



**Fall Annual General Meeting  
International Students' Representative  
Rama Taha  
24/ 11/2020**

**To: Augustana Students' Council:**

**From: Rama Taha**

**Summary:**

Hey everyone, I honestly cannot believe how this semester -- and 2020 in general-- have gone by! Frankly, even though I just recently got admitted (about a month ago, October 27th) but, I'm really happy that I get to be in the position as an ISR, and very excited to share what I have in store for all my fellow international students. I would've loved to meet each and every one of you face-to-face. But, unfortunately this is one of the situations where it's out of my hands and yours.

However, that would not stop me from encouraging you to reach out and let me see your lovely faces, hear your voices, or even just read your messages! I'm here for your help in any matter that you encounter!

**Events:**

- Speed friending, one of the events planned for wellness week
- Being part of the BreakOut room sessions

**Campaigns:**

No campaigns have been done this semester

### **Committee Membership:**

- Augustana's Students' Association: International Students' Representative and voting member
- Club Budget Committee
- Agenda & priorities committee
- Grant committee
- International Student Experience Committee

### **Meeting Attendance:**

- Augustana's Students' Association: Weekly, 1-2 hours
- Club Budget Committee: will be meeting twice in winter semester
- Agenda & priorities committee: weekly, 1 hour

\*Have not yet been to APC meeting because I have recently joined (November 18th)

### **Rationale for Decision Making Process:**

When it comes to making a decision I have always thought about the students' i'm representing, which in this case are my fellow international students, and how every decision will affect them. I try my best to conclude a decision in which it will enhance their university experience and benefit them in almost every way possible. Being an international student can add many more challenges besides the challenges that come with being a university student. So with that in mind I try to think of ways to ease even the slightest of obstacles with every decision I come to make.

### **Ongoing Projects:**

During the short period that I occupied in this position I have successfully made an ISR email and instagram account, to make it easier for my fellow students to be up-to-date with every step I'm taking.

Planning on making an Augustana International Students' Survey that will be divided to three parts:

1. Cafeteria & food for those who happened to be/ are planning to be on campus
2. Healthcare, transportation, & other accommodations
3. Remote learning & studying from home

The purpose of these survives is to gather as much feedback as I can to know which areas need to be improved and which area to start with

\*\*\* many more events and plans are to come but those mentioned above are the ones in progress.

### **Obstacles Encountered:**

This year has not been easy on most--if not all-- of us, having to adjust and create our own learning environments has not been the smoothest task. But, I'm definitely trying my best, as I'm positive everyone else is trying their best, to maintain and keep my focus on where my priorities are. I believe not interacting with people, staff and students, have made it harder for my social energy to be charged all the time as it used to. But, I believe we are privileged to have so many resources that help us connect, and frankly I'm satisfied with the way things have been going and progressing, and pleased with how much we have done with those resources available.

### **Obstacles Encountered:**

One of the many important goals the Council has been trying to accomplish for this year is to create a virtual social environment to not only help assist students but to revive the feeling of one campus one community. I believe the council is doing a great job trying to reach that goal and getting closer with each decision made, whether that be a group(organizational) initiative or an individual one, I think the progress made this far is remarkable, keeping in mind the many challenges this year has brought but the council is still working efficiently.

### **Future Recommendations:**

I believe everyone is doing a good job and is trying their best to meet the organizational and individual goals. I would encourage and remind everyone to ask for help when needed, speak your mind, and voice your concerns.

