



APSA Executive Committee Meeting  
September 20, 2021 17:00

1. Call to order (17:01)
2. Roll call (2 min) Amandeep, Garrett, Rachel, Jared, Jasmine, Alyssa, Daniel, Marzena, John C, Christine Hughes, Ken Cor
  - a. Regrets:
3. Additions to the agenda (1 min)

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

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

New Business:

5. Discussion with the Dean - Garrett (10 mins)
  - a. Garrett: I'd like to introduce Dr. Christine Hughes who is our new Interim Dean. She is here to discuss the exceptional tuition increases with Dr. Cor. Before you do that, maybe you could introduce yourself to the Executives.
  - b. Dr. Hughes: It is nice to have the chance to meet you. Some of you I have taught before and some of you I will teach soon. Things have been changing week to week and I know it has been challenging for both students and faculty. I hope that things will start to become a little more normal as we progress through the year and as we get through this fourth wave. There have been exciting changes as we move into the college model and it has been happening quicker than I anticipated. There has been a lot of good discussion and planning, not only about setting up the college administrative structures but also getting into what initiatives we can start in terms of education for graduate students, undergraduate students and research. That is a big change and in my view it is a positive change. There are challenges as we move into this new operational model. The other big thing I want to highlight is the commitment by the University and our college for the EDI and Indigenous initiatives. There is an office where this will fall under and it is a big priority at the University. Those are a couple of things and as the year rolls out, there will be more opportunities to share what is coming up.
  - c. Garrett: Thank you for introducing yourself. I'm sure you will get to meet the executives on a more personal level as the year goes on.
6. Exceptional Tuition Increase Presentation - Garrett (15 mins)
  - a. Dr. Hughes: Dr. Cor has been working a lot on this proposal and the original proposal as well. I came into this role on July 1st and soon after that, the government returned the initial proposal back to us. They were looking for more student consultation and they were also looking for the proposal to go through the typical governance process at the University, which includes approval by the Board of Governors. There was a template we needed to complete to be very specific about what the money was being used for to improve the program year by year. There will be a monitoring process to put in place so that we are accountable for how that money is being used. It was later in August that we were given more direction from the Provost Office. Originally we were given the timeline of September 13th which was extended to September 29th. It gives us time to gather the information we need, to meet with various student groups and to do another town hall. I will let Ken talk about the consultation we have done since August and some of the changes. One of the changes we were hearing and prioritizing about is around bursaries. We are ensuring that we put 20% of the funding back



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into bursaries. I had discussions with the Registrar's Office and they have a very good infrastructure to set that up. We can work with them to ensure the bursaries are divided in a way that supports students that may be most financially disadvantaged. They are also able to look at the ratio of scholarships to bursaries. We continue to do fundraising as well and have some more bursaries that are being set up as we speak. There is a lot of effort going in to find money for scholarships and bursaries for students. I'm happy to answer any questions.

- b. Dr. Cor: Basically, once we received the feedback that we needed to have more consultation in detail, we set up a meeting with Garrett and Anthony to update them. Then we began to reach out to student groups, BPSA and the LGBTQ2+PhSC and we had some really great meetings. It was so important and we were able to make some pretty great changes and build in things like the language around how the bursaries need to focus on supporting students that are disadvantaged. We also discussed the language around how we would build in health system types expertise into our hires, diversity being a key factor and expertise around health issues as they relate to important groups. We want to really try to not have something that's just focused on diversity in the practice skills but also trying to raise up the content of the curriculum to meet up the new expectation around health issues that are reality of what health professionals deal with. With the LGBTQ2+PhSC, we were able to hear about the idea of creating safe learning spaces. That requires consistent training for faculty and staff and to have that available for students. This funding should have a portion set aside to help make that happen. The college model may address that because we have discussed how to have EDI across health sciences that have similar issues. We want to have a dedicated amount of money to focus on that and create resources and standardized training. Those were some amazing proposals that we weren't able to add without student consultation. All three groups we met expressed support for a town hall. When I looked at the schedule for this week it looked like Thursday was the only opening due to faculty advisor meetings. I know it's a short window and we can discuss that today and see if we should pick a different day or a longer timeframe. Right now it is 30 mins and I plan to have a short presentation and then have the rest of the time open for questions and discussion. Again, Dr. Hughes and myself would be in attendance to collect feedback. We will have an open ended feedback form that students can fill in. When it came to the bursary piece, and I looked at the numbers, I was quite astonished. I really am hopeful that we will be able to do better than we have ever done at supporting students who need it. This is a model that will raise the tuition to a level that allows us to address major equality issues. It will also facilitate the idea of supporting others through the support of yourselves as students. It is a way of increasing diversity, inclusivity and giving us the opportunity to address it. There is a lot more detail of what money will be spent and when.
- c. Garrett: If my memory is correct, when we had the town hall it was an hour but it also had time allotted to talk about the fall semester. I'm not too worried about the time frame.
- d. Jared: For students that aren't able to make it, is there a way for students to receive answers back to their questions?
- e. Dr. Cor: That is doable. We can do a summary of what we heard and share that. We can record the town hall for those people to view.
- f. Amandeep: Are there any discussions with Alberta Student Loans about increasing loan limits for those that may not be eligible for bursaries? Some students may have used loans for undergrad and for the professional program.
- g. Dr. Hughes: Not specific to Alberta Loans, but when I met with the Registrar's Office and they indicated that there are a lot of funding sources that students are not aware of. They suggested that we have opportunities for the office to come in, whether organized through APSA or the faculty, and they go over those opportunities. There are a lot of spending



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opportunities and things around loans and they would be able to help our students navigate that.

