



APSA Executive Council Meeting  
November 23, 2020 at 15:00  
(Google Meets <https://meet.google.com/krr-vapv-ieg>)

1. Call to order (15:03)
2. Roll call (2 min): Megan, Jackie, Ayush, Jared, Anthony, Garrett, Eliana, Navjot, Leah
  - a. Regrets:
3. Additions to the agenda (1 min)
  - a. PEBC Update - Ayush (4 min)
  - b. APSA Members - Ayush (4 min)  
**Motion: To approve the agenda**  
**First: Garret Second: Ayush**
4. Review last meeting's minutes (1 min)  
**Motion: To approve the previous Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Frist: Leah Second: Ayush**

New Business:

5. Grad Committee - Leah (3 mins)
  - a. Leah - I had some questions about the process of getting a gambling license. I know Garrett you were looking into that and I was wondering what ever happened with it?
  - b. Garrett - I had looked into doing an online 50-50 and some of the companies would take 25% profit for running it, so it ends up being 50% to the winner, 25% to APSA, and 25% to the company. I decided it wasn't worth the effort required to get the AGLC license for potentially such a small profit and didn't pursue it any further.
  - c. Leah - I don't know what was done in the past but I know we have had 50-50's and raffles in the past, do we need a license for all of those? I was just wondering if people had more information that I could pass along to the grad committee and also is it one license per raffle? Do you have to reapply for everything?
  - d. Ayush - I know we did a raffle at the Breast Fundraiser ever and so if you're doing the raffle for a charity organization they can apply for a 50-50 licence which is usually bigger than the license we can apply for as a student group. In this scenario since we're looking to fundraise for a student group we can apply for a 50-50 through our AGLC account. I can look for more information in my transition documents from Mark because I'm not sure if it would be in people's transition documents from last year because Blue and Gold got cancelled.
  - e. Leah - Thanks, I will bring this information back to the grad committee for them to discuss further.
6. Student Body and APSA - Navjot (5 mins)
  - a. Navjot - I just wanted to do a quick update on how the student body is feeling about APSA and how they're doing in general. I wanted to bring this up today because I will be having another meeting later this week where I'll be discussing a lot of things more in depth in terms of the student-faculty/APSA relationship. If there were any questions from exec that I could forward to them on or if you wanted clarification or have something you think would be worthwhile or helpful for APSA to get a better understanding of then I can note them down and make sure that I bring them up. All the class reps did their mid-semester feedback and this was the 2nd iteration of that and they're done because it can open up the conversation. It really depends on the number of students that actually submit them per cohort because it gives it more weight and it's taken a little bit more seriously if a lot of students complete them per cohort. For both 1st and 2nd years there was pretty good turnout. From 1st years in terms of APSA it was all over the board but that was kind of



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expected; some students have participated and others haven't. A lot of it was just whether or not they were interested. That kind of leads into what 2nd years were saying as well, they are experiencing a lot of screen fatigue with school in general so it's hard to find the motivation to come out and participate in something else. They acknowledge that it's the best that we can do but just with classes and events all being online they are burnt out. Overall, a lot of good feedback in terms of appreciating the effort and I think it is really seen by the student body. From 3rd years, very similar lots of low motivation because of the schooling situation but the efforts from APSA are noticeable. From the 4th years there was nothing APSA specific. If there is anything specific you would like me to ask then I certainly can. I was kind of hoping that students would have submitted something along the lines of what they would like to see or something that they'd be interested in but it's also understandable that there wouldn't be any given considering how much is on student's plates right now. Is there anything you would like to bring up?

- b. Eliana - Leah and I were discussing how we can best tailor both social and wellness initiatives to what students would like to see because we definitely have our own ideas of what we want to pull together from previous years and so new ideas as well. Do you think it would be helpful if we reached out to students and asked what they would like to see from us in terms of social and wellness events? This might show students that we do want to take into consideration what they think would be best suited for them.
- c. Navjot - I can bring that up in the meeting. The information I got was a brief summary from the class reps and so I can bring that forward and see if they would share that and then I can bring it forward again.
- d. Anthony - Who are you meeting with?
- e. Navjot - This is the SAC, Student Advisory Committee. It's composed of the class reps, myself, and then we have a faculty rep. It's like a mini focus group but it happens on an as needed basis and myself, the class reps, or faculty can call a meeting. It's a chance to discuss how students are doing and how things are going. I know that last year it was really helpful to be able to have some conversations early on and be able to address things and then get some guidance. Part of it, at least from my experience last year, is I think sometimes class reps get a lot of feedback in terms of how courses are going, or how things are going and it can be daunting to try to figure out how to go talk to the appropriate people about something happening in this class, etc. SAC is an opportunity for some guidance although that door is open throughout the semester but sometimes some of that can also be shared with the rest of the faculty too if there's something that comes up.
- f. Anthony - Who is the faculty rep?
- g. Navjot - Ken Cor
- h. Ayush - I have been having conversations with Ravina about the PAM packages as well and we are planning on putting in a small mental health card, but that won't go out till March. The student services team and I will be working on this. They have been doing that in their emails but it helps when you have a physical card that you can put somewhere in your room or house. If the class reps say that students would find something helpful and it's something that we can send out, the faculty did suggest to me that they're willing to mail things to students. So if there is something that they would find of value, if the class reps do bring anything up just let me know and I can bring it up to student services
- i. Navjot - This would be for wellness related stuff?
- j. Ayush - They said that if we need to ship anything out to students as long as it's not unreasonably heavy or large they would.



