

Since joining council in the middle of October I have worked on the Off-Campus Supper, gaining a larger social media presence and learning about the biggest concerns of my constituents. My personal goal since joining council has been to endorse Augustana pride and have more students attend sports games, events and workshops. I am also on the APC, CBC, Grant and Lone Parent Bursary committee. So far, I have attended all but one council meeting and two committee meetings.

The Off-Campus Supper, held on October 24th, was a success all things considered and I received good feedback from those in attendance. There were some issues with the caterer regarding the delivery of food, equipment needed and the amount of food delivered. Luckily, we were able to supplement the missing food with pizza and the event was able to continue as planned. The largest obstacle was to join the planning of the event late, which led to issues in communication. Moving forward, I would write a contract with any hired 3rd party to ensure that the services provided match all that was discussed. I will also be working on my communication and collaboration skills, to ensure better teamwork and smoother planning and execution on future projects.

For the past six weeks I have had access to the off-campus Instagram account and the past three weeks to the off-campus Facebook page. I have done my best to increase engagement and knowledge of this resource to my constituents as I will use it as a primary way to communicate with them and promote the different events and activities offered by the ASA. My strategies to increase engagement of the Instagram page has been to interact with the profile's of Augustana students, focusing on off-campus students, and starting a theme on the newsfeed. This has shown to be working well and I have gained about 50 new followers and boosted post engagement by about 50%. I will continue to work to increase those numbers to reach the maximum number of students I can. To contribute to my personal goal of events and resources available at Augustana, I have reached out to all the clubs on campus and asked them to send me any posters of events they are organizing. I will be sharing those posters on social media and promote them through word of mouth.

The APC committee meets weekly and discusses ASA bylaw and policies. The APC has only met three times so far, of which I have needed to miss one meeting due to a midterm. So far, we have gone over the policies for the media boards, SACC meetings and governing camp. These policies have already been started to be amended by the previous VP Academic and we are choosing to go through policy changes that have already started to occur before working on unamended policies. In the last meeting we saw the need to allow everyone on the committee to read over the policies in question before discussion can occur, to allow everyone to make the most educated decisions possible. We have put four policies through council so far – the VP Communications and VP Finance job descriptions, multimedia screens/SUTVs and electronic marquee policies. We are working on making an addition to the club policy and additions to the VP Finance and Councillor-At-Large job descriptions.

The CBC committee has for the first funding round and it was successful. We were able to go over the applications and make decisions as to how we would like to distribute the available budget to requesting clubs. The most important conclusion we came to was not to fund events that did not follow the Bearsden protocol. The Grant committee has met three times with four different applicants. The largest issue in this committee is finding time for committee members and applicants to meet as everyone has a different availability. The Lone Parent Bursary committee has met once but sadly I was not able to attend that meeting.

Daniella, the other Off-Campus Representative, and I have come to realize that the vast majority of our constituents wish there was more food options for them available, as the cafeteria and Monica's can be expensive in the long term. We came up with an initiative idea to provide snacks to our constituents on a monthly schedule in the Lodge and went to a grocery store to see what food options we could provide that are low cost but impactful. We have made a budget and filled out an initiative form that was sent to the executive council and are currently waiting for the executives to discuss and decide on the feasibility of our initiative. I have also gained feedback from my constituents that they find word-of-mouth promotion of events most effective, so I will be talking to as many of my constituents as possible about any upcoming events.

To work on my personal goal of seeing more students attending events, workshops and games on campus, I will be sharing schedules and posters on social media, telling my constituents about them by word-of-mouth and attending as many games and events as possible. By attending myself and inviting my constituents to join me, I hope it will give them more of an initiative to go and will boost attendance.