



APSA Executive Council Meeting  
January 17, 2022 17:00

1. Call to order (17:02)
2. Roll call (2 min) Marzena, Garrett, John, Jasmine, Rachel, Amandeep, Alyssa, Jared, Daniel
  - a. Regrets:
3. Additions to the agenda (1 min)

**Motion:** To approve the agenda  
**First:** Amandeep. **Second:** Daniel.
4. Minutes of the last meeting (1 min)

**Motion:** To approve the previous meeting minutes  
**First:** Alyssa. **Second:** Jasmine.

New Business:

5. In-Camera Discussion - Garrett (5 mins)

**Motion:** To move into camera.  
**First:** John. **Second:** Jasmine.

**Motion:** To move out of camera.  
**First:** John. **Second:** Jasmine.
6. Delivery Perspective Conversation/COVID Update - Amandeep/Garrett (20 mins)
  - a. Amandeep: I asked some of my group members about their thoughts about going to school if they are not from Edmonton. I asked if they would prefer it to be all online or just have that one day a week in the lab. I asked about their living situation, if they are in a lease or if they could break that lease? A lot of students would prefer to be online if they don't live here. It's easy for me to say I want that one day a week in person because I live here but that's not fair to those who don't live here.
  - b. Alyssa: I have a bit of a different opinion. I'm in Medicine Hat, just living in Edmonton for school but I would take anything in person no matter how much time they give us. I can't learn at home so it is nice to be in a routine in Edmonton. I feel bad that those who don't live here are paying a lease. At the same time, a lot of us that moved here before pharmacy knew that we would be here for three years and planned for that.
  - c. Rachel: My opinion is similar to Alyssa's. I'm in Edmonton even though I'm from out of town. It being our last semester to be in person, I would want that opportunity. There are many different situations that influence people's opinions.
  - d. John: My perspective is that it doesn't make sense if it is just in March. If people are in their hometown and have to come back for one day a week and find a place for one or two months. My perspective is that they need to make a decision now, so that people aren't just waiting. There are people waiting to see where they need to be. We can't wait till the end of February for them to make a decision. The decision needs to be made now to relieve the students of mental stress.
  - e. Garrett: I am also from out of town and living in Edmonton. I'm here either way and it would be nice to be able to go to school. I would appreciate being able to go in once a week for the sense of it being our last semester on campus.
  - f. Amandeep: I think we are being very considerate of those who don't have great situations, but I also see the other perspective. We need to figure out what we want to advocate for or if we need to poll the student body. I wasn't sure what my group members' living situations were when I asked but I think it does vary. Obviously there is value in going to school in person if you are here, not just for the fun, but there is a purpose behind the learning.
  - g. John: Another point I was thinking about the other day is our finals, particularly the skills lab



APSA Executive Council Meeting  
January 17, 2022 17:00

final. I don't know what the Faculty's stance is on that. If finals are in person, is the OSCE in person too? Will they have rapid testing and protocols for students who may test positive? It becomes very complicated for once a week learning. If we go in person, the university should advocate for seminars and labs in person. The half approach of just lab once a week is not reasonable to me.

