



Winter Annual General Meeting

President

Arnold Gihozo

March 29, 2021

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 and now we are almost at the end of the year.

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. Overall, I am extremely proud of the work my team and I executed. I am so proud of every single executive and council member to have persevered through these challenging times. I was also quite inspired by some of the projects people took on in order to make a difference within our community. I definitely learned a lot from each member and am looking forward to staying connected to each one of them after this year!

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 in the various events created by our team.

Campaigns

No campaigns have been done this year under my position.

Committee Membership:

- Faculty Council - Voting Member
- Academic Appeals Committee - Voting Member
- Curriculum Committee - Voting member
- Indigenous Engagement Advisory Committee - Voting Member
- Augustana Student Council - Chair
- Executive Council - Chair
- Council of Faculty Associations (COFA) Senior Board- Voting Member
- Governance Restructuring Task Force - Voting Member
- Task Force on Remote Teaching and Learning Advisory Group - Advisory
- Student Experience Committee- Advisory
- APC Committee - Voting member
- BRC Committee - Voting member
- Activities - ex-officio
- Awareness - ex-officio

COFA Senior Board: (1-hour meetings = 12 hours this year)

_____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 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 = 16 hours this year)

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 the 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 = 30 hours this year)

_____ This committee was formed back in the Fall semester as a response to the changing structure of the University of Alberta. We have continued to meet weekly in order to look at how to restructure our Student Union to better represent the new university model and our student population. I was more specifically tasked to sit on the subcommittee looking at the external structure of the Student Union (ie: FA's, COFA, CORA, etc...). In other words, our subcommittee was looking at how to better structure our FA's for better interaction and create a sense of community between the various student groups on campus. We have come up with a proposal that will soon be submitted to the council for approval before the end of this year!

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
- BRC meeting: 1hour/week
- APC meeting: 1 hour/week
- Campus pub : 1hour/ week

Note: These are approximations. Often my schedule is a bit heavier than above based on meetings that come on the fly and work that relates to campus pubs.

The 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 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/ Completed Projects:

I am proud to announce that since our first AGM, I was able to formally put a group together to work on the Campus pub. The group included our Vice President Finance, Vice President Academic, our Off-Campus Representative, Executive Director and a professor from the Business/Management department on campus. We were able to construct an initial proposal that was sent last week to the administration. In a few days, the Vice Dean Finance in collaboration with the Augustana Dean will review the proposal. Following that, an initial meeting will be held with the current committee members to go over some questions/concerns. We hope that we can finalize this process before the end of the term and get a commitment from both the University and our campus.

Obstacles Encountered:

I believe the biggest challenge I have faced so far is working within this online environment. The fact that our team had little to no interaction face to face has definitely increased the challenge for everyone to get to know each other and work well together. Moving events online was one of the biggest challenges we have faced. The Activities Committee has tried different ways to get students involved which have been quite a challenge. Nevertheless, I am proud of the work the committee has done since they were able to find creative ways to host events. The Awareness committee has also worked hard on getting engagement on social media. Although this was found to be a challenging task, I was very pleased to see several council members having their own social media accounts and interacting with their constituents in very creative ways.

As a team, we were able to work together to find various techniques to surpass those challenges ranging from creating “Spill the Tea on Virtual Learning” events, to Student Lounge and Social Media.

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.