a nice way to keep the event as safe as possible. You can take a rapid test in your car or at home and you will have to bring that to us at this check in station and we will have a biohazard disposal at the front doors. We will be checking rapid tests and tickets at the doors. On the ticket sale side, people have to accept they are willing to do the rapid test.
- g. Garrett: I have a few questions about this because I know it is not mandated by the university to do this. Is this something that we can do? I know that when we had to do rapid testing for injection certification, people had to say if they had COVID in the last 3 months. I feel like it is in the right mindset for hesitancy, but I don't know what to do if people have had COVID in the last 3 months and test positive even if they don't have it now.
- h. Jared: I will open that to Daniel. I don't disagree with it, but he gave us good reasoning when we were talking about it.
- i. Daniel: Planning this scale of event in this short of time, we do need to make sure that whatever we decide is practical and functional. Logistically, if someone got COVID in the last 30 days, would you test positive on a rapid antigen test?
- j. Garrett: I don't know. I think it is more common with the PCR test but students had to inform the instructors whether they had COVID in the last 3 months for injection certification. Then what do we do if people come to the event without rapid tests? I can see it turning into a bigger issue.
- k. Daniel: The acquisition of the rapid tests requires a large amount of cooperation from our student body. No matter what, there will be no perfect solution. If we scrap the rapid testing, it will put some degree of unease on the people that do come. What if we did what they did for injection training, where those that haven't tested positive have to bring in a rapid test and if you have a unique circumstance, you can email Jared, John or myself to accommodate?
- l. Garrett: Are we allowed to ask people for their health information and about whether they did or didn't test positive 3 months ago?
- m. Jared: It is a private event. If you want to come to the event, you follow them or you don't attend the event. I do understand your point Garrett, but when we were discussing this, we wanted to make sure that everyone feels comfortable attending the event. I don't know if faculty will feel comfortable coming with their families if we don't have additional measures in place. I am trying to find a balance to keep it as safe as possible, but I do see your concerns.
- n. Molly: I just wanted to echo Garrett's thoughts, I pretty much agree with everything he said. I don't think that having students bring in their physical test is the best way to do it. Is it not enough to have a disclaimer on the ticket strongly recommending that each attendee tests before attending? I don't think we can enforce it unless we are providing the test. For our injection certification, we were provided tests, so I think if you are going to require it, you have to provide it. Does that make sense?
- o. Daniel: Before we touch on that, let's address everyone's questions.
- p. Diane: Based on what Molly said, I can provide additional tests. Maybe we could consider asking students to submit a photo of the test on a Google Form? It isn't the best but it is a midway point so that attendees don't have to bring in the physical test.



APSA General Council Meeting  
March 4, 2022 12:00pm

- q. Jared: The rationale for asking students to bring in the test is that having people test at the site is not feasible. I think we discussed getting extra kits for people.
- r. John: Initially, I was on the side of not doing the testing because it is not mandated by SGS. Any alternative approaches like having people submit pictures or call us to tell us when they had COVID and trying to coordinate that between 5-6 people within the next two weeks is virtually impossible. From an optics point of view, if someone gets sick and it goes out to the public that Pharmacy had a large event without testing, to me, that would reflect quite strongly on the pharmacy body. We could say it is not a rule to test, but I don't think that is enough of an excuse. If we do put in this rapid testing, we have to be absolute, there is no tip toeing the line. If you test positive, you wouldn't be able to come in even if you had COVID before and are asymptomatic now. The tickets are non refundable, but this is the compromise if we are going to put on an in person event. There is no case by case basis.
- s. Garrett: I would completely disagree with this. Students wouldn't be too accepting of this, especially if we don't provide refunds. It isn't anyone's fault they caught COVID and if someone comes with a guest, they would lose a lot of money.
- t. Jared: I don't stand as strongly as John, but we will not be doing refunds. I know things happen, but to put this event on, I need to give numbers a week in advance. If 10-15 people say they can't make it, it is a huge amount of money to lose and I can't tell the company to revert back. We are outlining the expectations and you are taking the risk by buying the ticket. If this reduces the amount of people that will come, that is what it is. Even RxFactor two years ago did not give refunds on tickets. Financially, we cannot take on refunding people for their tickets.
- u. Garrett: I understand that, but 2 years ago when we had RxFactor, there was no pandemic. There was a lot less chance of having to refund tickets. If we don't allow students in because they test positive after already going through COVID, we are then stigmatizing people that had COVID in the past. We shouldn't try to isolate them because they were sick in the past, I just don't agree with that.
- v. Mostafa: I think it would be unfair to not refund students if they test positive.
- w. Sydney: Do we think that by having rapid testing, it would deter people from buying a ticket? If there is a risk of testing positive at the event or before, will that deter students from buying especially if there is no refund?
- x. Garrett: I think Jared mentioned that previously when he said they are taking that risk and making the decision to purchase or not.
- y. Diane: I am wondering if there are some ways we can manage the event. You seem short of people, but I would be happy to help. To help the issue with the refund, does EventBrite let you know how many tickets are left? We could make that more public and then if students are concerned about testing positive, they can buy a ticket last minute? That way it'll be fair for everyone and I would hate for people to be excluded. I think I agree with both sides, but it is a lot of work.
- z. Jared: I appreciate that. It is a good idea, but the problem with that is that final ticket sales will be done a week prior to the event. I need to give final numbers to the event venue. The 17th of March will be the last day anyone can purchase tickets. We decided with Daniel that there will be no refunds, but I will let him have say on that.
- aa. Daniel: I don't want to give off the impression that we are trying to make barriers to coming to the event. The point that we are trying to bring across is that this is the first large scale event in Pharmacy and we are considering the optics of how this would present on the Pharmacy body. We want to make sure that there are checks and balances that provide a safe event. The point we are trying to illustrate is to be aware and cognizant of the risk of coming to an event of this scale. There is no perfect solution and this is why I was trying to vouch for