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- k. Anthony - Leah and I had a discussion when she opened the Mint Christmas Donation form and that there was a lot of feedback around students feeling burnt out. Leah would probably be able to speak to this better but a lot of students were feeling pretty down and finding it hard to motivate themselves. So she did loop the faculty into that conversation, just to let them know. They should be aware but this maybe is something else you can bring forward when you talk to Dr. Cor.
  - l. Leah - I emailed Dallyce, Anjela, and Dr. Sanghera. They said to refer people to the student services eClass and that there's resources on there. The main thing I was worried about with Anthony was that I'm a facilitator on the forum, so I'm getting the responses and sending them to Kit. When I get concerning responses from students, it's tough because I don't want to ignore them if they're calls for help but I also don't want to intervene on them because they might not think it's meant for APSA and that it's more meant for Kit, the message on the form says "Tell Kit your story if you like". It puts me in a difficult spot as to whether I reach out to the students who are really struggling or do I just keep sending the information along and hope that Mint acts on it. I don't know how to help them anymore than we can, I totally understand that students are burnt out and they don't want to be online longer but I can't host in-person events, there's no way I can fill the COVID gaps. Unless the students can give us some solid examples of how they'd like to see things improve, I don't have a whole lot of plans to change my approach for next semester and I don't know how to run things any differently.
  - m. Navjot - I agree, I feel like that was what I was expecting and I don't think there's a whole lot we can do and especially if the faculty can't do a ton there's not lots other than listening to students and giving students the option to give feedback that we can do right now. I was talking to Dr. Sanghera about potentially reopening mentorship for 2nd years because I know some of them are burnt out and I think some of them are looking to be connected with people. Eliana do you think this is something that we could potentially do for second semester?
  - n. Eliana - Over Christmas break I can look at doing a second matching process. I think just because of how overwhelming it was to match the entire class of 2024 I wanted to prioritize them but I can look into doing a second round of matching for 2nd year students with more senior students, or even 3rd year students with some 4th year students if there's interest.
  - o. Anthony - We knew that this was something that we'd have to navigate all year and rightfully so people are burnt out and they don't want to participate after they stare at their screen all day. We just have to recognize within ourselves that we are doing the best we can and we're putting the effort out there. If people don't attend, we have to respect that decision and just continue to give them the opportunity. Also, recognizing that we can get burnt out too and we have busy roles and are also trying to juggle COVID and online classes like everyone else but also taking on the addition of trying to provide for an entire student body. So please just recognize that within yourself and if you're feeling overwhelmed or burnt out reach out to anyone, let me know, let one of your friends know, and if you need to step back for a couple days and just relax before finals that's totally understandable and I respect that.
7. MOU Update - Anthony (5 min)
- a. Anthony - Jackie and I submitted the final MOU's to Dallyce who then passes it on to Dean Davies and the rest of the committee. The feedback that we got from Dallyce was outstanding and that she loved the format Jackie had created and there was so much detail on every single event and what we're asking for. Upon Dallyce's guidance we had even made a column of anticipated costs for next year because she thought that the Dean would like to see that in the sense that this year we are only asking for X amount of dollars and then next



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year if we're in person our MOU ask jumped \$10,000 and the uncertainty around that so we provided the column showing that this is what we're going to be asking for next year in person and a few other details that we provided. Additionally we also put in an ask for a bunch of gift cards because our conversation with Dallyce prior to formulation the MOU's was that in the past the faculty wouldn't spend money on gift cards but this year they were totally comfortable with doing so. Following that, Jackie reached out to every counselor and tried to plan the year entirely online and incorporate gift cards as a way we can incentivize people to attend and be involved. We got an email from Dallyce about a week after we had sent out the finalized version and she wanted to meet with us again to provide some feedback and comments. Long story short, we ended up meeting with Dallyce again and the feedback was not good, the MOU's were poorly received. The Dean didn't like the column we had added for anticipated costs for next year, he didn't like how much we were asking for and he didn't like that we were asking for gift cards. This was very frustrating for us and essentially this means that the MOU conversation is still ongoing. We don't know where it's at currently, we left it with Dallyce and she was going to reach back out to the Dean and consult with Dr. Sanghera to try to change things to make it a bit more presentable. Jackie and I have put in the work and we're just waiting to see what Dallyce can do to change things and to make it look more presentable. I wanted to give everyone this update with the caveat that there may be some gift card reductions in what we originally asked for.

