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Winter
Annual General Meeting
First Year Representative

Sarah Nagel

March 31, 2021

To: Augustana Students' Council:

From: Sarah Nagel

Summary

Happy Wednesday!

I know I said something similar in my Fall AGM Report, but this year has gone by shockingly fast! I was nervous to join the Association at the beginning of the year because I was not sure how we would operate together in an online environment. Any fears that I may have had were proven to be an overreaction! I am very thankful for our ASA team; all of you were some of the first people I met this year, so it was nice that my First Year Representative position came with a premade group of friends! I am also very excited to work with many of you next year since I was elected to be a Second Year Representative. Over this past year, I have helped plan several events for Augustana students to virtually attend. I have outlined my efforts below!

Events:

- Helped plan events for Wellness Week during both semesters
- Hosted both Wellness Week Just Dance Parties

Campaigns

No campaigns have been done this year

Committee Membership:

- Augustana Students' Association: First Year Representative and Voting Member
- Awareness Committee

Meeting Attendance:

- Augustana Students' Association Meeting: 1 ½ - 2 hours minimum weekly meeting
- Awareness Committee Meeting: 30 - 60 minute meeting weekly

I have attended every Association and Awareness Committee meeting thus far.

Rationale for Decision Making Process:

First, I read all of the information sent to me about the action items. I want to be fully informed before I start making decisions, so this also means listening to any additional information given verbally during meetings and asking questions if I do not understand. I will then consider how the decision will affect Augustana students, since the results will not just have an impact on myself. If I believe that the action item in question will be beneficial to all students, then I will be comfortable voting in favour of the decision.

Projects:

First Year Representative Instagram Account

There was no First Year Representative Account prior to my election, so I took it upon myself to create a platform. Pia and I have been running the account all year. We have posted on the account, as well as re-posting events from other ASA accounts or Augustana clubs onto our story for our first year followers to see. I have kept track of all the login information for both the Instagram account and the First Year Representative Gmail account. This information will be included in the transition documents that will be made and passed on to future First Year Representatives.

Wellness Week Planning

As a member of the Awareness committee, I assisted in planning events for both Wellness Weeks that occurred this year. I really enjoy planning events, so I was excited to make my opinion heard and discuss new ideas for the virtual environment.

Hosting both Just Dance Parties during Wellness Week

As part of both Wellness Weeks, I hosted two Just Dance Parties, one each semester. I set up the playlist and shared my video over Zoom so participants could dance along with me. For the Winter Term, I also created prize packs available to be won by participating in the event.

I do not have any specific plans for my future as an elected Second Year Representative, but I will most likely be working closely with the First Year Representative(s) elected in the Fall Term to plan to introduce both first year and second year students to campus.

Obstacles Encountered:

Everyone can probably agree that the biggest challenge faced this year was fostering student engagement with the ASA in a virtual environment. Most events were not well attended and I personally had limited contact with my first year constituents. This is a unique year filled with unique circumstances, so I am positive that this problem will shrink as campus life slowly returns to normal as COVID-19 restrictions loosen.

Organizational Goals- Completed/Ongoing:

In my list of expectations I made during Governance Training, I stated that I will participate in group discussions, help plan/run activities for the student body, attend all meetings, have fun, make my voice heard, and plan some of my own events. I feel like I have achieved most, if not all, of these goals during this year. In future meetings, I would like to make my voice heard more by contributing more to group discussions.

Future Recommendations:

My advice would be to not get discouraged by a lack of student involvement in our virtual activities. Many of our events this year were not well attended, and I was really disappointed at first. But we have discussed this issue many times and we can all agree that the current pandemic has affected the mental health and motivation of every single student; we spend all day forced to stare at a screen to attend classes, so it is understandable that people are not eager to return to said screen to attend a virtual event. As COVID-19 restrictions continue to loosen (hopefully), we will be able to run more in-person events and have larger amounts of student participation. I am proud of the work we have done so far, and it is nothing to be disappointed in.