APSA General Council Meeting  
March 4, 2022 12:00pm

the rapid testing to at least prevent the potential outbreak. If John, Jared and I are planning this event and many others are planning this event and something happens, I invite you to consider how we would feel after approving this kind of event. From a financial standpoint, it has been a nightmare trying to allocate funding to this so that is why we can't do refunds. I do not have the same strong opinion as John had earlier. I do want to emphasize that there needs to be perspective taking and be aware of where we are coming from as well. It is hard to plan this, but we want this to happen.

- bb. John: For myself, Jared and Daniel, it is not about having this event to just have fun. This is an event that will set the precedent for any student events going forward. We are creating barriers to attend and that is specifically why we are having these contingency plans. The idea of having fun and making everyone feel included, is not necessarily the point of this event. We have to take additional steps and be very careful because anything and everything we do, as a professional program, will be outward facing. If something happens and we didn't take precautionary measures, we have to consider what the public would perceive it as. This is the compromise that needs to be taken. SGS has told us we are the first student body to go through the process of hosting an event like this during this time.
- cc. Amandeep: I do see both perspectives and I understand the reasoning behind no refunds, but I don't think you can do both. I don't think you can be so strict on the rapid test and also still not refund students. If you don't want to do refunds, that is fine and fair, but I don't think you can also enforce testing. I understand it is the first event, but I think everyone is burnt out and that this event has the possibility to reignite the joy of pharmacy school. I think we should be inclusive and be open to everyone. It is bringing us all together again. We have to consider that the White Coat Ceremony is the week after, are they doing rapid testing? If we want to do rapid tests, that is fine, but then we can't be so harsh on the refunds. I do see value in what you are saying, but we can't be so harsh on people.
- dd. Bojana: I think your point, John, about the fact that this is not an event for inclusivity and fun but rather for the future of pharmacy, is very fair. I didn't even think of that and I don't know what the best way to go is. When it comes to advertising, whether we are more pro fun or pro future, it is important to make that point to students. Not everyone will be happy, whichever way we go. We should really emphasize what John said, and mention that we have to be cognizant moving forward and how this will look. It could bring more understanding to students who decide to come or not to come. I agree with Amandeep, I think it should be balanced with the responsibility of keeping the professional integrity of pharmacy in mind.
- ee. Jared: I am glad we brought this up to General Council. It is a lot and it is a huge burden. I want to make everyone happy, but the reality is that it is just not feasible. I am trying to find a happy medium, or we will just have to go one way or another. I inevitably have to make the final decision and I need to make that decision today. I will sit down with John and Daniel after this meeting and we will discuss what was said today and discuss how we want this event to go. If people aren't happy with that and don't want to come, that is just how it will have to be. We will try to do our best to make everyone happy.
- ff. Garrett: I heard someone talk about optics earlier, but I want people to consider optics to our main constituent, who are pharmacy students. If we say that individuals who test positive won't get a refund, I feel like the optics of the situation, either way you look at it, is not ideal. I want us to remember who we are advocating for and that would be our pharmacy students. I want us to take that into consideration. If you need help Jared, I feel like reaching out to Ravina or Anjela would be a good choice because if our council is divided on this choice, I can see the student body being just as divided. Consult Ravina and Anjela and ask what they are doing at the White Coat Ceremony.

**Motion:** BIRT APSA approves the \$9000 budget increase for the 2022 Blue and Gold Gala.



APSA General Council Meeting  
March 4, 2022 12:00pm

**First: Daniel. Second: Molly. All in favour. None opposed. Garrett abstains.**

6. VPA Budget Increase - Amandeep (10 mins)

- a. Amandeep: I need to do this year's and last year's engravings on the plaques because it wasn't done last year. Some plaques are full so I need to buy new ones as well. We will also try to pitch it to the faculty to see if they will cover it, but in the case that faculty does not approve the funding, we need additional funding.

**Motion:** BIRT APSA approves an additional \$1300 budget increase for Awards Committee for the 2021-2022 school year.

**First: Amandeep. Second: John. All in favour. None opposed. Garrett abstains.**

6. Additions to the Agenda

7. Adjournment (12:45)

**Motion:** To adjourn

**First: John. Second: Diane.**