- h. Amandeep: That point also is super important to consider for second years in ceutics labs. Dr. Loebenberg was telling me that he has no way of providing students with materials for at home labs in such a short turnaround time. The amount of time it took to plan online labs and distribute things was a long time. He can't distribute that right away so we should consider advocating for that too if we are advocating for skills lab.
- i. Garrett: Labs and seminars would be nice to have in person. I know it won't be reasonable for everyone. Maybe we could see what Dr. Sanghera says on Thursday morning. We have to gauge them and the student body since we are representing the students. It is our duty to see what the students are saying.
- j. Amandeep: Dr. Hall said they were having email communications about this right now and they might be deciding on their own. They were going to communicate about labs soon. There will be a town hall for Years 1-3, so we will have to reschedule our Thursday meeting on that day.
- k. Garrett: Every week we wait, there is another lab that we miss out on having in person.
- l. Amandeep: Do we think we should poll the students or should we wait till the end of the week?
- m. John: I think we should poll so that we can be proactive instead of reactive. If we go into the town hall on Thursday with a general sense of student thoughts, it will be more effective to communicate what we want as a student body. The Faculty will have the ultimate decision, but we still need to advocate for what the students want.
- n. Amandeep: The email from the University said that there can be essential labs in person. We could advocate for our skills labs to be in person during this time where the classes are online. We can't say that it will happen but I think we should try for that. We should do it as a Google Form, what are you all thinking?
- o. John: I was going to ask if we are advocating for in person in March or from this point forward.
- p. Garrett: I think it's from this point forward. The email said that things deemed necessary to be in person, can be in person. Another thing is that Amandeep and I are meeting with Ravina on Thursday to discuss with her, Dr. Hughes and the new Faculty General Manager about PBL use. I don't know what to expect from that meeting but we will try to get them to open them up.
- q. Amandeep: Let's get the Google Form out soon and add a question about PBL use. That way we can get some information to bring back to that meeting on Thursday.
- r. John: What is your response if they say no to opening the PBLs?
- s. Garrett: I think it's important to make them realize that Student Services is there to provide services to students and help them out. This is one way they can help students.
- t. Amandeep: I think it is a barrier thing, yes they can book Cameron library but you never know someone's situation. Having to book a room is just another stressor for students and another barrier to going to school. If they say it is a safety situation, it doesn't make sense that other students from different faculties are there. It would really depend on what their reasoning is for our response.
- u. Garrett: I agree. For lots of people in pharmacy, they say students can book the Cameron Library but some students might not even know where it is.
- v. Daniel: Another thing is that Cameron library can only be booked for 2 hours.



APSA Executive Council Meeting  
January 17, 2022 17:00

- w. Garrett: Yes, that's another barrier if you go there for class. You'll likely spend most of your day there, but you only have 2 hours booked.
  - x. Alyssa: I don't think that the safety issue is a valid reason since students stayed there past school hours. If they say no to opening PBLs, maybe we could suggest booking the PBLs to limit the amount of people that are there. Then we could make sure that whoever signs up is responsible for cleaning before the next students come in. I think the medicine students are encouraged to book them.
  - y. Garrett: That is something we could bring up to them.
  - z. Amandeep: The big part about that is contact tracing, which is great. That way they will know who is there.
7. VP Fundraising Update (New RxA Budget, Meeting w/ Neighbourly Pharmacy, Student Rural Accommodation Network) - John (30 mins)
- a. John: First, I wanted to double check the reallocation for the RxA budget because I am meeting with Ali tomorrow. Orientation, White Coat and Name Tag sponsorships are the same. RxFactor, Jasmine I wanted to check if you needed any more?
  - b. Jasmine: I do have MOU from the Faculty. Would it be best that I pull from RxA as well? I don't really know what to do.
  - c. John: I think you should get what you can from the Faculty and I will just keep it as what we have. The Curling Bonspiel is not happening anymore. We have money allocated for the PAM buttons. Alyssa, do you need an increase for Student Services?
  - d. Alyssa: A lot of my events have shifted to online challenges. All of those are funded by MOUs, but is this for this school year? Or does it carry over to the fall?
  - e. John: This is just for this year.
  - f. Alyssa: Are there any limitations on what we can use it for?
  - g. John: It will be for whatever Ali and I agree on. I just want to give them numbers for now, but I will keep it as is. Everything else on the budget I will keep as is. After the projected budget, we will have a bit of money to reallocate. I also added Rachel's addition for PAM and Ivy's Community Education pocket card contest addition.
  - h. Rachel: I will bring this up later in my agenda point too, but I might need more money allocated for the PAM buttons. We might do the pronoun ones too.
  - i. John: I will talk to Ali about the remaining money that we have for reallocation. Any questions regarding the negotiations before I discuss with Ali?
  - j. Amandeep: Do you estimate that the budgeted money will be used? Did they use all the money for the Welcome to the Profession Event?
  - k. John: It is a projected amount. It is an amount that RxA will provide to the 4th years. I assumed it would be that amount so I just kept it the same as last year.
  - l. Rachel: I have a question with the nametags, I know that the Faculty is remaking them with pronouns? What is RxA doing with them? Just because if the Faculty and RxA are making the nametags, it may be redundant.
  - m. John: I can ask Ali during our meeting. Second thing, last Thursday, Garrett and I met with the potential new sponsors. Neighbourly Pharmacy is a new up and coming pharmacy company that is expanding to Alberta, they wanted to find out what they could do to get involved with the student body. They feel like that is a very important step of who they are and what they are trying to advocate in terms of their vision. More specifically they wanted to emphasize ownership and professional development post-graduation. They wanted me to bring three projects to them that they could fund for the long term. Each year, APSA councillors have great ideas, but in the following years, their work isn't continued. I wanted to convince them to have a systematic program that they could fund that would persist after we move from our positions. I wanted to ask about your thoughts regarding programs you think we should get



