

To: Augustana Student Population

From: President Philip Miheso

Re: Report to Students' Council, Winter GM, 31st March 2020.

Summary:

- ★ Accomplishments
- ★ Events / Campaigns
- ★ Committee Membership
- ★ The rationale for Decision Making
- ★ Ongoing Projects

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Most of this semester has been riddled with changes which have been in favour and also against student interests. As I swore an oath to at the start of my Presidency, my main mandate is to speak out for the students. When a policy within the school has been planned or has been put in place that goes against the betterment of the students, it is my duty to not only bring it to the attention of the students, but also to act as they ask me to. When the Residence Services Team decided to starve students of employment opportunities, I made sure that I spoke up about it to the Residence Assistants and worked to ensure that the RS team did not unjustly strike away positions that hold great importance to the student population as a whole, let alone the students in residence. I am now proud to announce that after tedious and tiring conversations and meetings regarding this matter, we have been able to restore 5 of the 9 positions to the Resident Assistants team. We are awaiting official correspondence about this matter but I assure you that no longer shall the school take advantage of the students that work tirelessly to gain this golden certificate that is their degrees. More of this will follow as it develops. With this, I am very sad to announce that our greatest efforts to speak up for the student athletes whose teams were being voided from existence were unsuccessful. Budgetary constraints and poor financial management saw the following teams removed from the Augustana Vikings roster: Hockey, Men's Football (Soccer) and Golf. I apologise to you for not being able to steer the school away from placing these teams on the chopping block. I hope you know that the Association still stands for you. We thank you for your dedication to the sport and to representing your school at a high level. You embody strength and greatness. Once a Viking, Always a Viking.

I am also very proud to mention that we have now completed the policy necessary to create the committee that will oversee the planning process for the Augustana Multi-Use space. Envelope conversations are now turning into reality with this. Recruitment for this committee has commenced for which will be adjudicated by the APC committee or Executive Council. Once populated the committee has 6 months to create a full proof plan that will breathe into reality a much needed space. I look forward to seeing this into fruition.

EVENTS / CAMPAIGNS:

I have not personally planned any events or campaigns, though I have proudly participated in several activities and campaigns this semester including, but not limited to:

- Off-Campus Supper
- Winter Formal
- Casino Night
- Pride Week
- Black History Month Events
- We All See the Same Sunrise
- International Week

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:

- ASA Executive Council - Chair
- Augustana Student Council - Chair
- Vikings Athletics Advisory Council - Voting Member
- Council of Faculty Association Senior Board - Voting Member
- Academic Planning Committee - Voting Member
- Curriculum Committee - Voting Member
- International Student Experience Committee - Voting Member

- Faculty Council - Voting Member
- ASA Internal Committees (APC, BRC, Awareness, Activities) - Voting Member

Vikings Athletics Advisory Council:

As formed on my platform points, I formed this council to be able to get the athletes more involved in the decision making spheres of the school as well as the student engagement platform. It has been an overly successful council as seen by great involvement by the players and great involvement by the players involved. This also allows us to feed feedback to the Athletics Department to better services to the teams.

COFA Senior Board:

COFA meets roughly monthly and is a committee based from North Campus. Essentially, 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. It seems to usually be much more beneficial for Presidents of FA's located on North Campus because it is much easier for them to collaborate than it is obviously for me to take part in this, but this year we have had more input and engagement from the Chair of this Board who has made a point to ensure we are served well. Overall, if nothing else this board provides me an opportunity to keep in touch with some familiar North Campus faces and see if there are initiatives coming from other FA's that could be beneficial for us to collaborate on.

Academic Planning Committee:

This committee was formed by the dean who wants us to create a new strategic plan for the school to be able to use as a charter for its plans in the future. It comprises two student representatives as well as members of staff and faculty. This committee has now completed writing up the mission and vision statement and is on track to complete the strategic goals to be presented at the Spring Faculty Council Meeting in May.

Curriculum Committee:

This committee has been tasked with overseeing the smooth creation of programs and concentrations that will link very well into the school's new concentration cores that are being rolled out in 2020/2021 as well as approving any program amendments and developments. Chaired by Associate Dean Karsten Mundel, it comprises two student representatives and a greater faculty representation. This committee meets once a month for 90 minutes. This committee has seen consistent student representation with important advocacy put forward to the students at every meeting and this has seen a number of recommendations put to department committees that favour students of today and tomorrow.