- h. Dr. Cor: I think it is a good question and something that we can indicate that we want some government information in regards to it. We can advocate for an analysis of how the increase may affect student loan applications. That could be a few sentences in our proposal that speak to that. From the numbers I look at annually, our students tend to underutilize the funding resources that are available to them. As Dr. Hughes mentioned, If we inform our students better then hopefully we can address that increased burden.
7. General Update/Discussion - Garrett (5 mins)
  - a. Garrett: I thought maybe some people would like to talk about the changes that have been happening recently. Events are back to being approved if less than 50 people and no food or drinks are allowed. I sent you all the outline of events right now.
  - b. Rachel: I had a question about the food. I think the document said that if the place is 3x bigger than the capacity it might be allowed. Do you know anything about that?
  - c. Garrett: I also read that but I'm not sure.
  - d. Rachel: I emailed them last week and they haven't gotten back to me. I want to give out food because it is a long event and people will bring food regardless. When I submitted it, I said I would provide food and they didn't say anything about that.
  - e. Garrett: They didn't say anything about cancelling the event either so I think you can proceed as normal. I had a meeting on Friday with the other faculty associations, the SU and the presidents. There were lots of concerns about events. I think we can still have lunch and learns remotely, but I think we are doing okay. Does anyone else have anything they want to add?
  - f. Daniel: For insurance, we got 4 more rejections. I have only one option left.
  - g. Garrett: Have you heard back from the Dean of Student Services?
  - h. Daniel: Yes, she just emailed me back today.
  - i. Garrett: Did she send you a list?
  - j. Daniel: She sent me the same three that I have already contacted. I made 4 phone calls in the span of 2 months. I left voicemails and they say they will call back but they don't. I had no clue it would be this tough and I think it jeopardizes our legitimacy because this is a policy that we have to have.
  - k. Garrett: Did you email her back and tell her you tried those options?
  - l. Daniel: Yes and I'm waiting for a reply.
  - m. Garrett: I don't think they will say we can't be a group if we don't have insurance. I think they will be willing to work things out with us.
8. Mental Health Check - Amandeep (15 mins)

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

**Motion: To move out of camera**  
**First: Amandeep. Second: John.**
9. Appointment of Second Student on Professionalism Committee - Amandeep (5 mins)
  - a. Amandeep: I sit on the Appeals committee as the student representative. If a student wants to appeal a grade or an assignment grade, or if you didn't achieve a GPA to move on to the next year you can appeal it. I am the only student on it and then a bunch of faculty members. Usually there is an alternative student as stated in their policy and so the new chair asked me who that student is. I reached out to everyone I could think of and no one knew who it was. I was thinking about the additional student that sits on the professionalism committee that is a non-APSA executive student in case there was a conflict of interest or if the student



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representative was sick. I think we should also include that in the Constitution for years to come.

**Motion:** BIRT APSA appoints the non-APSA Council student on the Professionalism Committee

as the student alternative to sit on the Appeals Committee for the 2021-2022 school year.

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

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

- a. Garrett: In the interest of time, I will skip over this, unless anyone else has something urgent they would like to discuss.

11. Additions to the Agenda

a. Budget Information for Student Groups - Daniel (5 mins)

1. Daniel: This is just an open discussion, but it is fair to say that since we will end up in a deficit this year in order to support all the student initiatives that are happening this year. MOUs are still not approved and if we want to support the full budget of each student group, we may end up in a steeper deficit. MOUs need to be improved because that is around half of our funding. I want to discuss the amount that we will actually spend on the student groups because of this.
2. Rachel: I was wondering what the Pharmacotherapy Project will be using their projected budget for?
3. Marzena: They are using it for one lunch and learn per semester and give out gift cards for contributors.
4. Garrett: I don't think they would need that much for a lunch and learn because we can't have food or drinks at the event.
5. Rachel: If that changes in the winter semester, would we give them money to host a lunch and learn?
6. Amandeep: We can counter their budget because maybe they aren't aware of how much is spent on a lunch and learn.
7. Daniel: I agree, we should counter. If RxA approves their budget, would they approve the full amount for them?
8. John: It is in their budget request for the full amount. If all goes well, we won't have to cover any of it. RxA sounds like they are on board for this project. I think we should let them know that if RxA can fund it, they can have the full amount but if they can't we can only give them half.

b. Event Discussion - Jared (5 mins)

1. Jared: I got a couple questions mainly from the 1st year class, wondering about whether they need to submit an event to Bearsden if they want to meet a few people at the Corn Maze for example. I am okay with them not submitting for that but I don't really know the liabilities behind that.
2. Amandeep: Social reps are non-APSA affiliated, they are class affiliated. I think they can create a waiver just in case. That way I would be okay with them not submitting to Bearsden.
3. Rachel: When they make the event, can they say it is a class event not an APSA event?
4. Jared: I think that would be fine too because it would just be a few friends, not the entire class body.
5. Marzena: I think technically they should but I would be fine with them not submitting because it is not an official event. They can invite friends from class to meet with each other outside of class.



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6. Jared: That's perfect, thank you all.

12. Adjournment (17:53)

**Motion:** To adjourn

**First:** Jared. **Second:** Amandeep.