



APSA Executive Council Meeting
September 19th, 2022 @5:00pm, in-person meeting

1. **Call to order (5:23pm)**
2. **Roll call (2 min):** Justine, Jazz, Alyna, Tamara, Julia, Prerna, Talia, Mankirat, Bojana
 - a. Regrets:
3. **Additions to the agenda (1 min)**

Motion: To approve the agenda
First: Tamara Second: Jazz

4. **Minutes of the last meeting (1 min)**

Motion: To approve the previous meeting minutes
First: Talia Second: Jazz

New Business:

5. **APSA Members Feedback Q+ A - Alyna (15 mins)**

Motion: to move into camera
First: Jazz Second: Julia

Motion: to move out of camera
First: Jazz Second: Prerna

6. **Prizes - Tamara (10 mins)**

- **Tamara:** This was something that was pinned from last meeting and while it's not super in my wheelhouse, I was just wondering if everyone had a chance to inquire and think about this. So I brought up the point about what to do if someone wins a Blue and Gold ticket but then later on they win another giveaway? Do we give them the option to sub out that additional ticket amount to a gift card of similar value?
- **Talia:** I like the approach of substituting it with something with similar value or if you want to get an extra ticket to give to a partner, friend, or family member that is totally cool too- however they want to see themselves be rewarded with a prize.
- **Tamara:** I know this diverges from the plan we made over the summer but I think it is something to consider moving forward. I would just feel bad if someone couldn't attend Blue and Gold for whatever

reason and then they would be stuck with this prize that they didn't want. As much as we are encouraging people to try to come out to Blue and Gold.

- **Alyna:** Can we just give people the option if they would rather want Blue and Gold tickets vs. a gift card?
- **Bojana:** In the grand scheme of things, they are both desirable prizes. Blue and Gold is something that a lot of students are looking forward to and gift cards can address this issue but also give an option to students that don't want to attend Blue and Gold which is a good solution in my opinion.
- **Alyna:** Julia, is this feasible budget wise?
- **Julia:** Yes.
- **Alyna:** But if we're saying the giftcard should be of similar value, would we just be giving out gift cards varying from \$45-60 dollars as that's the price of Blue and Gold tickets?
- **Julia:** What I'm thinking is that we can just give that autonomy to each portfolio within the budget that they already have because we do not have the funds to put any more money into it. For example, say you were allotted \$300 for your career series, actually no wait let me use music bingo as an example. Let's say for example you got \$300 for music bingo, if a specific councilor wants to use a portion of their funds to go to a prize that works. As long as it works numbers wise I would be okay with that because we cannot contribute more for prizes but each councilor can have the freedom to do what they think is best for their specific role and event.
- **Tamara:** I'm glad to hear that you are feeling secure, money wise. However, to reinstate and hear my perspective, I just feel like we have to standardize gifts because if we have one prize that is \$60 and the other one is for a \$10 gift card, I am not sure how fair that is.
- **Julia:** When I was developing our budget this summer, the one thing that I actively stressed was being mindful of the students' money and making sure that everything is equal among portfolios. When I was having my one-on-one meetings with each councilor, it didn't feel right for me to tell people how to spend their money. I realized that I think I needed to take a step back and give the autonomy back to the councilors. So for example, each councilor's budget has been approved already- and now, I think we can leave it up to each respective councilor to spend their budget how they would like, whether that's putting a portion aside for prizes, giving out Blue and Gold tickets, etc. As long as they are being respectful, acting rational, and doing what's best for the student body, I think it might be better to take a hands-off approach.
- **Tamara:** I like that, and you have a good point to give people the autonomy to spend their budget how they see fit
- **Talia:** I think we should give people the option, regardless of value, if someone is unsure if they can make it to Blue and Gold but they decide they want to go, they can still buy a ticket and we'd still get an income. Giving away a gift card instead does not close the door as they are not mutually exclusive.
- **Alyna:** I agree honestly, I think each counselor could have the choice of how they want to spend their budget and how they want to go about prizes and engagement, Plus Julia, it's a big workload to ask if you are constantly approving and looking things over vs. if we just give the councilors the freedom, as long as it's within limits of course.
- **Tamara:** I have no issue in how we proceed, I was just thinking that Blue and Gold tickets vs. Mint Cup points did not hold equal value and I was scared of duplicate winners and it just came to mind. However, I am totally okay with giving each councilor their own autonomy.

- **Julia:** I kind of briefly talked about that in the last General Council meeting, however, I am worried I didn't make it clear enough.
- **Alyna:** We can address it at the next week's general council meeting, I can put a pin for your next meeting agenda if you would like?
- **Julia:** Yes please.