- b. Eliana - I was wondering if I were to direct that money into something that wasn't a gift card would that help? For example, for Keeley's Wellness Bingo we're giving away a yoga matt and a water bottle, which promotes student betterment. I can try to find incentives that aren't gift cards if that works with the faculty
- c. Anthony - I think that's great that we can come up with alternatives but to me I kind of want that to be our last approach because I feel like we've done so much on our end. We've asked each counselor to formulate a budget with the thought of having gift cards as an option. I think Dallyce recognizes that and she kind of said to let her work on it and so we'll see what she can do. If she tries to change things and it still gets rejected then we'll have to come back and think of other ways to spend the money but I do appreciate you thinking ahead.
- d. Ayush - I had a chance to speak to somebody who was the Lethbridge Student Union president about MOUs and budget. He also did say that 8.5% of the budget is a lot for gift cards just to keep in mind. I think at the end of the day, the best approach is to wait. The faculty has said that they're willing to pay for shipping across Canada. So if it comes down to it and next semester we're trying to figure out what way the faculty can sponsor us we can be creative but the best approach for now is to wait.
- e. Anthony - Ultimately we want to try to maximize the amount of money the faculty will give us but given the circumstances, knowing that we're online, if they're not willing to give us as much we can still host events for basically free. If a gift card is going to be the deciding factor between someone attending the event or not I guess we will have lower attendance.
- f. Jackie - Our gift card percentage of our MOU's is only 8.7% of our total ask, it's not like its 25% of our overall budget.
- g. Leah - Same as Eliana, if you need me to go about a different approach for prizes I can do that. I hope that Dallyce is able to talk to the Dean about this because if we're shipping prizes we're accounting for shipping costs and then the students are getting less out of that money, where as a gift card the students get the full amount of money.
- h. Jackie - A potential solution that we could use it that instead of directly buying a gift card for the students, we could think of their prize and then use an APSA Amazon account and order the prize to their address, which then solves a lot of the shipping costs, and also doesn't look



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like we're just giving an Amazon gift card, it's a purchase. I think this would be pretty easy to implement because Prime memberships are free if we have a Ualberta account.

- i. Ayush - That's a good approach.
  - j. Eliana - I also like that.
  - k. Jackie - We might have to reword everything in the MOU from gift cards to exactly what we are buying but if that's the case, I'll ask you guys to help me with that.
  - l. Anthony - Maybe the Dean didn't appreciate the number we're asking for because obviously he is facing a lot of external funding pressures and restructuring but it would have been nice to get a bit more feedback or reception to what we're doing.
  - m. Ayush - I think we should understand that the university is going through a lot of changes, which is putting pressure on the faculty. So although, often it'll look like they're not being reasonable with us, we should consider that they're also facing pressures. Not that I necessarily agree with the approach that they're taking and I think they should consider that we're online but that's something we should consider that they're also going through a lot of change.
8. Sponsorship Update - Jared (15 min)
- a. Jared - Some positive news is that I have a lot of gift cards from sponsors so I just have to get in touch with you all to be able to distribute them. I was fortunate enough to be able to talk with Navjot and Jackie over the weekend and we've all been brainstorming some new ideas for moving forward. So far this year I've gotten \$1,000 of sponsorship to date from 3 separate sponsors. The Medicine Shop has specifically sponsored the Rising Star Award, the Calgary Co-Op and Bayer Crop Sciences have both given money and that money can be spent as needed. Lots of other sponsors have given gift cards because they didn't feel like they could give a large monetary sponsorship this year but still wanted to contribute. I think we could use some of these for prizes moving forward. Currently, there is about \$300 worth of gift cards. Moving forward, I'm in contact with ACP right now and they seem on board to sponsor this year but I am not exactly sure in what capacity. I'm meeting with Ashley from ACP next week ust to share some things and they definitely want to get involved with PAM. I'm going to start CCing Ayush into these conversations and he's going to join me at that meeting. I have also been talking to RxA and they sponsored the Student Advocacy award last year. I was talking with Jackie and we'll be reaching out to Ali to see if they would be interested in sponsoring that award this year and possibly also the Student Research award. Moving forward my plan is to tweak the sponsorship package and send it out to new sponsors over the winter break and also follow up with other sponsors as well. I know a lot of sponsors can't give as much as they would normally this year but I'm trying to keep those contacts so those opportunities are available moving forward. Things have been fairly well received so far and everybody is really happy with how we've been approaching COVID.

**Motion:** To move into camera

First: Jared Second: Megan

**Motion:** To move out of camera

First: Jard Second: Leah





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9. Additions to the Agenda
  - a. PEBC Update - Ayush (4 min)  
**Motion:** To move into camera  
First: Ayush Second: Garrett  
  
**Motion:** To move out of camera  
First: Ayush Second: Garrett
  - b. APSA Members - Ayush (4 min)  
**Motion:** To move into camera  
First: Ayush Second: Garrett  
  
**Motion:** To move out of camera  
First: Ayush Second: Garrett
10. Adjournment (16:02 )
  - a. First: Garret Second: Jackie