



First Year Rep

General Meeting Report

November 13th, 2019

To: Augustana Student's Council

From: Kyra Gusdal

Summary:

- Fall Campaign
- Events & Council Membership
- Successes, Obstacles & Goals

Fall Campaign

This September, I ran for one of the two First Year Representative positions on the Augustana Students' Association. The race included three other strong female candidates. While my campaign was a success, there was no shortage of adversities faced during the process. Though I chose to run a campaign focused on myself, I was faced with the negative effects of other candidate's attempts to disrupt my campaign whether it be taking down and moving my posters or spreading rumors. This is of course expected in such a close race between dedicated individuals and I assured that it would not affect my outward respect towards my fellow candidates. On October 3rd, Tolu Akinrinmade and I were voted in as the two new First Year Representatives. I have greatly enjoyed working alongside Tolu and the ASA council so far and look forward to the rest of my year as a First Year Rep.

Events and Council Membership

I began my time on council with the ASA governance retreat during the first weekend of October. This weekend helped me to settle into my position and familiarize myself with the expectations of council. In my first month, I've attended every Wednesday council meeting and currently sit on the Awareness Committee as well as

the Grant Review Committee. For the Awareness Committee, I helped support Chair Rebecca Nicholson with her events during Sexual Violence Awareness week by attending the Take Back the Night walk and Tricks for Eats. I aided to organize and attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony held on November 7th. Wellness Week begins November 25th, and I hope to plan an event of my own for the week as well as help organize and run events with other Awareness Committee Members. Due to schedule conflict, I've only met with the Grant Committee once so far to review grant proposals; we plan to finish reviewing proposals by the end of November. Other events I've attended as a First Year Rep are the off-campus supper and SCORE. On November 6th, I met with President Philip Miheso for a councillor check-in where we discussed personal objectives for the year.

Successes, Obstacles, & Goals

Following the success of my fall campaign, I've enjoyed collaborating with council to put on events and maintain school moral. A success I've witnessed thus far was the Remembrance Day Ceremony. VP Communications Rebecca Nicholson as well as Second Year Rep Mariam Ayinde and I were apart of organizing the well received ceremony. I received very positive student feedback about the event.

The only obstacle I've encountered so far is schedule conflict. As many council members have a plethora of extracurricular commitments on top of classes, it is occasionally difficult to find a time where we are able to meet for committee meetings. I've found *Doodle Polls* are a good method to deciding meeting times that work well for all and have hope that tools like this will continue to mitigate this slight issue.

Moving forward, my main goal for the next stretch of time is to begin planning and running my own events. President Philip Miheso has encouraged me to pursue this goal and it is my intention to not let him down.

Thanks for reading,

Kyra