7. Increase Sports Representatives Budget - Julia (5 mins)

- **Julia:** So we budgeted over the summer for the intramurals volleyball teams to have 12ish students interested in volleyball intramurals, however, we got 29 interested students but on the court you can only have 6 people. So we need a few teams to accept this large volume of students. I asked Goodwin on what the ideal amount is and he gave me some options. The sports reps think that adding another 3 teams to the fall semester and 2 more teams for the winter semester. This accommodates to \$2126.25 dollars. To look at it from the finance side of things, we did get a lot more APSA memberships this year than we thought. I budgeted for 90 new memberships but we got around 110 people this year, so we got 23 extra people than we were expecting. We also have to have a later conversation on what to do with this extra money and how we can divvy it up fairly between the portfolios as we were so tight for the budget over the summer.
- **Talia:** Just an update from my end, I met with Pharmasave last week and we were looking at lunch and learning type events and they may pay for it which would be great. I also have a meeting with Neighborly on Thursday at 4:30pm and I will update you all on that.
- **Bojana:** And then we have that Shoppers dinner too.
- **Talia:** And then I have the facilities lady that I met this morning too.
- **Julia:** There are a lot of other finance things that I have to figure out but for now conservatively we are about \$4000 over what we were expecting so if we want to approve the \$2100 budget for volleyball intramurals this would be okay. I think it is also important to support students' physical and mental health and I don't want them to just sit around as only 6 people can play at a time.

Motion: to move into camera

First: Alyna Second: Julia

Motion: to move out of camera

First: Alyna Second: Jazzi

Motion: BIRT that the sports representatives budget be increased by \$2126.25 to pay for 3 additional recreational teams in the fall semester and for 2 teams in the winter semester to meet the increased intramural demand for the 2022-2023 council year.

First: Talia Second: Prerna

All in favor.

None opposed.

Bojana abstains

8. Lowering the APSA Membership Fee for Subsequent Years - Julia (10 mins)

- **Julia:** So one thing that I would like to talk about and discuss is the idea of lowering the APSA membership

fee for students in 2nd, 3rd, 4th year.

- **Bojana:** If we were to allow this, I don't think it is fair for students to not see this option before and I am also worried it may turn into a domino effect. For example, students may be like in years 1-3, I don't care and I just want to study, but then they want to go out in 4th year for a cheaper price. I think this can lead to a domino effect for students purposely not buying it and then to just get it later for cheaper. They may just feel out the vibes to see if it's worth it at a cheaper value. I don't want students to get into the habit of thinking that they can buy it in subsequent years and get a discount.
- **Tamara:** My first knee jerk reaction was yes but prompted me to think about the Class of 2024, 2025, and 2023. As a Class of 2024 student, I don't want to speak on behalf of someone who had to pay the \$250 as I won it from a giveaway, however, we didn't have any in-person social events in our first and second year. I feel like this could create some negative feelings for those of us who felt obligated to pay the \$250 thinking it would go far over the 4 years. However, now if there is someone paying a reduced price but we are getting the same number of social events I don't think that is fair. If we paid \$250 and then someone bought it this year at \$125, but we had the same social experience, I would feel a little jibed out. Also, the next year I propose is for students who left due to personal reasons and took a leave of absence and their academic career progresses over 5 years vs. 4 years, what happens then? Would they have to pay an increased price? I think it is unfair to increase it if we are basing it on the number of years a student used the membership?
- **Julia:** Yeah, I hear what you're saying. I just feel bad because it makes it less accessible. I have friends that want to buy an APSA membership but they feel like because it is their last 1-2 years, it won't be worth it.
- **Bojana:** I think this also goes along the lines of whether you do or do not decide to do something there are consequences to your actions and there will be repercussions. Unfortunately, when we were in first year we all had the choice to purchase it or not purchase it. We weren't given the choice that if we wanted to just buy it next year, it would be at a reduced price. No one planned for the pandemic, but I feel like if we move forward with this, it will cause a lot more issues and nuances.
- **Alyna:** Personally, I agree with Bojana and Tamara. I think that it sucks that the membership fee is so expensive and some students cannot afford it, however, I think that reducing it will cause a lot more issues in the long run and it also feels unfair. Also, thinking retrospectively, if we were going to implement this, how do we explain it to the 115 Class of 2026 members that just purchased their APSA memberships for \$250? We never offered them the option to purchase it at a reduced price later on within their pharmacy careers.
- **Julia:** I mean I could crunch the numbers and give certain individuals a refund on a part of their membership. I could figure out the logistics of that after. There were some Class of 2024 and Class of 2025 students who purchased memberships this year too so we would have to figure that out.
- **Bojana:** I am just trying to put the whole student body into perspective and I still really feel like we are going to get a lot of backlash from students and I think we would be opening up a can of worms without truly understanding the logistics. I don't want us to rush into a rash decision and not think rationally about this.
- **Julia:** I got this idea also from CAPSI and looking at UBC's CAPSI portfolio it has a pricing structure based on the amount of years you are receiving the membership benefits.
- **Bojana:** We're not CAPSI though. Also this will be such an added weight onto your portfolio, budget wise. If we have to retract and give students refunds for certain memberships that is going to be a lot. Also, I am not sure how that would affect other councils' portfolios. I would hesitate to implement this right now and maybe we can mention this during transition meetings and within our transition portfolios and then the

