



APSA General Council Meeting
February 7, 2022 17:00

1. Call to order (17:00)
2. Roll call (2 min) Marzena, Alyna, Alyssa, Carolina, Garrett, Ivy, Jared, Amandeep, Daniel, Diane, Jasmine, John, Jonathan, Kallie, Katie, Mahnoor, Molly, Mostafa, Naomi, Nathan, Rachel, Raymond, Rokhand, Talia, Tegan, Zoria, Bojana, Saad
Regrets: Ravina
3. Additions to the agenda (1 min)
Motion: To approve the agenda
First: Rachel. Second: John.
4. Minutes of the last meeting (1 min)
Motion: To approve the previous meeting minutes
First: John. Second: Katie.

New Business:

5. Budget Protest Discussion - Garrett (10 mins)
 - a. Garrett: Last week I met with Talia from the SU. The Alberta Government will be coming out with a new budget at the end of February and in that budget it is expected that they will be cutting funding to postsecondary institutions. Talia and Christian are trying to organize a protest at the university and they are looking for support from the faculty associations. She asked that we go back to our councils and see what the support is. If there is support, we can share it on APSA and it is kind of expected that councillors would go. I'll ask your opinions on it first.
 - b. Carolina: What will be happening at the protest?
 - c. Garrett: I don't really know, they want to get together on campus and protest budget cuts. What confused me was that it is a protest before the budget comes out. I don't know what it will look like but in the past SU protests haven't really gained much support and they don't reach the student body so they are trying different approaches by reaching out to faculty associations individually. Does anyone have any comments?
 - d. Nathan: I am wondering why we don't amalgamate this with the current deliberations and pending strike going on as that can directly impact how the rest of the semester ends up. That is an issue that will affect us sooner and more directly. I'm not saying we shouldn't support this, but I think I may consider looking into teaming up with academic staff and doing a collective protest, just so we can get more universal attention and make the fight worthwhile.
 - e. Garrett: That is a good point, because the possibility of a strike happening is a whole other topic for discussion. It makes sense to join forces, but you said there will be more discussion about it tomorrow?
 - f. Nathan: Yes, it is an agenda item for tomorrow's meeting. I don't know what the SU position is on the protest.
 - g. Garrett: Their position on the budget cuts or on the AASUA?
 - h. Nathan: For both, but particularly the latter one. We are having the discussion tomorrow.
 - i. Garrett: Maybe I can hold off and talk to you about it after your meeting.
 - j. Nathan: I think that is a good idea so we can align our plan with the direction the SU wants to go.
6. Faculty Appreciation - Rachel (5 mins)
 - a. Rachel: Garrett and I have discussed an idea, unless anyone else has other great ideas, but we are thinking of going forward and doing little videos for each faculty member. Jonathan



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has agreed to edit them all together nicely. We will put a signup sheet with all the faculty member names and get non-councillors to sign up first and then council members can fill in the empty spot. I want everyone, not just council members, to participate in this. If anyone has any other ideas or questions, please bring them up.

- b. Carolina: I like the video idea.
 - c. Garrett: We want to let non-councillors have first picks and then professors can see other students since faculty works a lot with APSA councillors. That way we can step in and take care of the unfilled spots.
7. Community Education Budget Increase Proposal - Ivy (10 mins)
- a. Ivy: I wanted to ask for more funding since I had a few more events planned this year than anticipated and they kind of came out of the blue. The main one is the pocket card contest since I was hoping that RxA would sponsor it and we are still not sure about it. I wanted to ask for funding for it just in case and then if they do end up sponsoring it, I won't have to use that money. I forgot to clarify with you Rachel, the social media event prizes, are you able to incorporate that into the PAM budget?
 - b. Rachel: I think so since we have quite a big MOU for prizes.
 - c. Ivy: Okay, then I just need to ask for an additional \$185. It would go towards presentations, gift cards and Pharm 101 mini topics. I wanted to have a back up plan for the RxA pocket cards mostly.
 - d. John: I am still waiting for Ali to bring up the additions to the budget with his board and he hasn't gotten back to me, sorry about that.
 - e. Ivy: No worries, I am only asking as a backup since we won't have a council meeting till after reading break and I kind of wanted to get this started.
 - f. Daniel: On my end, I don't have any concerns. If Ali or Rachel can't fund this, I don't see an issue with APSA funding this.
- Motion:** BIRT APSA will approve an additional \$185 of funding for the Community Education Director budget in the 2021-2022 school year.
First: Ivy. **Second:** Daniel. **All in favour. None opposed. Garrett abstains.**
8. Budget Adjustment Proposal - Daniel (15 mins)
- a. Daniel: I wanted to pitch a budget proposal that is more of a fix that we overlooked. When we were doing the APSA Awards, we realized that the money advertised on the website is actually greater than the money we allocated in the budget. There are four awards that had a discrepancy but I totalled it and the amount that was advertised was actually \$1250 more than what was in the budget. I am not sure how we didn't catch that but for context, when APSA re-registers as a student group we have to get clearance for SGS and they ask the VP Finance about our financial situation. The reason they are doing this is because student groups used to have insurance from the university, but now we don't. We have to spend more than we normally do to reduce our float. The reason I mention that is because I think it will be okay that we approve the increase in our budget for awards to reduce our float. I met with grad committees from 2020 and 2021 and I am setting a deadline for them to spend their money because they have money allocated to their graduations that has been sitting there for two years. I set the deadline as August 31, 2022. These are different ways we are trying to reduce our float. Increasing our budget for awards does give back to the student body. I discussed this with Amandeep as she is on the award committee. I want to gather everyone's thoughts since it is a large amount. I don't want to give off the impression that we can approve everything. We are approving things that we feel will live back to the student body. If anyone has any questions, please ask away.
- Motion:** BIRT APSA will approve an additional \$1250 of funding for the Awards Committee budget in the 2021-2022 school year.



