



APSA Executive Council Meeting
March 6th, 2023 @5:00pm, Hybrid delivery

1. **Call to order (5:03pm)**
2. **Roll call (2 min):** Alyna, Prerna, Tamara, Mankirat, Talia, Jazzi, Justine, Julia, Bojana
 - a. Regrets:
3. **Additions to the agenda (1 min)**
Motion: To approve the agenda
First: Justine Second: Jazzi
4. **Minutes of the last meeting (1 min)**
Motion: To approve the previous meeting minutes
First: Justine Second: Jazzi

New Business:

5. **Mint Cup Update - Prerna (30 mins)**

Motion: To move into camera
First: Jazzi Second: Talia

Motion: To move out of camera
First: Jazzi Second: Mankirat
6. **Multi-faith prayer Space & APSA Summary Document - Alyna (10 mins)**
 - **Alyna:** I was going to go more into each of these documents in this meeting, however, in the interest of time, I just want to give these both a little shout-out. I have created a Google Form for the multi-faith prayer space and I did want to receive your feedback prior to releasing it. If you could all review this after the meeting and provide feedback that would be greatly appreciated. I do really want to release it as soon as possible as Ramadan is coming up and I need to gauge interest before Mankirat and I can move forward. Also, Julia and I have finally finished synthesizing the information from the Member Survey that was released in November. We have been working on it over reading week and also want to release this as soon as possible, so please give that a read when you get a chance. It is a bit long and it's around 10 pages right now, however, we did address the comments in the survey and have described all of the actionable items we have been working on thus far as a council. Julia, do you have anything to add to that?
 - **Julia:** No, I don't.

- **Bojana:** Alyna puts a lot of time and effort into these surveys and documents so if everyone can please take a look at both of these and provide her feedback in a timely manner that would be great. These are also 2 initiatives that she is not responsible for and that she has taken on despite her current workload so please let her know your thoughts.
- **Alyna:** Thanks Bojana.

7. Student led Mental Health Initiative - Alyna (10 mins)

- **Alyna:** Okay so, I just wanted to provide y'all an update on a question I got from a student. They were wondering how to go about gaining APSA affiliation club status and I explained the process to them and sent them the form that they needed to fill out for us. They want to host more events on mental health and student wellness and are looking to do a lunch and learn soon. As soon as they told me that they want to have a lunch in learn in March, I also told them that it would be super hard to find a date with PAM events going on and I also told them that we do not have money in our budget to fund food for this event. However, they replied to me and asked if they could just be a "student initiative" rather than filling out the club request and I didn't really agree with this idea. I just think that it would be super chaotic if we allow various students to make "initiatives" that are under the APSA name and we do have this process in place for a reason. Also, for them to bypass making their own student group, under SGS, I would not feel comfortable adding various students to our Bearsden roster or making the next VP Admin book room for them, it just feels a little unfair and kind of like a loophole in my opinion. I am leaning towards saying no and saying that they either apply for APSA affiliation club status or we cannot support them and they would need to make their own student group, independent from APSA with SGS. However, what does everyone else think? I don't know if that is too intense, but I can just see issues for the next VP Admin and APSA council if we allow groups to by-pass the APSA affiliation club application and approval process but still gain the benefits of affiliation status.
- **Bojana:** The BPSA is not an APSA affiliated club, they are their own student group under SGS. Just going back to EOT and hosting events, you need to have group affiliated status or be branded under one because you need an executive registered over Bearsden. If they want a lunch and learn this year, this is quite time sensitive and I am not sure they would be able to get their status under SGS, if they choose that route. I do agree with you though that we cannot allow exceptions.
- **Mankirat:** Just a question, they might want to plan and host their own initiatives, which is totally okay, but it sounds like their platform fits in with VP Student Services and the Space and Wellness Committee. If they don't want to create their own student group, or apply for APSA affiliation status we could offer that they join this committee next year as the committee is already planning mental health events which overlaps with what they're trying to do.
- **Bojana:** The reason why I am hesitant to do this is because last year, a student reached out to the council to see how they could create mental health initiatives and events. However, council told them that was Alyssa's role and then it was never revisited. It was also never included in the transition documents and there was no communication between the previous council and us as this could have been something we wanted to support the student in developing. Nothing changed and there was a lack of continuity and transparency. So I think that if students want to spearhead something, I don't think it's our place to tell them that they cannot because it overlaps with a current APSA role. I think that the more mental health initiatives we have, the better. I also don't feel comfortable telling them to just join the Space and Wellness committee next year. I never want to take the opportunity away from students who are trying to take initiative and make a difference in the program. Also, it's not really fair on Mankirat to say that she can handle all of the mental health initiatives because maybe this club can focus on other aspects that the current VP Student Services isn't prioritizing due to time constraints.
- **Alyna:** I agree with Bojana, and I don't think mental health is something that we can gatekeep and I don't

think that we should turn them down just because it's similar to the Space and Wellness Committee. However, we still need to address the whole student initiative vs. club thing. I am leaning towards telling them that they either become their own student group or apply for APSA affiliation status. I feel like in this case there is no middle ground and it's not fair to find loopholes in our current processes.