APSA Executive Council Meeting  
January 17, 2022 17:00

funded by Neighbourly Pharmacy. I am working on the proposal document right now. I have one project idea that I will talk about later, but that leaves space for two other projects. I know we had conversations about funding intramurals and I also put down the mentorship program. Neighbourly Pharmacy was trying to sell me on the point about how they can get involved with students even after graduation. They don't know why younger pharmacists are hesitant about taking on managerial positions. I am passionate about the one project I will discuss soon, so I need two more ideas from you. I don't need the ideas right now, but if you feel passionate about certain projects, you can bring those up to me. They seem eager to get involved.

- n. Garrett: The big thing we discussed with them was trying to find initiatives that reach the whole student body. They seemed eager about trying to make the connection with students so that the students are more comfortable to get into ownership. Their vision for the long term is to have ways of teaching students about management. They are a relatively new company and trying to have a different ideology than most. They are trying to more support ownership.
- o. John: I think it is important to capitalize early and foster that relationship from the start. Based on interactions with Bruce in our meeting, he is really big on details. It would be good to come out with three good programs that they could potentially fund. Just keep it in your thoughts. I will be taking the lead on this but it would be great if someone had a program they were passionate about. My final point is regarding the Student Rural Accommodation Network. This is one of the projects that I would like Neighbourly Pharmacy to fund. I am in early conversations with Amandeep and Daniel. Basically, I am revamping a system that existed a decade ago. Finding accommodations during placements is a big issue. I bumped into this issue when I was working with Mint and the bursaries, and I know that a big barrier for pharmacy school is financials. A big part of that is having to pay for rural accommodations during placements. This has made rural accommodations to be less desirable for many students, although some students live out of town and may choose those locations for placements. It isn't necessarily because students don't like rural placements, but more so that they don't want to pay extra to do the rotation. This is a huge barrier and accessibility issue for students. This is why I am proposing to revamp this network. This framework already exists on our website where students voluntarily put down information about their accommodations. This is a huge undertaking but I am spearheading this project. In working with Amandeep and Daniel, we are getting the ball rolling on that. Right now, I would like to recruit a team that will help get the program off the ground. I want to work with the ExEd team and Dr. Thompson is willing to show me the locations of placements once we have the details hammered out. I want to push through a phased approach. The first phase is based on students voluntarily sharing information about rotations they have been on, but incentivizing it for the first bit. Then phase two, the leadership team will call placements directly and search for accommodations. This new network will be more systematic and the leadership team will build that network and engage public forums and social media. The last phase is ultimately engaging with sponsors such as Neighbourly Pharmacies. They already have an existing network of pharmacies and they have Bruce who is close with the education standpoint. Another big difference is if we have a sponsor, they could provide travel stipends, reimbursements and scholarships to help alleviate the financial stress from rural placements and decrease its function as a barrier to pharmacy education. We all recognize that rural pharmacy is important. We need to make it easier for students to get out there and potentially do more than one rural placement. I am meeting with Dr. Thompson on Thursday to initiate this conversation with ExEd and they seem very receptive. I will propose this project to Neighbourly Pharmacy. I think this will take a few years for it to be effective and



APSA Executive Council Meeting  
January 17, 2022 17:00

operational. This will be away from my VP Fundraising duties, since I will work with it over next year too. If you are interested or have better ideas on how to make this a functioning system, please let me know.