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

9. Council Dinner - Daniel (10 mins)
 - a. Daniel: We have money allocated for a council dinner and I released a forum on the council page and 24 people responded. 80% of people would like to attend in person and this would likely be a dinner that would happen after February 28. I am hoping that would give enough time for people to move back from other cities and locations. The idea is to bring everyone together which has been hard to do in the past. Technically we can eat at a restaurant without a cap, but we have to abide by the table rules. We understand if people feel uncomfortable with attending this event. 20% of people would prefer to get a gift card instead. I will probably follow up with another Google Form to see if anyone has ideas for locations. There is nothing to really address right now, just know that there will be a dinner to appreciate everyone's hard work.
 - b. Garrett: Did we decide on a day?
 - c. Daniel: I hope we go back on campus on February 28th and then we can set a date.
 - d. Rachel: Please consult the PAM calendar before picking a date.
 - e. Garrett: For sure, does anyone have any concerns?
 - f. Rokhand: The SU is pushing for return on normal time, February 28th.
10. Blue and Gold Discussion - Jared (5 mins)
 - a. Jared: To give a quick update, last week I had several meetings with SGS and the event venue about this. We are going back in person on February 28 and SGS is approving in person events after that date. SGS is saying that an event like Blue and Gold can happen but it depends on the size of the venue. There is a 3:1 capacity:venue size limit. The venue has to be 3x bigger than the amount of people that are at the event. That is our biggest challenge right now. I talked to the venue and they are undergoing renovations to increase capacity and we are trying to determine if that will be done before our event or not. Based on those conversations, I thought it would be best to put out a poll. I want it to be an accurate representation of who is interested in going to Blue and Gold if we can have it in person. If the cap holds and 300 people want to go and we can only bring in 230 people, we will have to cap the amount of people that can go to the event. I wanted to post the poll because if 300 people want to go, then maybe we don't hold it in person because I don't want to say no to people. I don't know a good way to go about it, we are still trying to problem solve with the social committee. For right now, I want a good representation so please answer the poll if you haven't and tell your friends to answer it. If less than 230 people answer the poll and I end up going through with the cap on people and then more people end up wanting to go, I would feel bad. I am using it as a baseline to determine how I will approach it.
 - b. Carolina: To promote getting responses, would you be able to prioritize those that respond to get tickets?
 - c. Jared: I made the poll anonymous so I won't be able to do that. If we do go about capping it, it will probably be 50 tickets per class and first come first serve. That way it would be the most equitable to all classes.
 - d. Molly: Do we know how many people would normally go to Blue and Gold in the past?
 - e. Jared: In our first year, 311 people bought tickets to go but that was a non-COVID year with events going on all year. Bottom line is that if Blue and Gold can't happen in person, I want to know what the student body wants to see. It looks like the vast majority would want to see an awards ceremony in March and an event in the summer. I would be happy to help the next VP Social and do the majority of the work. That is what it's looking like on my end.
 - f. Garrett: Yes, if everyone can tell their friends and classes to answer the poll so that we can get as many votes as possible. We want a good, fair, honest representation about how the student body feels. If we can hold it, we will do everything in our power to hold it. If it does



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- pan out, it will be a lot of work and the council will be behind you.
- g. Daniel: Can you repeat the results again?
 - h. Jared: Out of 200 students that responded, 85% of respondents said they would purchase a ticket, 78% said they would do an online awards ceremony and then something in the summer.
 - i. Alyna: I will repost it for the second year class tonight.
 - j. Garrett: As of right now, about 170 would attend?
 - k. Jared: Yes. About 30 people said they wouldn't purchase a ticket.
 - l. Garrett: There may be a type of bias where those that want to go will answer the poll and those that won't want to go, won't respond.
 - m. Jared: If we go ahead and hold this, the people that are on the fence might buy a ticket and then I will have to say no to a lot of students that actually wanted to go.
11. APSA Bear - Zoria/Naomi (2 mins)
- a. Zoria: We thought about this really hard and we wanted to pass along the APSA bear to Garrett. We wanted to thank him for all the hard work he has done over the past year with APSA. He has kept really great relations with faculty and the student body. He does a lot of background work that not a lot of people are aware of.
 - b. Naomi: We wanted to acknowledge what he has done now that we have a President Elect. We are confident that he will be a great mentor for Bojana in the transition period.
 - c. Garrett: Thank you guys!
12. Additions to the Agenda
13. Adjournment (17:35)
- Motion: To adjourn**
First: Alyssa. Second: Carolina.