



**Winter
Annual General Meeting
First Year Representative**

Pia Vij

3/29/2021

To: Augustana Students' Council:

From: Pia Vij

Summary

My first year on the ASA as a Representative has been filled with opportunities for growth and learning. When reflecting on my year I realized the impact that the connections and friends I made here have had on me and I would like to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for such a warm welcome in my first year of school. I am beyond excited to continue this journey in the coming year as the Vice President of Student Life. I have so many Plans and can't wait to bring them to life.

Events:

No campaigns have been run this semester.

Campaigns:

No campaigns have been run this year.

Committee Membership:

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

Meeting Attendance:

- Agenda and Priorities Committee Weekly Meeting (1 Hour)
- Augustana Students Association Weekly Council Meeting (1-2 Hours)

Other Commitments:

- Weekly Office Hours (1 Hour)
- Team Up Science (2-3 Hours)
- Part-Time Work (15-20 Hours)

Rationale for Decision Making Process:

My rationale for making decisions systematically has not changed too much over the semester as I stated last semester “while making decisions as a council member and voting on actions I make sure that I am informed on the topic and have familiarized myself with resources available to me on the action item. I then go on to analyze whether voting for this action would be beneficial or harmful to the student body that I represent, often this isn't black and white and it takes a lot of careful deliberation for me to come to a decision that I think would be most beneficial to the student body.” I fully stand by this still. I would like to mention though that upon reflecting in this I came to the realization that now when making decisions I also take into account how the process of implementing those decisions would go within the ASA and Augustana campus as well as the University of Alberta as a whole. I now have a more rounded approach to decision making due to my exposure to the inner working of our student governance system.

Ongoing Projects:

Throughout this semester me and Sarah have continued to run the first year representative account. We used this account as a means of communicating with the first year students and informing them of the campus events and information. Although it's been difficult to communicate with the student

body this year, I strongly believe that our instagram accounts have played a huge role in bridging that gap. I also believe that this account will be a great asset to the next year's first year representatives and could help them greatly in their transition into these roles.

Obstacles Encountered:

Undoubtedly the biggest challenge I faced as a ASA representative this year was our Online environment. Although the social media platforms such as our instagram have helped build some connection to students it was not nearly enough. It is difficult in such an environment to best understand what the student body I represent wants and needs. I did my best to converse with my peers in my first year classes to help me build a better understanding of their wants but it definitely has been a struggle. I am beyond excited for the next year and our transition back to campus, I believe that we will get to see a change of night and day between our communication with the student body.

Organizational Goals- Completed/Ongoing:

One of my biggest challenges this year has been my inability to organize and plan my work diligently. It was one of my goals to improve on this in the start of the semester and it was going quite well until about a month and a half in when I began work again and splitting my time between school, extracurriculars, and work got quite difficult for me. I am slowly starting to adjust to my schedule and get back on track. Something that has been helpful these past two weeks has been planning my day out in 30 minute increments every morning. It has really helped me get a good grasp on my priorities and events for the day.

Future Recommendations:

My recommendation to council would be to be proud of the work everyone of you has done this semester.

I personally have not held many events but have been able to see the work that you all put into them and wanted to mention that even though the events themselves may not have been always well attended, the people who did show up had a great time and it made an impact in their connection to the Augustana community. When talking to my peers about events and the ASA this was something that I noticed. Even when some students had not attended the events it was evident that the idea that they were going on was still comforting to them. From my understanding it made them feel that some aspect of their university experience was still being preserved. You made the best of an extraordinarily difficult situation and I would like to applaud each and everyone of you for that. Overall I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on council this year and wish you all the best in the next chapter of your lives. For those of you who will be continuing on council in the coming year, I am over the moon to continue working with you and begin our path back to campus.