

**To: Augustana Student Body**

**By: Joel Usiri**

**Summary:**

- I. Involvement**
- II. Accomplishments**
- III. Future goals**

**Involvement**

**I. International student forum:**

This event occurred in the first week of the 11-week semester. Its purpose was twofold. First, it was to have a formal meeting with all my constituents and break the ice with them as their representative. Second, it was to gain insight on any extra help any of them may need to best adapt to the new Canadian system.

**II. BRC meetings:**

Post-governors-camp, I was placed on the budgetary committee along with Richard Li and Ally Brigley. Via a series of weekly meetings, we are trying to figure out different ways of generating more revenue for the ASA.

One very promising and yet ambiguous idea is to the “Dance moms” to start paying for their parking during the weekend. This initiative would be championed by the ASA with help from the volunteer core to make sure that everyone pays their dues.

Moreover, we are trying to get different sponsorships from local businesses here in Camrose, i.e. Subway, and as well as potentially some in Edmonton. In the spirit of getting more sponsorships, we wanted to make female menstrual supplies free for all our students. That being said we are going to be in contact with St Mary’s hospital to see whether or not we can agree as to how many products they can give us.

**III. Asian pacific executive meetings:**

As international student representative, I opted to touch base with the Asian pacific club. That being said, I met with its president Kitty Cen and discussed new ways of how to rebrand the

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club. In light of this, we came up with the hosting for the first time in Augustana's history, a "one night in Asia ". This event is scheduled to take place next year February 2nd 2020.

### **IV. I-WEEK preparations:**

The preparations for the annual I-WEEK have officially begun. Although on a strict consulting basis, I remain in direct communication with Student Services Coordinator Corrine Williams on how to best go about planning the event in such a way that it is as inclusive as possible.

That being said, upon feedback given to me from a few students, I was made aware that last years I-WEEK, had no Latin America representation via the pallet. I hope that such a mistake is not repeated this year and will remain in correspondence with Corrine and the Café to make sure that when the menu is finalised, most if not all represented cultures are present.

### **V. Consulted with the diversity working group on their 'We all see the same sunrise' event next year:**

The preparation for the "We all see the same sunrise" by the Diversity working group have officially begun. I along with a few others are on the executive planning committee on how best to conduct the event scheduled for late February next calendar year.

Similar to the Asian Pacific club, one of the main aims of the working group is to rebrand itself in a way to increase participation from both the domestic population as well as the international population. That being said, due to the negative stigma the group has gained from last year's black history month event, rebranding the group can prove to be a very big challenge, but is one that I am in take-up head-on.

## **Accomplishments**

### **I. International student forum:**

It was an overall success because we managed to get around 40 attendees from all corners of the international student spectrum represented here at Augustana. Moreover, they felt free and comfortable to freely express themselves with any struggle they may have gone through i.e. during the 3-week semester, or are currently dealing with. It was also a success because we were able to find out that one of our international students' flag was not represented in the faith and life centre, and in just a few short weeks, it was hanging proudly for all to see.

### **II. Asian pacific executive meeting**

Currently, we had a successful Bubble tea sale, of which all the earnings will all go back into the club and help fund upcoming events, I.e. One night in Asia.

### **III. International Student mental health Awareness.**

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Far too often the mental health of international students is over looked here at Augustana. It is found that international students are more vulnerable to mental breakdowns induced by a combination of stress and the absences of family support systems of whom may be thousands of miles away.

That being said, on November 28<sup>th</sup>, we have successfully orchestrated an international student forum of which we will offer tips and solutions to all the international students dealing with mental health problems. Moreover, we will make sure that they are aware of all the mental health facilities available here at Augustana as well as I the wider community of Camrose.

### **Future Goals**

#### **I. International student forum:**

In the future is international student mental health. It is one thing to be a student, but to be an international student trying to adapt to an entirely new environment and the culture shock involved, while at the same time trying to maintain a reasonably high GPA can be very challenging. That being said, unfortunately, very little attention is paid to their mental health specifically here at Augustana.

#### **II. Asian pacific Club:**

The main goa for the future I is how can be best rebrand the club to get more participation from the students. The “one night in Asia” event is one way. I am sure that in time, further innovative ways will be generated and implemented.

#### **III. I-WEEK:**

To ensure that the upcoming I-WEEK as well any future I-WEEKS are as authentic and as representative as possible. In order to insure this, I will remain in constant communications Corrine Williams as well as the Café to insure the authenticity of experience during the week.

#### **IV. Diversity working group ‘We all see the same sunrise’ event next year:**

For the future, I aim to successfully rebrand the group, as well as have collaborations from other student groups and associations on campus i.e. AQUA, Afro-Youth, and the Asian Pacific.

### **End Of Report**