Faculty Council:

I sit on the Faculty Council automatically as the President. The Faculty Council meets on the first Friday of every month and we have met twice this semester. The Faculty Council is essentially the biggest governing body of the university. It includes all faculty members, members of support staff, F&O representatives, administration, and excellent student representatives as well. Essentially I approach this committee as a space for me to collect information, voice student concerns, as well have space on every agenda to give an update from the ASA. I think having a seat on this council is a huge benefit to us as an organization to collect information and provide insight and I look forward to being a part of this council for the next term. This semester has seen us bring forward matters to do greatly with Student Life such as athletics and concerns of the athletes, residence and student employment in that sphere and finally projects the ASA has kicked off. I have found that an overwhelming population of the university is in support of student initiatives which affirms that we are all playing for the same team. This is vital especially going into the next couple years riddled with changes and reform.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION MAKING:

My goal in every committee that I enter into is to ensure that the decisions made are in the best interest of students. I make a point of conversing with students about the committees that I sit on because I personally believe that decision making needs to be as collaborative as possible. My goal is to actively be aware of the privilege that I have to be a part of as much as I do. More often than not, I am not always the best-suited person to sit on certain committees or talk on specific student issues on the committees I sit on. For this reason, I have divulged student participation on as many committees as possible to be able to achieve this.

ONGOING PROJECTS:

- ★ **A lot of the projects I am taking on are laying the foundations for the future and placing plans in place for the success of whoever comes after me.**

Radio-Show Collaboration:

Through continued conversations, the ASA and New Country Radio is investigating the possibility of having students collaborate on a radio show. This will allow for a new sphere of opportunities for students to go at in terms of deciding their career paths as well as allow the Augustana community to be more involved in the Camrose community. This process is heating up as now I have met with the manager of the Radio station who looks forward to a continued discussion about this with potential student hosts in the semester that comes. Unfortunately, with all that's currently going on, it breaks my heart to report that we have not been able to deliver the radio show to you. All the steps to put it in place are set, all it awaits is the initiative from whoever comes after me.

A Multi-Use Recreational Space

With possible legislation changes by the government, we are looking to bring in a new source of funding for the association. In collaboration with the VP Finance, we have now onset discussions about creating a multi-use recreational space. This is also in its early stages of planning and evaluating. This project will not only help the ASA survive, but it will also allow for the ASA to increase student engagement and services offered to the school. This project will see students have greater options in terms of food, recreational space as well as relaxational space. This semester, in great thanks to the Agenda and Policy Committee, we created the ad-hoc committee policy that will foresee the creation of this space. We have the green light from the campus to begin the process, which has started by recruiting students to the committee. This is a continuous process that will conclude when positions are filled. It is aimed at bringing ideas and mindsets from different year groups to represent the Augustana student population. Once campus re-opens we will be looking to have architects come in and look at spaces we have identified as potential spaces. This will be forwarded by input from our Visual Arts students creating designs for the space. It was our greatest intention that the plans would be complete by the next academic semester but due to

current events, that timeline will be revised. I look forward to the completion of this project and opening of said Multi-Use Space.

Vikings Pep rally

My platform was built around increasing student engagement with as many stakeholders as possible on campus. One way is by building school spirit. By putting in place a pep rally, in collaboration with the Athletics Department and the athletes, we would be able to celebrate our athletes, their contribution to our community and their hard work. This is essential in building morale for the players as well as build a greater pride in Vikings athletics generally. Just like the Radio show and Multi-Use space project, we have had to suspend plans for this as a lot of people we had planned to meet or host to meet could not honour those meets. The plans are still in creation and will be handed over to the next team when their tenures begin. I hope to one day be part of these Pep Rallies as well.

Brand Recreation

Over the last couple of years, the ASA had developed a rapport for being just party planners. This, unfortunately, is not the case. In collaboration with the entirety of the Augustana Students' council, we are working hard to ensure that we as an association let our students know what we do, why we do them and how it benefits or affects them. In so doing, we strive to make student governance attractive in the school as well as incorporate more students in our processes. This year the Association has not only managed to have a complete turn around of reputation and image, we have also had the privilege of gaining more student input and strengthening our working relationship with the school's administration. We place our students at the centre of all our activities and having an ally in the administration has and will help the Association carry out its duties as expected of us by our constituents for years to come.