

Minutes of the AMS Presidents Council

January 13th, 2022

Attendance

Present: Emily Reid (EUS President), Dayle Balmes (SUS President), Grace Lee (CUS President), Chelsea Bian (AUS President), Jessie Jeong (ESA President), Kelvin Choi (DUS President), Nina Andrascik (FUS President), Cole Evans (AMS President), Erin Song (VSEUS President), Tori Rose (MUSA President)

Regrets: Jason Pang (LFSUS President), Rachel (ARCHUS President), Annika Szarka (KUS President), Kimani Karangu (GSS), Roisin Neary (LSS President), Caitlin Purdome and Megan Cohen (LASSA Co-Presidents), Parker Nann (MUS President), Angela Chen (NUS President), Jeremy (PhUS President), Maren McBride (PSA President), Amy Deutscher (RCSA President), Shadia Qubti (VSTSA President), Sajedah Zaki (Social Work Student Association of UBC)

Recording Secretary: Emily Covell (Executive Assistant to the AMS President)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:36pm.

2. Territorial Acknowledgement

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Dayle

Seconded: Nina

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.”

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

Moved: Chelsea

Seconded: Emily

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes from the December 2nd meeting be approved and sent to AMS Council”

5. Current Covid Situation

Emily: We haven't changed our Pride Week dates, and we are having everything be online at least until the 18th. From there, we are planning a combination of outdoor and very low volume in-person events. If PHO gets extended, we will move fully online.

Grace: We moved everything online for the month of January. Now that it has been extended, we are still figuring it out.

Erin: VSEUS also pushed Econ-week back, we aren't going to push it any further though. We have spent some time thinking about whether we will host an online alternative. I think engagement gets low when online, and I think that makes a lot of sense. We are trying to figure out alternative methods. We are having a resume building night, also planning a bunch of giveaways – hopefully that will increase our social media engagement as well.

Chelsea: For Arts Week, it was originally the last week of January, but we postponed it to February 28th. Trying to keep it in-person because the feedback we got last year wasn't the best. We also have the ASC in that week, so hopefully we can keep it in person, but if restrictions aren't lifted by then we do have back up plans to switch it online. Keeping all events online until the first two weeks in February, so Arts Week would be our first one in person.

Nina: Forestry decided to push most of our events to February – hopefully to have them in person. For now we have tried to push them outside.

Tori: Just transferring all our events online, or moving them to after reading break. Since we have students here, we are trying to figure out what things we can do in person (ie. we typically do a breakfast).

Kelvin: In dentistry, we have been in-person since January 4th because of the clinical environments and stuff, but our events have been cancelled for January. We are pushing a lot of our popular events to April. Online events did not work well – a lot of our sponsors did not enjoy the fact that there is less engagement online.

Jessie: We are still waiting to hear if we are going to come back in person sooner, but are supposed to find out soon. We have a bit of a weird school schedule because in February we will all be gone for 3 months for practicum. We are doing a virtual Spirit Week next week – we find that our program students are pretty engaged, likely because it's a shorter program, so that's good.

6. Challenges with engagement

Emily: The EUS has really struggled with online engagement – students have even told us not to hold some if they can't be in-person. We have cancelled some of our alumni events.

Chelsea: Last year we had some pretty successful events. I find that it was only because we were giving out some pretty sick prizes, so I think if you have the budget, it is worth it to do participation prizes. Any prize in general is usually when we get engagement and participation.

Erin: In addition to monetary prizes, our team spent a lot of time thinking about the ad value of our events and if they align with what the constituency wants – so thinking about how we might be able to help them succeed in some of the constituency events (ie. research seminars). Events like these give students more incentive to participate. If the biggest ad value is for pure entertainment, unfortunately, there often is less engagement (I think students, in general, don't want to spend an extra hour online if they don't have to).

Dayle: One that was really successful for us that was online last year was a naloxone training event – a certificate was provided, so I agree with Erin about having another reason for people to go. Another was for our mentorship program, I think out of 100 who signed up, about 60 showed up. So you can maybe say that if you sign up it is mandatory to attend. If you collaborate with bigger organizations, I think that having multiple channels helps with attendance.

7. Faculty/Staff Relations

Grace: Currently we are doing really good, especially with our Student Associate Dean change last year. She was just more open to students than before; best way to communicate that's worked for us is regular check-ins and it's good to get the higher ups once a month because they can get a lot of real change going or might have more insight on things.

Emily: We have found we have had issues communicating with certain staff, and so we have had to get our safety person to communicate on our behalf.

Nina: Forestry is pretty lucky, as a small faculty, our VP Internal meets biweekly, if not weekly, and it's always been that way. We are also close with our students' services, and that's been helpful for sure.

Jessie: Like Nina, we are quite small, so we communicate with them through various avenues, frequently.

Tori: Music is also really small so we have pretty consistent communication. This past term there have been a lot of changes in this school and there has been a weird dynamic – students are feeling like they aren't being communicated with very well. We are trying to be a source of communication for the students with the staff and faculty without doing too much.

Chelsea: For us, because the Arts faculty is very big, it's mostly just me maintaining a relationship with the dean, but the Student Engagement Officer works very close with our whole team, and we have pretty good communication with them. I'm pretty close with the dean, and they are always happy to help. Things are going well.

Dayle: When it comes to sitting on the faculty meetings, they are pretty receptive whenever I have something to say. When I communicate with our engagement office, they reply to my emails, however (unfortunately), I don't get to meet with them very much. We are put lower on their priority list due to the transition back to in-person – making do with what I have, but overall the relationship is good.

8. Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be on February 8th, 5:00pm.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:24pm.