



**Winter**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Off-Campus Representative**

**Kaitlin Andrews**

**March 31, 2021**

**To: Augustana Students' Council:**

**From: Kaitlin Andrews**

**Summary:**

Hello! Thank you all very much for the opportunity to join the ASA as the off-campus representative! I am so grateful that I was able to meet such a wonderful, motivated group of people to help us better our campus. Never having joined the council before, and also joining halfway through the year, has made it hard for me to accomplish too many things individually this year. However, with the time I have been here, I feel that I have made important connections with this group and others on campus. The virtual environment has shifted many ideas of what this year would look like, but I feel that we have overcome this together and made an important difference to Augustana! I will describe some of the initiatives I have participated in/held these last few months below.

**Events:**

My main event I have held was my pen pal matching during this past week's Wellness Week. Unfortunately, the participation turnout was low as I only got 6 participants, though I feel like that was the experience we all had during this virtual year. I was able to offer \$15 gift cards to Skip the Dishes for the first 10 people who signed up and once I did that, I got a few more participants. I am in the midst of matching the pen pals and I hope that those few are able to make a good connection with another student here at Augustana. Other than that, Rebecca and I will be later discussing how to hold an event similar to the typical off-campus students supper whether that be picking up food, gift cards for food, etc (considering what the current Covid-19 restrictions are).

### **Campaigns:**

No campaigns have been done this year.

### **Committee Membership:**

I was a member of the Augustana Student Council as the Off-Campus Representative where I attended the weekly meetings to contribute to discussion items or vote on action items.

I was a member of the Budgeting and Revenue Committee (BRC) along with Moyo, Arnold, Cindy, and Robel. Weekly, we would discuss our progress on the Campus Pub initiative where we just recently submitted our business proposal to Augustana's General Manager, James Smith.

### **Meeting Attendance:**

*Council Meetings:* Wednesdays @ 5:30-6:30/7 PM

*BRC Meetings:* Mondays @ 2-3 PM

*Office Hours:* Wednesdays @ 12-1 PM

*One-on-One Meetings:* two check ins @ half an hour each

Other than one time I was a few minutes late to a BRC meeting because of an important phone call and unfortunately not realizing there was a meeting for the Betty Ostenrud Awards, to the best of my knowledge, I have been to every other meeting scheduled on time.

For BRC, we have weekly meetings with Diego Coraiola on Thursdays from 9-10 AM but unfortunately I have classes then from 8:30-10 AM and am not able to attend them. I make sure to ask the group to catch me up afterwards so that I am not behind.

### **Rationale for Decision Making Process:**

When making a decision and voting during council meetings, I always made sure to have read over each executive report before Wednesday's meeting and understood what was being said. If I was confused as to what I was reading or had to do, I would make sure to ask the respective person for clarification. I have never come across a problem or conflict thus far with anything being voted on.

During BRC meetings, I have made decisions for the Campus Pub based on my feelings and experiences as a second-year student as well as some of the opinions of my friends who also go to Augustana. I know many people who are excited for this Pub and I am hoping to contribute their opinions and thoughts to the progression of our further decisions on this plan. Even though I do this, I

still make sure the decisions are rational and viable (for example, following Augustana's and the ASA's rules and regulations).

### **Ongoing Projects:**

Along with the previously stated Off-Campus Student Supper event that is soon to be planned, I am still working on updating the Off-Campus Instagram page and making students aware of current events going on at Augustana, which I will be doing until the end of the school year. In the Organizational Goals section further below, I have described what I have done to the account. As well, I am going to continue to engage in the Campus Pub planning and hopefully have an opportunity to contribute to the business plan (depending on how fast the proposal gets reviewed/considered).

### **Obstacles Encountered:**

I feel that the biggest challenge I have faced, like many of us have experienced, is the lack of participation and student engagement this year. When I first joined the ASA, I was excited to get to know students and talk to them as that was my vision of my role, but that has been a challenge. I have not had anyone show up to my office hours yet, even when advertised (and when I said I had my dogs with me!). As well, there was very little engagement on my Instagram story polls, comments on my posts, and messages, and events that I have held/attended. We still have a month though so there is room for more engagement, however, with classes most likely going in person next year, I believe things will get much better for the ASA in terms of connection.

### **Organizational Goals- Completed/Ongoing:**

*(Completed and Ongoing)* Continuing on describing my work on the Instagram page - I have archived the older posts that were on the account before, made sure to put my contact information in the bio, and have posted some engaging posts. Some posts I have done include: finding your winter semester study buddies (by putting upcoming classes in the comments), making people aware of my weekly office hour, and advertising events (Augustana's Got Talent and Augustana Recreation's snowman building contest). I often repost other posts on my story (such as the club fair information and updates on Wellness Week) as many people tend to view them and a few times I have gotten DM's back from students asking for links or more information. I will continue to work on this page until the end of the year.

*(Completed)* My personal goal was to hold an event during my time as a representative, especially my pen pal idea, and I am happy that I was able to do so. Though it was not as popular as I thought it would be, I am glad that I was able to put it on. I was also able to attend a couple of the Spill the Tea on Virtual Learning events and speak for myself as well as others who have spoken their concerns to me.

My goals at the beginning of this semester (that I put on the document in the Drive) were to learn from my mistakes, not let my personal opinions get in the way of other's ideas, and to learn more about the ASA with help from all of you. I personally feel that I have completed these goals in the few months that I have been here. Starting here, I was unsure of exactly what to expect at council meetings or what to do, as well as what my roles were as the Off-Campus Rep, but with the help of many of you, I feel that I have been able to do my very best!

**Future Recommendations:**

Though I will not be part of council next year, I would just recommend that the ASA asks students what they are comfortable with in regards to their comfortability post-pandemic. Many things have changed this past year and so have ideas and opinions! Seeing what the students want will help the ASA the most in my opinion.

**Closing:**

Again, I want to thank you all for this amazing opportunity I have had on council this year! You are all such amazing people with great ideas on how to constantly make Augustana a better place to be. Thank you for reading my report! I look forward to seeing you all next year on campus (hopefully!) and I hope to join many events that you all will hold.

Best,

Kaitlin Andrews