

Presidents Council Meeting

Date: June 13, 2023

Time: 7:00-8:00PM PST

Present: CK (AMS Constituency Relations Lead), Esme (AMS President), Ryan (Law), Sophy (Forestry), Kamil (AMS VP Academic + University Affairs), Thomas (Commerce), Amelia (Music), Koda (Indigenous Students Society), Yik Khai (Economics - VSEUS), Brandon (Science), Allan (Pharmacy), Zarifa (Proxy for Emma/Arts), Willow (Planning), Kelly (Land + Food Systems), Karisma (Engineering), Charles (Medical)

Regrets: Jasper (Dentistry), Emma (Arts), Sam (GSS), Victor (Kinesiology), Allison (Library + Archival Studies), Aileen (Nursing), Eunice (Regent College), (Architecture), (Education), (Vancouver School of Theology), (Social Work), (St. Mark's)

Minutes taken by: CK & Esme

I. Call to Order

Meeting is called to order at 7:07 PST.

II. Introductions + Facebook Chat

Name, Constituency, and your biggest goal for the year!

AMS Social Media Team was also interested in making a Constituency Lounges feature video and was wondering how best to contact constituencies about that :)

Esmé (AMS): Building + Strengthening relationships with constituencies, clubs, affiliates, GSS, and more!

Thomas (CUS): Goals vary by VP but the bigger picture is student engagement combined with academic advocacy. Personal project is mental health and preventative approaches

Amelia (MUS): Biggest goal is to make the School of Music better in general, recitals not happening + lack of communication + other issues. Trying to fix those issues and make the environment less hostile - big event is a December charity concert

Ryan (LSS): Hectic year so lots of goals, 2 highlights are hoping to reconnect with the AMS and revamping the policy/constitution as they aren't actually reflective of the LSS' operations

Sophy (FUS): Biggest goal/initiative is the Green Leaf program (like Purple/Blue Card) which is a discount card program regarding food outlets and other businesses near campus. Hoping to talk with AUS/SUS about their pre-existing programs and looking at expansion past food and towards other things, especially faculty relevant things like outdoor equipment

Karisma (EUS): Lots of goals, best summary is to work on community building initiatives, lots of outreach with Engineering Design Teams, Department Clubs (eg: Mining Engineering Club), looking at launching a mentorship program, making our website closer to an events archive and push good vibes

Yik Khai (VSEUS): Looking to bridge the gap between the two VSEUS groups and increase professional development opportunities

CK (AMS - Constituency Relations Lead): Here to be a point person for any supports needed and problems that come up for constituencies

Kamil (VPAUA): Hoping to re-engage constituencies in advocacy, one of the first VPAUAs to come from a constituency in a long time and wants to leverage that to be a more united student body and to help out constituencies when they need that help

Koda (ISS): Lots of goals, big one is to connect with and reach Indigenous students who are looking for community and culture, building a student space for Indigenous students. Also making constitution/code/etc.

Charles (MUS): Hoping to reconnect with AMS and connecting with constituencies, looking to build a mentorship program for undergraduate students [also is on call and had to see a patient - on the #grindset, Charles left at 7:18]

Brandon (SUS): Really wants to build a cohesive community between Science's clubs to building more support for clubs to indirectly support students and to create events and initiatives that are new to SUS

Kelly (LFSUS): Biggest goal is to focus in on council relationships and growth to lessen burnout and to make being on LFSUS council more worth students' time and to be a more calm and mentoring environment. Important to focus on the health of the council itself

Willow (PSA): Planning is pretty small and just got an undergraduate program (40 students / year), hoping to work through this time of transition and to pick up the slack of the department by advocating for students and creating social and professional development opportunities as well. Hoping to also build connections across campus and to get out of their little shack

Zarifa (AUS - Proxy): AMS and Interfaculty collaboration, also passionate for advocacy work, created a “VP Arts Caucus” and the ASC Food Hub so building out those new things

Allan (PhUS): Not super connected with other constituencies and hoping to do more collaborative events. Working on their new mentorship program (connecting 1st years with upper years) and hoping to allow clubs more funding so they can raise more awareness + working on initiatives now that pharmacists can prescribe now

Overall Connection Points:

- Mentorship programs! (Law + Commerce + Forestry interested in connecting)
- Mental health
- Green leaf/purple card/blue card discount programs
- Indigenous constituency - to connect with Indigenous Law Students Association !

