



APSA Executive Council Meeting
January 31, 2022 17:00

1. Call to order (17:01)
2. Roll call (2 min) Garrett, Rachel, John, Jared, Daniel, Alyssa, Amandeep, Marzena, Jasmine, Bojana, Abner, Simran
 - a. Regrets:
3. Additions to the agenda (1 min)

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

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

New Business

5. SU President Candidate Discussion - Garrett (15 mins)
 - a. Garrett: I wanted to welcome Abner, who is the current VP Academic of the SU and he is running to be the next President. He is joining us today to get our thoughts and perspectives on a few things surrounding his campaign and the upcoming year.
 - b. Abner: As I am developing my platform, I want to make sure that they are reflective of what you want and what students in pharmacy want and their collective experiences are reflected through my vision. I am here to listen and to hear what your thoughts and experiences are on campus. I want to know what ways you think that SU can support you and improve your experience in the faculty as well as answer any questions you may have as well.
 - c. John: Most of us will be phasing out of our position and then graduating soon. With the new college model and how the health sciences are under one roof, I think one thing to consider is to not have the attention diluted. Just because we are under the health sciences branch, it doesn't mean we should necessarily be considered completely homogenized within that. Having that individual voice as pharmacy is important and I don't want that to be lost.
 - d. Garrett: I think we are just starting to see a lot of the restructuring happen. We are seeing a lot of support staff and faculty step away from their positions or moving to other positions within the faculties or other faculties. We need ongoing support as we try to navigate that since I don't think we are knowledgeable of what will happen with our Student Services team and support staff. I think that will have a big impact in the coming year.
 - e. Amandeep: Another big concern for Daniel specifically was that over the whole first 8 months of his term he was trying to get insurance. I don't know how hard and fast that is, but it came in this year, but it might make it very difficult for us to get reinstated as a student group. I was wondering if we could advocate to have more information and leniency if that is a requirement.
 - f. Abner: Much bigger picture, the SU wants to advocate to move away from DOS and put student life back in the hands of students so that we have more choice and autonomy. Right now the SU is exploring how student groups can be covered under our insurance which would save all of you a lot of money and the hassle. From an insurance standpoint, it doesn't make sense that we are paying for the insurance for an event that we can't approve. We are trying to sort that stuff out and make sure it is as fair as possible for students and also allows you to host events you want to. We can host events safely, but we are just being unnecessarily held back from being able to do that.
 - g. Daniel: I was the one dealing with insurance, and it was about an 8 month battle. It seemed that nothing was clearly communicated from DOS to us, but I have been lucky that they were



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willing to have the meetings to clear up some discrepancies. Essentially, it has been very clearly case by case and I know that there was no plan for student groups to purchase insurance. I was disappointed with how little guidance they were providing. Now I am kind of going back and forth to ensure we don't have to purchase a policy for events we can't hold. It seems confusing that they haven't consolidated how we have to purchase an insurance plan if they made the decision to offload us on their insurance plan. There was no guidance in that first little bit and it felt like a free for all. I am hoping for the better and would appreciate it if the SU would vouch for us. I was surprised with their decision to cut us off for insurance purposes.

- h. Abner: I am disappointed in this as well and I share your frustration. I am fighting on this, I want it to be removed. I know you have specific concerns and I am happy to chat with you to figure out what we can do. I know their approach has always been a case by case basis, but I feel like sometimes they use that as an excuse to not address the situation. Send me an email and we can talk about it more.
- i. Amandeep: One other thing is that I know with the pandemic, finding counselling services was difficult. I have heard experiences of students trying to book an appointment and they were saying they had no room. The 1st and 2nd year students could really benefit from added counselling services. Burnout for the healthcare field has been pretty excessive, so that would be beneficial.
- j. Abner: Thank you for bringing that up. SET (Service Excellence Transformation) was supposed to improve student access to services and while it did make it easier, it didn't improve their ability to access those services when they needed it. That is top of mind for me and I did want to address that going forward as well.
- k. Garrett: Another thing I can touch on is related to the health sciences students. We are in the process of trying to figure out the rural placement program to get funding for students that go on placements in rural settings. We want to advocate for more support for those students that have to leave Edmonton. Lots of students have troubles with that because they have to pay for the tuition, accommodation and travel, which are certain things they wouldn't have to pay if they stayed in Edmonton. I know it isn't realistic for everyone to get an urban placement but additional support for students in rural placements is something that is big on our plates. I don't think that that is just pharmacy students, it can be seen by a wide variety of faculties.
- l. Abner: Nathan always brings this up since we just finished our Experiential Learning Policy at the SU and he explicitly wanted that included to make sure we are advocating for funding for students on rural placements. I would love to hear about how many students go on rural placements per year. It would help me frame it as well to find the best way to advocate for it. I am also thinking that the University is working on their whole ExEd Learning Framework. These conversations are equally as important because if we are going to add more ExEd learning opportunities, we need to ensure that students are well supported. I will always advocate for students to pay as little as possible especially when going on placements that they don't have a choice on.
- m. Garrett: I don't have the numbers off the top of my head but I can find out for you.
- n. Abner: If you can reach out to the faculty that would be great, or even I can reach out to them. Do you get to pick your placements?
- o. Garrett: It is a lottery system, and you pick your top 15. Everyone is expected to do one rural placement in the program. In total, we do 6 placements over our 4 years. They count rural as anywhere 50km outside of Edmonton and Calgary.
- p. Abner: Those are per semester?
- q. Garrett: Two of them are 1 month and 4 of them are 2 months. Does anyone else have