next council can see what they think about this. I think that there are more risks than benefits and I think we will face a lot of backlash. I appreciate where you're coming from and from a students perspective, I appreciate that you brought this conversation and are advocating for those few students but personally, I am scared to see what would happen if we do make this change. We already say how much chaos \$5 tickets compared to \$10 tickets were and I think we will get a lot of questions and concerns from the student body, first years in particular. Even reflecting upon our class, I think we would get a lot of pushback as our first 2 years were online so it doesn't seem right. I still stand by there being more risks than benefits. I don't think we have the current capacity to be able to initiate this right now.

- **Alyna:** I think I would also feel different if this was discussed at orientation but we literally explained to them the membership price and how the \$250 was broken down and split up between all 4 years. It's kind of similar to the intramural dilemma, we can't go back on our word on what we already advertised and told the first years, in my opinion.
- **Bojana:** That is a really good point, if we did advertise it so heavily to buy a membership and if we now tell them that they could get it for cheaper if they purchase it next year we will look very bad. Especially after the whole ticket situation.
- **Julia:** Those are very fair and valid points. I didn't think it through honestly, I was just hyper focused on making it more accessible, price wise. In terms of being transparent I do agree that I want students to make affirmed decisions when it comes to their money. In the constitution there is mention of discounted APSA memberships though, what is that all about?
- **Alyna:** That is for the post-professional PharmD program. They can become APSA Members at a reduced rate as they don't have a 4 year program, the social events are typically catered towards the undergraduate program, etc. This was something that Ammy just implemented in her term I believe because we were getting some interest from the post-professional students.
- **Julia:** Oh okay, that makes sense.
- **Bojana:** Also I think we need to consider that this is where Alyna's feedback form comes from. If students have questions, concerns, or ideas about this they can reach out through her forum and then we can discuss it as a council so we can hear their perspective. We need to implement this feedback to better the student experience but this particular situation would create a lot of chaos and increase our workloads significantly. Out of respect to everyone in this room I would not feel comfortable implementing this change.
- **Julia:** Just moving forward, I just hope that this is something mentioned to future students.
- **Bojana:** You mean like in transition documents and stuff?
- **Julia:** Yeah, just so the next council can have time to reflect on it and come to their own decision.
- **Bojana:** We can put it to a vote if you want. I think it is actually important to not tell students. We have our meeting minutes for a reason and I think by advertising that this might be a thing next year, we are setting up the next council with a burden and an increase in workload. I think we can put it in transition documents and bring it up during transition meetings, explain the conversation we had, our decision, pro's and con's and then see how that resonates with the next VP Finance as well as our other transitioning executives. I want to be mindful of the next council as well and I don't want them to deal with all these conversations we're having and just pass on the workload to them. I think we can do our due diligence by explaining the situation to them and including it in transition documents but refrain from asking the student body their opinion because that is not our decision, that's on the next council. Does that make sense and does everyone get what I'm trying to say?

- **Julia:** Yes, that makes sense, I am happy that we had this conversation.
- **Bojana:** At the end of the day, if any of these students have issues, they can also come to the rest of us. Do you feel comfortable with this, Julia, or do you want a vote?
- **Julia:** I don't think we need a vote, I feel like I did my due diligence to the students by having this conversation.

9. Follow-up to Professionalism Incident - Tamara (5 mins)

Motion: to move into camera

First: Talia Second: Prerna

Motion: to move out of camera

First: Alyna Second: Julia

10. Additions to the Agenda:

11. Adjournment (7:12pm)

Motion: To adjourn

First: Julia Second: Tamara