



Fall Annual General Meeting

Vice President Academic

Robel Ng'ong'a

24th March 2021

To: Augustana Students' Council:

From: Robel Ng'ong'a

Summary

Greetings! First and foremost, I would like to thank you all, once again, for entrusting me to be your Vice President Academic for the year 2020/21. This year has been one that will be remembered for decades for the majority of us and it is no different for the ASA and specifically for the role of the VP Academic. Over the winter semester, I have worked on several programs, initiatives and processes that have been aimed at improving and enhancing the academic experience and journey for the great students of the Augustana campus community. The projects that were started off earlier this year have been growing steadily and continue to enhance the student experience at our campus. I will delve deeper into them later in this report.

Events:

- Student Town Halls/ Spilling the Tea on Virtual Learning

During the semester, my focus has been on implementing projects, as shall be discussed later in the report, over events due to the barriers and challenges revolving around virtual events.

Campaigns

No campaigns have been done this year.

Committee Membership:

- Academic and Policy Committee - Chair
- Augustana Student Council - Voting Member
- Budget and Revenue Committee - Visiting Member
- Core Committee - Voting Member
- Council of Faculty Associations (COFA) Advocacy Board - Voting Member
- Curriculum Committee - Voting Member
- Executive Council - Voting Member
- International Students Council - Voting Member
- International Student Experience Committee - Voting Member
- Research Committee - Voting Member
- Residence Appeals Committee - Voting Member

Academic and Policy Committee: (Weekly Meeting, 1 hour long).

The newly rebranded APC Committee is the committee that oversees aspects relating to academics, sound governance, and operations of the organization. I am the chair of this committee for the 2020/21 academic year. Throughout the semester, the committee has rigorously revised and updated policies that govern the association. The committee has been able to achieve and exceed expectations, successfully updating several policies that will allow the organization to run smoothly for years to come. We have also been able to incorporate academic programming into the work of the committee. The committee actively seeks to come up with initiatives, programs and campaigns that aid in the enhancement of the academic experience at Augustana. An example of the work we have done includes the ASA Tutor program which shall be discussed later in this report.

Meeting Attendance:

I have attended all the meetings listed below:

- Academic and Policy Committee - Weekly, 1 hour
- Augustana Student Council - Weekly, Between 1- 2 hours.
- Budget and Revenue Committee - Weekly, 1 hour
- Core Committee - Bi-weekly, 1 hour.
- COFA Advocacy Board - 1 meeting this semester, 1 hour.
- Curriculum Committee - Bi-weekly, 1 hour.

- Executive Council - Weekly, 1 ½ hours.
- International Students Council - Monthly, 2 hours
- Research Committee - Regular email meetings.

Rationale for Decision Making Process:

In terms of decision-making, I have always put the students I serve first. I always seek to make decisions that will without a doubt, bring positive changes or improvements for students. Since taking office in May, we have been faced with several circumstances and situations that called for critical thinking, evaluation and decision making from various parties within the campus and institution at large. I have always advocated for decision-making focused on students' needs and wants, emphasizing that students are the backbone of our great institution.

Projects:

Over the duration I have spent in office, I have undertaken/initiated the following projects:

- ASA Fall 2020 Survey: Completed

_____ One of my goals this year is to develop academic programming that is student-centred and focused. This was the inspiration behind the ASA Fall 2020 survey. The intention was to collect information that would assist in the creation of programs that Augustana students need and want during this academic year. The survey focused on demographics, the After U program, Academics, Student Life and the ASA Pantry.

The survey provided us with vital information that informed the restructure of several programs such as the ASA After U program.

- ASA After U Revamp: Completed

The ASA After U program was one aimed at providing students with skills needed to excel post-university. The program had been experiencing low event turnout for the last few years. In light of this, I looked into reasons why it was no longer a student favourite and asked students what they would like to see the program offer through the survey. The responses guided the first session which was recorded during the first half of the month of October. The delivery of the program was also altered to make it modern and student-friendly. Since the Fall AGM, the program has grown and now has several episodes available for students to access, with many more being edited to be put up.

- ASA Tutoring Program: Completed.

One of the new initiatives I developed over the last year was the ASA Tutoring Program. This program connects students to peer tutors from within the campus to help with

academic challenges. This program enhances the campus community vision as it promotes peer support and the value of growing together. The program has grown and now hosts several tutors who are available to students. As we head into the next academic year, there are big plans that are set for the program including growing its outreach around the campus. If you would like to access the listing, feel free to [click here to access it](#).

Obstacles Encountered:

The year has been a unique one as stated earlier in the report. Echoing the sentiments brought out by my colleagues, this year has presented us with an array of unique challenges. One main challenge or obstacle I faced was not being able to interact with my constituents in person. I do believe this is a vital part of advocacy however I am pleased with the progress we have made via the means and resources available.

Organizational Goals- Completed/Ongoing:

One of the main goals the ASA had coming into this year was to foster a sense of community within our campus virtually. It was a goal that we knew would require immense effort to accomplish but nonetheless, we have been able to make remarkable strides within this aspect. Through individual initiatives such as the tutoring program or student lounges, to organizational ones such as the tea spilling sessions, we have been able to move closer to the goal of fostering a strong sense of community within which I am immensely proud of.

Future Recommendations:

_____The year to date has been one of the most exciting as it has kept all of council on their toes. I would encourage everyone to keep up the spirit, hold in tight and finish the last half of the semester with a bang. Remember, it is always ten times better doing it with a smile on your face!