



Fall Annual General Meeting

President

Arnold Gihozo

November 22nd 2020

To: Augustana Students' Council:

From: Arnold Gihozo

Summary

Greetings!

I hope you are all doing well! It is crazy how time flies. It seems like only yesterday we were starting our fall semester.

Upon our elections, our team of executive and council members have been working hard in order to bring the items we promised during our campaign into reality. We, of course, faced some unexpected challenges such as switching our mode of operation to virtual and re-think the meaning of our organization within this new world that we are living in. Lots of progress have been made so far, and I am very excited to be sharing with you on some projects I have been working on.

Cheers,

Arnold

Events:

- Student Town Halls (conducted 3 town halls to hear about student's feedback on virtual learning)

Apart from the event listed above, I unfortunately have not created any events. However, I regularly partake and participate within the various events created by our team.

Campaigns

No campaigns have been done this year

Committee Membership:

- Faculty Council - Voting Member
- Academic Appeals Committee - Voting Member
- Curriculum Committee - Voting member
- Indigenous Engagement Advisory Committee
- Augustana Student Council - Chair
- Executive Council - Chair
- Council of Faculty Associations (COFA) Senior Board- Voting Member
- Governance Restructuring Task Force - Voting Member

COFA Senior Board: (1 hour meetings = 6 hours this semester)

COFA meets every month (or more if required) for a period of 1 hour. This committee does not take on many action items but is a space for the President's of all the Faculty Associations to get together and give updates on projects and goals their respective associations are taking on. It allows for collaboration, and advice to be shared between all of the members attending. This year, all our meetings have been happening virtually and have been attended by myself and/or the Vice President Academic. Compared to other years, the shift of this group has changed since issues addressed are relevant to our campus within the period we are currently in.

Faculty Council: (2 hour meetings = 8 hours this semester)

Faculty Council is the governing body of the Augustana Faculty. I sit on the Faculty Council automatically as the President of ASA. We meet on the first Friday of each and have met 4 times so far. Faculty Council is a chance for me to present to the rest of the faculty in regards to the work the student association has been doing, gather information in regards to campus administration/curriculum/changes and most importantly share the student's voice. This year, the Faculty Council has met several times and has tackled items ranging from Academic Restructuring, Program change, and long-term plan of our campus. I am very fortunate to sit on such a body and to get to emphasize the student's input within it.

Governance Restructuring Task Force: (1 hour meetings = 1 hours this semester)

This committee has recently been created in order to evaluate our current structure with the university. As you may know, the University of Alberta is undergoing an academic restructuring. Within the past few weeks, they have released the final few scenarios that they will be presenting to GFC. With that being said, the GRTF has started looking at ways to

restructure the Student Union in order to mirror the new model implemented by the university and the student body.

Other Commitments:

- Bi-Weekly Meeting with Dean Demetres : 30 min/2 weeks
- Weekly meetings with Executive Director: 1 hour/week minimum
- Office Hours: 7hours/week
- Augustana Student Council Meeting: 1 ½ -2 hour minimum weekly meeting
- Executive Meetings: 2 hour minimum weekly meeting
- Execs Bi-Weekly 1/1: 4 hours/2 weeks
- Execs Stand-Ups: 30min/week
- Meeting with SU President: 1hour/month
- Meeting with VP Academic UASU: 1 hour /month
- Student Experience Check in : 1hour/2 weeks
- ASA Student Lounge: 1hour/week

Note: These are approximations. Often, my schedule tends to be more packed than this due to the restructuring of the University we are undergoing, impromptu meetings, Governmental cuts, and as well the global pandemic.

Rationale for Decision Making Process:

If this year has taught me anything is that not everything is straightforward. When making decisions, voting on items or even providing feedback, I ensure that I am able to analyze both sides of the situation, understand all perspectives, consequences and benefits of each decision made. Only when I have done that process that I can come to a conclusion on the best outcome of the situation. However, in reality, things are not that simple. Being in the role of President, I tend to make fast decisions on the go depending on the situation. Within those cases then I ensure to reach out to the people I work with such as the executive committee, in order to get to that consensus.

Ongoing Projects:

I have several ongoing projects such as the Campus pub and the University of Alberta restructuring Task Force. I have recently met with the Vice Dean Finance of the campus to get an understanding of the budget required to operate a campus pub on campus. I have started putting together a group that will soon be constructing a business plan.

Obstacles Encountered:

I believe the biggest challenge I have faced so far is working within this online

environment. It has got to me to think of other ways for our organization to operate and function. I have not had the opportunity to meet with any of the council members face to face. It of course brings its own challenges, however, I take them on as they come!

Organizational Goals- Completed/Ongoing:

One point that we have agreed to work on as a council and executive committee is the connection to students in a virtual environment. I believe that our team has been doing tremendous work in getting that done! We have re-imagined our events and methods of contacts, we have invested in infrastructure to help our clubs and organizations to operate better virtually and finally we are consistently conducting town hall meetings to gather feedback on how to serve our constituents better.