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III. Purpose of Presidents Council + What Constituencies want out of it

Presidents Council is the forum where Constituencies can connect, cooperate, and share ideas. It's also a place where AMS led initiatives are discussed with Constituency

Presidents as partners/stakeholders

Amelia (MUS): Want their reimbursements [**SO TRUE!!!!!!**] to come in on time, fixing reimbursements is the first step to a better AMS relationship. Students in Music are somewhat disconnected from the rest of campus and they're missing out on tons of resources and if they knew beforehand, they would be able to use them preventatively and less reactively

Esme (AMS Prez): Promotion of embedded constituency councilors

CK: Just faculty level

Thomas (CUS): We pay for ours (sad)

Kamil (VP AUA): We'll talk about that

Amelia (MUSA): Our relationship with our Director being so poor means that staff are completely unwilling to help Music students and with things like recitals being moved they are very unable to meet with anyone to fix things. Another example is that Music courses are still not on the SSC but registration just opened.

Willow (PSA): Same in Planning

Kamil (VPAUA): That's ridiculous

Amelia (MUSA): *Goes on to describe how insanely terrible the Music Department situation is*

CK: Really hoping to see larger constituencies aid with smaller ones within their faculties with advocacy pushes

Amelia (MUSA): [Even more about how messed up their department is right now]

Kamil (VPAUA): *Frantically writes on his sticky note about the situation*

Thomas (CUS): The trial balance system is confusing [general agreement]

IV. Interfaculty Cup

Going into the second year of Interfaculty Cup, do any Constituencies have major changes they'd like made to the format?

What is Interfaculty Cup?

- Cross collaboration to meet people across faculties !
- Student Life Caucus made up of VP Student Lifes of all constituencies help plan it
- Idea to have the AMS run/plan the events? Sounds like yes!
- Equity across teams

Sophy (FUS): Was a lot of work for FUS VP Student Lifes

Thomas (CUS): would be great to have the AMS do the brunt work but still have the VP Student Life of each constituency help plan and host, keep up momentum with small things between events, would also not want there to be a team cap

Zarifa (AUS - Proxy): Hoping to see a lot more advance planning, don't want constituency legwork and wants consultation with event planning VPs to keep them inside the conversation

CK: want to try to plan it before september so we can take the planning onus off of constituencies but also get everything still approved by the student life caucus/committee

[Discussion skipped down to Imagine Day for a bit]

V. SUDS

Like last year, Constituency Presidents will be invited (for free!) to the Student Union Development Summit which the AMS hosts yearly for Student Unions across Canada. Save the date - August 18th - August 21st

CK: free food for 3 days, ask questions to speakers after the paying guests get to

VI. Orientation (Imagine Day, Jumpstart) Ideas

How is Orientation planning going for everyone? Something that has been done on and off in the past is every constituency buying the same plastic sunglasses in their own colour to give to their first years - is there any interest in bringing that back?

Brandon (SUS): Echoing a lot of points made, want to hype it up on Imagine Day. Potential issue is that events are already being planned so looking at something in the first week or so? Would be cool to integrate Interfaculty Cup

CK: used to do constituency coloured sunglasses on Imagine Day

Karisma (EUS): spent about \$1200 on those for all our first years (1500 first years in the beginning of the year)

Esme (AMS Prez): Flagging Move-in Day as a potential place for constituency involvement

[Briefly talked about SUDS and then came back to this topic]

Ryan (LSS): Our VP Social/Events is super packed, doing weekly events + major every month + etc etc etc. Not sure if they would be able to contribute and I don't think we sent anyone last year

CK: Happy to take feedback in and outside of meetings if they can't be made at Student Life Caucus

Esme (AMS Prez): note we'll also have an Equity Caucus/circle this year ! which our new Equity and Inclusion Specialist will help organize and support

CK: we'll send notifs in the Presidents Council chat whenever there's going to be an Academic, Finance, Equity, or Student Life caucus meeting so that you can make sure your VPs are connecting with those

VII. Appointment of a Vice-Chair

Presidents Council appoints a constituency president as vice-chair who is responsible for collecting Constituency feedback on how the AMS is doing in its role to support Constituency activities

CK: Opening floor to nominations

- Thomas (CUS)

[Thomas is unanimously acclaimed as vice-chair]

VIII. Questions?

IX. Adjournment

Meeting is adjourned at 8:01 PST

X. Next Meeting Location

Typically, Presidents Council rotates to a different constituency space every month.

*Would anyone like to host it for July? - **Forestry***