- **Bojana:** I agree with you, Alyna. I think especially for the portfolios of VP Admin and VP Finance it will make it way easier as everything is formalized and following APSA's current processes and structure. In our constitution, how we have worded it is going to be easiest that way to validate and justify your stance. They don't have to call it a club, they can call it a mental health initiative and then they can go through our pre-established process which I think will be easier for everyone. You can tell them that they don't need a president or anything, they can call it the mental health initiative, but to register as an APSA club and to have APSA as a primary contact, they need to fill out the form. Then, next year if the new council approves them, we can also revisit their budget to see if it is something that APSA can accommodate. Does anyone have any objections or questions or concerns for that? I think Alyna and I are on the same page but does everyone agree or have any opposition to our stance?
- **Tamara:** I would agree with everything that has been said.
- **Alyna:** Okay, perfect, I'll let them know our stance then and see where they want to go from there. I also wanted to revisit the idea of doing combined EOT training. I wanted to get your guidance on when we should do that. It would have to be after the AGM, however, I know that there are some unfilled positions so I don't know if it's best to wait until by-elections are over? We're in a bit of a time constraint because I don't want to have it too close to finals because I don't think that's fair to them but if we're going into by and tri-elections like we had to do last year, I feel like it's pointless to do a session with only half the team. But what does everyone else think? How does everyone feel about this?
- **Bojana:** I understand what you're saying in regards to the timing of the session, but I think if we have to do it closer to finals we may not have a choice. For how many issues we had with Bearsden, this year, I would want someone to teach the new council prior to summer vacation. We had so many issues with EOT and Bearsden that I would want everyone to submit their EOT to our VP Admin rather than just indicating it on the contact information sheet as well. I think that it is super important that everyone does their EOT training together which is why I want to organize so everyone does it together, and therefore, no one will be confused.
- **Alyna:** Yeah, I agree with you. Once we find a date, do I just have to book a computer lab? I wasn't there for the conversation you, Tamara, and Julia had in regards to group EOT training but is that all I need to do, or do I also need to reach out to SGS for an instructor? Did you get an insight into how it's normally organized?
- **Bojana:** You would have to book a computer lab and they never said someone will come to teach us, but I don't think someone will be opposed to that idea. I actually think that they would like that because most of their job is being on the phone, emailing, and interacting with students. I think it would be a good time to provide examples and for them to answer any questions the incoming council has right there and then. Alyna, maybe if you want to call them and ask? Plus, if APSA has an SGS contact then the group can ask that individual rather than going to just the VP Admin, Social, or External. I don't want to run into situations where only one person is doing the Bearsden work for everyone because that is not sustainable. Also, especially because our council this year has been taking screenshots of their Bearsden submissions and keeping templates for everyone for their transition document, it will make so much more sense and troubleshooting will be easier.
- **Alyna:** Yeah, I can call or email them when I get home. I guess my only question now is when should I book it?

- **Bojana:** I think that I'm going to delegate this to Prerna because this is going to be her council, if you're comfortable.
- **Prerna:** When is the full council filled?
- **Alyna:** It depends on how many people apply for positions. Last year we had to go into by and tri-elections. I'm actually not sure how many people have applied for the general elections this year, Bojana do you know?
- **Bojana:** I am not, but I can call Maha right now.
- **Alyna:** If the full council isn't going to be filled until late-early April depending on how many people applied for positions, I was thinking of maybe doing it right after final exams? I know the third years finish quite early this year but first and second years finish a few days later.
- **Prerna:** Can we do it later on in the summer? I just don't know when we would do it for second years because we don't finish exams until April 28th and then we have Connect Care training the next day and then everyone leaves for placements. I feel like right after finals wouldn't work for second years. What about September?
- **Alyna:** I don't think we should wait that long because I know a lot of people plan their term out over the summer and start to plan events. Plus, first year orientation is at the end of August so I personally think that September is too late. If you think that doing it after finals isn't feasible for the second years, I think that I should host one prior to finals in the end of March or first week of April and then you and Sarah can host one later for the rest of the council?
- **Prerna:** Can we do it hybrid?
- **Bojana:** I think that we need to have it in-person to hold everyone accountable. When we had our General Council meetings hybrid, it was very clear that people weren't listening and were distracted which is why I think the whole point of this is to have it in-person.
- **Alyna:** I agree, I think having it in-person will mitigate all of the issues we ran into this year with the EOT and SGS expectations being misinterpreted and miscommunicated. I think I'll hold one right now in the first week of April, I'll take a look at everyone's academic schedules and find a date that works for everyone and then Prerna, you and Sarah can hold one in the summer or in September for the folks who weren't elected yet or couldn't make it?
- **Bojana:** Wait, Maha replied to me about how many people applied. This can help us see if we're going to need to move into by and tri-elections.

Motion: To move into camera
First: Jazzi Second: Talia

Motion: To move out of camera
First: Tamara Second: Mankirat

8. Additions to the Agenda:

9. Adjournment (6:21)

Motion: To adjourn
First: Jazzi Second: Justine