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anything to bring up?

- r. Abner: Don't worry if you can't think of anything right now. There will be multiple opportunities and I hope that we can have another discussion soon. You can always pass information to Garrett or Amandeep and they can let me know what your thoughts are.
 - s. Garrett: Do you have anything you'd like to add to this Bojana?
 - t. Bojana: I was just interested to see where everyone's heads were at moving forward. I think it is really interesting to see the work with the rural placements as I would like to see that move forward. It is tough to navigate and a lot of students get lucky and don't get any rural, but some people always get rural. These past few months I have been working with the faculty on getting culturally competent therapists for marginalized students because discrimination happens at a disproportionate level in rural communities for visible minorities. I think definitely if there could be funding as well, it would make it easier for everyone. I don't have anything else to add, but I like where everyone's head is at.
 - u. John: Based on everyone's feedback, a few weeks ago I decided to spearhead a new project. We are trying to revamp a system where students can find accommodations for rural placements. I am in conversation with our VP ExEd, Dr. Thompson. We are now moving ahead with the project and getting legal counsel right now in terms of what information we can and can't collect. I have engaged with private sponsors that would potentially be able to provide travel reimbursements and bursaries. I am hoping that we can roll it out by the Fall. I have been working with our IT Director, Jonathan, to create a new platform and forum for students to access reputable and affordable accommodations. It is in the works and it is a big undertaking but I wanted to let everyone know. It is being talked about and the Faculty hasn't abandoned us on that point, but they are very careful on the legal side of things.
 - v. Abner: That is very exciting and I'm glad you are doing that work. I don't want to overstep but even right now, let me know if there is anything the SU can do to support you. If we can connect you with anyone to help support you so you can start this program, I would be happy to help.
 - w. Rachel: We discussed this in the past, but the pharmacy program doesn't have a fall reading break. I was wondering if we could get support to advocate for that?
 - x. Abner: I am happy to explore that more. Do you have classes during that time?
 - y. Rachel: We have classes but got two days off this fall. We don't get the full reading week that the rest of the University gets.
 - z. Abner: I would be happy to see what we can do to make sure that is happening for you as well.
 - aa. Garrett: Thank you Abner for coming and taking our questions and concerns.
 - bb. Abner: I can't really write a platform unless I have conversations with you and know what everyone wants. Garrett we can chat about the reading break and I would like to know if you are doing any work with that already.
6. Council Dinner - Daniel (10 mins)
- a. Daniel: We have postponed this for a while, but every year we appreciate our council for their work within their term by hosting a council dinner. I don't know what they did last year.
 - b. Garrett: We didn't do anything because we couldn't. The money just got pushed forward to this year.
 - c. Daniel: We do have funds allotted in the budget for the dinner, but we are able to use it to appreciate councillors for their work. It will be a bit of a farewell as the Spring Changeover will be coming up soon in March. With that being said, it is up to us to pick a location and date for everyone to go. The only thing is that alcohol would not be covered, but I want to hear general thoughts or ideas. I also wanted to ask how to bring it up to the general council for planning.



