

**To: Augustana Students Council**

**31/ 03/ 2020**

**By: Joel Usiri**

### **I. International student forum:**

This event occurred in the first week of the 11-week semester of the winter term. Its purpose was twofold. First, it was to have a formal meeting with all new my constitute who came in during the January intake. Second, it was to follow-up with the rest of my constituents on whether or not any progress was made on the issues they had raised during the first forum.

It was an overall success because based on sheer constitute turnout, we had at least 20 people who came to air their concerns, and gain insight on what the rest of the year would look like for them

At the same time, however, one major obstacle was the constituent turnout. Although we did have a fairly decent number of people came, it was significantly less than the number of people we had during the first forum. Although student turnout is nothing you can control and will always be an Achilles' heel for any event, I hope to see a much higher turnout in the next forum.

One of my pain goals is to have his international student forum more regularly and not as an on and off thing. This is mainly to show the students that we actually care and are continuously trying to improve their overall university experience here at Augustana.

### **II. International student academic advising.**

Throughout the semester, I have been in meetings with Karsten Mundel and Alexis Anderson, to address serious concerns raised by international students during the forum. These concerns centred around international students feeling like the academic advisors are misleading them with regards to their subject selection.

The talks were largely successful, as Karsten and Alexis were very accommodating in wanting to ensure that students are not getting the short end of the stick and being given the best advice possible.

One main obstacle I found during the process was, from time to time, the blame was shifted onto the students. Students were seen to be responsible for their misunderstandings from the advisors and that, since no student has directly come forward, there was nothing they could to directly address the problem currently.

For the future, we want to encourage students to come forward and directly inform to Karsten when they feel like they have been misled, as if they don't, addressing the situation becomes harder later down the line. This may entail normalizing the vocalization of academic dissatisfaction to ensure that students are getting what they paid for.

### **III. BRC meetings:**

During our BRC meeting, we have been trying to figure out how best to distribute the menstrual products donated to us earlier in the year.

## **International Student Representative Report**

Through collaboration with Resident Services, we have been able to come to an agreement whereby, their RA team will be part of the distribution process, with each member giving them out to those who request them.

Although distribution started off to a slow start, I am confident that by this time next year, we would have finished the supply we were given.

For the future, I hope for further collaboration between resident services and the Students Association, to ensure that we are giving out constitutes the best university experience we can.

### **Asian pacific executive meeting:**

This semester, the Asian Pacific club had their first every 'One Night in Asia' event.

The event was a success. Having discussed with the club's president, Kitty Cen, she made it clear to me that she is interested in hosting the event every year with continued support from the Students Association.

### **IV. I-WEEK preparations:**

During the semester, I have been in back to back meetings with Randle Nickel, with regards to I-Week Preparations. The main focus was on the overall structure of the I-week, and how frequently it occurs during the year to get rid of the stigma attached to I-week, especially with regards to the food options.

Through conversations with Corinne Williams, ideas were brought up to try and desensitize people to different foods, by serving I-WEEK themed foods throughout the year and getting people used to a variety of foods.

The main challenge would be getting students used to this new shift. But, I am sure that over time, having a diverse range of food options will be a normalized occurrence at Augustana.

For the future, I hope to be in future collaboration with Food Services, to ensure that the food that is prepared on a weekly basis at least has, for one of the days in the week, to be from a different culture and country.

**End Of Report**