

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE — 2022-2023 #42

December 1, 2022

1:35 PM

### ATTENDANCE

Abner Monteiro	<i>President</i>
Christian Fotang	<i>Vice President (External)</i>
Gurleen Kaur	<i>Vice President (Academic)</i>
Julia Viloso	<i>Vice President (Operations and Finance)</i>
Joannie Fogue	<i>Vice President (Student Life)</i>
Marc Dumouchel	<i>General Manager</i>
Juliana du Pree	<i>Director of Marketing and Communications</i>
Jonathan Olfert	<i>Director of Research and Advocacy</i>

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

FOTANG/FOGUE MOVED TO approve the Executive Committee agenda as presented.  
4/0/0 CARRIED

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

FOGUE/FOTANG MOVED TO approve the Executive Committee minutes from November 28,  
2022 as presented.  
3/0/1 CARRIED, with MONTEIRO abstaining

### REPORTS

#### PRESIDENT

- CASA advocacy week, many meetings with politicians.

- At BFPC, the University has presented the fact that tuition will be coming to the BoG in March; the Board seems very engaged and is asking many questions about the proposed tuition increases.
- Negotiations ongoing about mandatory non-instructional fees (on- versus off-campus, and what the University will do with the additional money it's requesting).
- There are challenges with federal-provincial mental health transfers and Flanagan may be able to help with advocacy.

#### VICE PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

- Has been working with External Relations Specialist on Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) advocacy.
- Doing work on Augustana program proposals and how students will be impacted.
- Supporting students who are facing problems with their fees.

#### VICE PRESIDENT (EXTERNAL)

- CASA Advocacy Week, met with political leaders extensively. Met with the Minister of Advanced Education about mental health and Indigenous centre funding. Minister was agitated that the University charges an instalment fee and that late tuition interest rates are so high.
- Spoke at City Council about transit safety.

#### VICE PRESIDENT (OPERATIONS AND FINANCE)

- Working with ISU to address governance challenges and auditing.

#### VICE PRESIDENT (STUDENT LIFE)

- Policy work on sexual and gender-based violence. Preparing for December 6th memorial; Joannie and Gurleen to speak at event.
- At residence, met with students who have had issues with Aramark staff.
- AUFSJ now has an executive team.
- A situation is developing in residence over a student's potential eviction.

#### GENERAL MANAGER

- Working on bylaw overhaul and MNIF negotiations.
- On 10th, will have first of two or three meetings with Core Managers related to budget, starting with outward-facing units. Looking to Execs for any additional thoughts on where the UASU needs to spend more or less. This is expected to be a tough budget year and inflation is a major challenge. Looking at budget options for supporting next year's Council.
- Hoping to beta test Perks at other schools in Fall 2023.

#### DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

- Have been working to support VPSL on December 6th memorial and VPX on municipal advocacy.
- Annual Survey is at 3,900 responses, on track to probably be the highest turnout since 2018, and preliminary data is already becoming useful.
- Concluding contract work for Chinatown Transformation Collaborative and filing invoice for original quote (\$4200).
- Regarding bylaw/policy translation, have received 1/3 of translated materials and holding off on processing translator's invoice until the rest is completed.

#### DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Department planning and a deep dive into social media and public awareness. Improving social media presence is a priority.

#### STUDENTS' COUNCIL

- Resolved outstanding planning items around activities for Council Holiday Party.

#### ACTION ITEMS

No items.

#### DISCUSSION PERIOD

##### Instagram Post on LRT Safety

- Planned to go up on UASU Exec Instagram. Execs reviewed and amended a draft post, including municipal advocacy asks and calls to action.
- The specific asks: "We are asking the City to: Expand funding for the Community Outreach Transit Team (COTT) to improve support for poverty, addiction, mental health, and emergency housing; Improve lighting in dimly lit areas; fix/replace broken quarter dome/half dome safety mirrors that are often broken or obscured with graffiti; Increase transit service frequency and inter-regional transit options; Improve cell reception in the underground LRT stations so you have reception if needed; We also supported building more affordable and emergency housing like the 209 new spaces proposed at the Jasper Place Wellness Centre."

##### AASUA Mask Mandate Request

- AASUA has ongoing internal discussions and no united official request has resulted.
- University administration and government do not intend to move toward a mask mandate.
- After discussion with Students' Council, it does not appear there is support for a mandate. Execs intend to continue to encourage students to mask and stay healthy.

#### Sovereignty Act

- Execs received a question from a member of Students' Council about whether Alberta's proposed Sovereignty Act might impact student life or UASU operations.
- As there is no final bill language to analyze at this stage and potential for impact is very uncertain and very difficult to assess at this point, Execs considered whether to consult legal counsel and determined that it would be premature.

#### Menorah in SUB

- A student group proposes booking a space for placing a large menorah in SUB. Execs discussed logistical/booking issues and appropriate space, whether to consult the Chaplains' Association, how similar bookings are handled in other public spaces, and how to approach multicultural/interfaith holiday materials and bookings equitably in the long term. Execs will meet with the student group to explore options.

#### OER Podcast

- VPA has addressed this and will do the interview.

#### Edmonton Food Bank - Food Drive

- Execs discussed proposed fundraising/food drive options and the needs of local students and the Campus Food Bank.
- The Alumni Association has made a significant new donation to the Campus Food Bank, though information is limited.
- Execs' focus will be on supporting the Campus Food Bank since it helps more students more directly.

#### Financial Aid Policy Changes

- The University's process for setting a low-income baseline for students financial aid is in question.
- A government financial need threshold (\$1256/month) is approximately 1/3 less than AISH (currently \$1,685), which is itself too low; the baselines for low student income are too low for a dignified standard of living, and impact how students qualify for financial aid.

- The idea was proposed of challenging the Minister of Advanced Education or other relevant leaders to live off the basic student living threshold for a week, and other possible advocacy tactics.
- Monteiro is requesting the information that the University currently uses to calculate basic student cost of living for financial aid purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:18 PM