- p. Garrett: I think you did a very thorough job explaining it. It is a huge project but I think that students will really benefit from it. A lot of students don't see the benefit of rural placements.
  - q. John: Another reason is that RPAP, which organizes things for medicine students and nurses, doesn't do it for pharmacy students. Faculty will only help out in certain situations, so we will have to make this a student-led initiative and this is why we need sponsors.
  - r. Daniel: We were also talking about implementing this in the Constitution as a recognized student position depending on how things pan out. It would be nice to have this position as a connection to the 4th year students. They have indicated in our survey that APSA doesn't vouch for them. This would be a fundamental way for us to vouch for them.
  - s. John: Yes, that is a huge point.
8. Study Groups/Mock OSCE - Rachel (5 mins)
- a. Rachel: I mentioned the Mock OSCE idea and I brought it up with Dr. Sanghera. She was a bit hesitant since if we run something like that, and during a final or OSCE someone gets a similar case and doesn't do so well, there might be some issues and it might be a logistical nightmare. Katie and I discussed an alternative that the Class of 2024 did in first year. It had to do with reaching out to who would be interested in practising for OSCEs and studying for classes. Once you gather who is interested, you randomize who is put with who just so people are more comfortable with signing up. Brianna, who was the class representative at the time, did this and it worked out quite well. It might be something we could implement to all students. With the study groups that we did near finals last semester, did anyone end up using the rooms?
  - b. Amandeep: I think we introduced it too late. Students already created their schedules.
  - c. Rachel: Katie mentioned that she would have signed up but she didn't want to be the first person putting her name down. I wonder if others felt the same and if this would help alleviate that barrier. Maybe Amandeep and I could collaborate on that?
  - d. John: I think it is a great idea.
  - e. Amandeep: I can talk to you about it later but I did distribute the sign ups for the virtual rooms and we can collaborate.
9. PAM Pronoun Buttons Funding Issue - Rachel (5 mins)
- a. Rachel: These buttons were something we wanted to do this year since it has never been done and it is really important for students. We came up with ideas about doing pins for each student. The one thing is that we met with Dr. Sanghera and she was not sure that it would be covered in the MOUs since they are doing the name tags with pronouns so it would be a duplication. We are going to try to ask RxA for this, but last year it was asked, and they said no. This may be a funding issue if we can't get it funded. Could we bring this to APSA for funding if RxA doesn't cover it?. It would be \$100-150.
  - b. Daniel: Could you explain the differences between the buttons?
  - c. Rachel: These would be the ones we are asking RxA to fund. The faculty is redoing everyone's gold name tags. We want to make pins with just the pronouns or "ask me about my pronouns". Not everyone wears their school name tag on rotation or at work. Last year they couldn't get it covered by RxA so I was wondering if you had any ideas.
  - d. John: I will ask Ali for funding.
  - e. Rachel: I think it won't be an issue but just in case would that be something we could ask APSA to fund?
  - f. Daniel: Yes, I can look into that.



APSA Executive Council Meeting  
January 17, 2022 17:00

- g. Rachel: John can you add that to your RxA discussion?
  - h. John: Yes, I will add it.
10. Locker Payments - Alyssa (5 mins)
- a. Alyssa: Now that we are online for a few months, I am running into the issue about lockers. Some students paid for the full year and some students paid for the fall semester. I had people ask if they need to send more money. Over the Christmas break I told students to wait. Now that we would only be in person for a month maximum, do we refund people that paid for the year? I'm just not sure how to handle it since students technically still have access to their lockers even if they didn't pay for it. Does anyone have any thoughts?
  - b. Amandeep: Can you do a super reduced cost locker charge and refund the difference to the people that paid the full year.
  - c. Alyssa: I think it is okay for people who paid the full year to not get reimbursed since they still have access to the locker. I don't know how to handle the people that only paid for the fall semester since they still have access to them as well.
  - d. Garrett: I think if someone paid the full year, you shouldn't have to refund them. I think you can tell the students that paid the half semester to leave their items in the locker if they can't get to campus and then if we go back, they can pay to keep the locker.
  - e. Alyssa: I will hold off about asking for money until we know if we are going back. Thank you for your opinions.
11. Additions to the Agenda
12. Adjournment (18:01)
- Motion:** To adjourn  
**First:** Daniel. **Second:** John.