



2020 Winter AGM Report
Vice President Student Life
Jennae Matzner
April 6th, 2020

To: Augustana Students' Council

From: Jennae Alexis Matzner

Summary:

- Accomplishments
- Committee Memberships
- Decision Process
- Ongoing Projects
- Final Notes

Accomplishments

- Casino Night
 - Casino Night saw around 50 students, and was overall a successful event. Not many changes occurred this year, however we ordered less alcohol and focussed instead on food and prizes.
 - This event is held during the 3-week, which is often a stressful time for students. This event is there to add a break in students' schedules, and I found that a lot were coming from the library but stayed to take a break. Because this is the goal of the event, I think it went very well.
- Winter Formal
 - This year we hosted a carnival themed winter formal, which included popcorn, candy, and other homemade treats made by councilors. Our decorations exceeded my expectations due to the wonderful work of council.

- We have noticed a trend of less and less students coming to each bash, and this year we only had around 250-300 people come to formal (we have 500 tickets). Despite this, students really enjoyed themselves and no major issues occurred.
- We hired an illusionist, Sheldon Casavant. He did an incredible job, and I highly recommend him in the future.
- **Pride Week**
 - Pride week was hosted with the help of AQUA, the Pride Committee, and Camrose Pride Community. This week consisted of various events, such as So You Think You Can Drag and our kick-off event with James Makokis and Anthony Johnson (Amazing Race Canada winners). I was lucky enough to sit on the Pride Committee and helped plan and host these events.
 - We had a lot of student turn out, as well as community turn out (especially for the larger events).

Committee Memberships

Internal Memberships:

- Activities Committee - Chair
- ASA Executive Council - Voting Member
- ASA Student Council - Voting Member

External Committees

- Student Activities Coordinating Committee (SACC) - Chair
- Student Experience Advisory Committee - Voting Member
- Student Life Awards Planning Committee - Voting Member
- Pride Committee - Voting Member
- Student Engagement Working Group
- Club Budget Committee (CBC) - Voting Member

Decision Process

Throughout my decision making process when I am doing events, I often turn to the activities committee for their feedback and input to ensure I am not the sole decision maker in these events. I also consider what the students want and prefer, and so I often try to get feedback from students to hear their thoughts about what they want at events and what could improve. For committees and other commitments, I make decisions based on what students at Augustana would value and what would benefit them, as my role on the ASA is to ensure that the student body is being heard and recognized.

Ongoing Projects

Due to the pandemic, much of my planning for ongoing projects was cut short. I had been planning to host the Staff vs. Students Dodgeball Tournament, as well as Last Class Bash. These events were cancelled, so to replace that workload I instead helped with some smaller virtual events for Wellness Week and I am working on putting all transition materials onto the ASA google drive for the next VP Student Life.

Final Notes

This pandemic has allowed me to reflect the past two years in this position, and has given me some more insights that could be valuable for this position. I think this position on the ASA has a great opportunity to be more than just a party planning position. It has the possibility to truly advocate and campaign on actual student life issues, such as substance abuse, residence issues, mental health, student spaces, and more. I tried to be involved in the following as much as possible, however the bulk of my work went towards events. I would recommend in future years in perhaps cutting back events and putting more advocacy related work into this position instead. Making sure the events are quality over quantity is important, especially since students are often too busy to invest in all the events we put on.

Besides this, it has been an incredible 3 years in the ASA and 2 years in this position. I urge anyone interested in student governance to get involved, because it provides so many great experiences, friends, and chances to grow your own personal skills. With that, I thank those who have helped me grow in this position and wish luck to those who come after me.

Thank you,

Jennae Alexis Matzner