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- d. Rachel: I like the idea, but I am just wondering about if there are restrictions at restaurants with limits on amounts of people per table. Would that be an issue?
 - e. Amandeep: I think there is a limit for the two households. MKT has an upstairs that they give out to parties like Christmas parties for example which is a space that could accommodate our whole council.
 - f. Amandeep: I think we need to accommodate those that would not be able to attend due to whatever reason and maybe provide them with a gift card or something.
 - g. Garrett: For my last RxA board meeting, they gave us a giftcard to Skip The Dishes and we all ordered and met online. If it is not something that everyone is comfortable with, we can do that and set up a meeting online some evening.
 - h. Daniel: To vouch for those that are uncomfortable or have medical reasons to stay at home, I am willing to give them a gift card to show our appreciation otherwise. It would be nice to have one last dinner but I will look into the business restrictions.
 - i. Garrett: I think we can gauge interest from the council members and go from there.
 - j. John: You can also call the venue and see what their restrictions are.
 - k. Garrett: It would have to be after February 28th, probably in March.
 - l. Rachel: As long as it doesn't overlap with an event we already have planned for PAM.
 - m. Garrett: I don't think people would be in the city before March and that way we will be back in school and give us time to plan for it.
 - n. Daniel: I will gauge interest and based on that we can use that as a platform to see what our next steps are.
 - o. Amandeep: Let's use a Google Form.
 - p. Daniel: I will do that!
7. Blue and Gold Update - Jared (5 mins)
- a. Jared: Unfortunately I don't have great news. I was talking with Leah and my social committee and I have been waiting for as long as possible to try to hold this in person in March. I haven't contacted the venue for March 25th but waiting too much longer puts us in a situation that if we have to have it in March and it has to be online there will be nothing we can do. I am at the spot that if we do go back to school, I don't see them allowing us to have a large gathering. I have a little post I want to make on the Member's Corner. I am proposing 2 options. The first is to do what we did last year, a full online Blue and Gold and have Rapid Fire Theatre come out and livestream it on Youtube. Bojana made the point that it wasn't very interactive last year. The problem with Zoom is that it will glitch if 300 people are on there which is why they live streamed it. That is the only thing I can see us feasibly doing. The option I prefer is that we do an awards ceremony in March and hold off on doing an event until the summer. I could co-coordinate with the incoming VP Social and help make it happen. I talked to Leah and she thinks this is a better approach. I know people go away for the summer but I think that if I give enough headway, people can get together on a weekend. I don't think students will appreciate doing another Rapid Fire Theatre event online. I don't think anyone wants to pay for a speaker and just listen to them. I am hoping that I can get the venue for Blue and Gold moved again, but the problem is that when we cancelled it 2 years ago, the provincial mandate was in which didn't allow us to hold the event, but this year the only thing preventing us from holding this event is the university policy. I am hoping that they are flexible with us and let us move the venue date, but I wanted to get your thoughts on the options.
 - b. Daniel: I like the second idea. With the deposit, it is locked in and if we can postpone it to a weekend in the summer, that would be nice. It would be tough to find a weekend in the summer since weekends are booked out sooner. The online Blue and Gold wasn't very interactive. We have seen Rapid Fire Theatre a bunch of times so I think money can be used



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- elsewhere.
- c. Garrett: Even if we can't move the venue to the summer, we can move the venue for a year and do something different in the summer without the venue.
 - d. Jared: I considered renting out a campground to have a camping weekend and then we could have a bonfire. In talking with Leah, my only concern of moving Blue and Gold to the summer is that it is a big project to put on the whole Gala aspect. We could move that venue a whole year and then do something else, outdoors or at a hall, I am good for any of that.
 - e. Amandeep: Do you think that having it before school starts in August is ideal or do you think that is too close to that prime flu season again. I am just thinking about the students that aren't here. We have students that aren't from Edmonton so that might make it easier for them to come back.
 - f. Jared: It is tough but I need to consider the incoming VP Social. I would collaborate with them and they would have orientation coming up in August. I was thinking about July and put it on the weekend. Maybe people would be willing to come back to Edmonton for a weekend as long as we give them enough notice.
 - g. Amandeep: Are there areas in Edmonton campgrounds?
 - h. John: It doesn't have to be a campground, but in Calgary, there are areas by the river that you can rent out. I think that would be ideal.
 - i. Amandeep: So that would be a day event?
 - j. Jared: There are a lot of options we can consider if we move it.
 - k. Bojana: I want Jasmine to add in as well, but I know for my class, we are desperate for any social event. I don't see our class attending an online Blue and Gold again. It would be nice to have a full blown Gala, but we just want to do anything. For myself, we want to get to know other years and we are sad that we don't know 3rd and 4th years.
 - l. Jared: I am okay with extending my role into the summer to put on something in person. I don't mind having to plan things in June if we can do something in person. I am sure the incoming VP Social would be happy to collaborate.
 - m. Garrett: Yes, I think we should send that out to the student body and see what they would be willing to do?
 - n. Amandeep: I think we should give options for dates.
 - o. Jared: I know for first and second years, some of them might be on rotations, but if it is on a weekend, I think it would be fine for most people.
 - p. Amandeep: It might be tough to do it in August because of the orientation.
 - q. Jared: I will probably schedule for later in July but I will pitch it to the student body. On another note, I got in touch with the President of the Curling Zone and I'll have an online curling event. We have some fun things planned and Rachel has lots planned in March.
 - r. Daniel: If Blue and Gold doesn't happen, keep in mind that each class and social representative has money allotted in the budget. Because it is unused, there are funds there to do a four class event. It could be something to explore.
8. In-Camera Discussion - Garrett (5 mins)
- Motion: To move into camera.**
First: John. Second: Jared.
- Motion: To move out of camera.**
First: Jared. Second: Amandeep.
9. Additions to the Agenda
10. Adjournment (18:02)
- Motion: To adjourn.**



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First: Jared. Second: Rachel.