EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE — 2022-2023 #58
February 23, 2023
1:03PM

ATTENDANCE

Abner Monteiro  President
Christian Fotang  Vice President (External)
Gurleen Kaur  Vice President (Academic)
Julia Villos o  Vice President (Operations and Finance)
Joannie Fogue  Vice President (Student Life)
Marc Dumouchel  General Manager
Juliana du Pree  Director of Marketing and Communications
Jonathan Olfert  Director of Research and Advocacy
Ari Campbell  External Relations Specialist

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

VILLOSO/KAUR MOVED TO approve the Executive Committee agenda as presented.
5/0/0 CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

VILLOSO/KAUR MOVED TO approve the Executive Committee minutes from February 16, 2023 as presented.
5/0/0 CARRIED

REPORTS

PRESIDENT

● Working to put together the Campus and Transit Safety Panel.
• Inviting various federal, provincial, and municipal officials.
• Meeting tomorrow will involve potential progress on MyCreds.
• Has a list of University consultations on Student Experience Action Plan and will be looking to pipe students to those consultation opportunities.
• Per Karsten Mundel, the University has greenlit work on a syllabus bank. We anticipate it would be in place for certain faculties in Fall 2024. This will require constant advocacy.

VICE PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)
• A new artificial intelligence embedded certificate is being planned. The University is looking for assistance in getting student feedback.
• Invited Board of Governors chair to COFA to talk about GFC replenishment.
• Working to find a student at large to sit on the Student Services Management Committee.
• The Standing Committee on Convocation yesterday, but the meeting schedule was too full to pursue the outstanding questions around deadnaming of transgender students. Gurleen will raise the concerns with the committee chair.

VICE PRESIDENT (EXTERNAL)
• CAUS Advocacy Week is ongoing, with many meetings at the Legislature.
• Met with policy leads in the Prime Minister’s office yesterday.
• At the federal level, significant investments were secured in the Fall Economic Statement, but significant additional funding may not be on the horizon.
• Taking a leave of absence starting tomorrow at 4PM to participate in the election.

VICE PRESIDENT (OPERATIONS AND FINANCE)
• Budget meetings are ongoing.
• Working with ISU on governance issues.
• Meetings with Campus Food Bank are continuing; a major meeting will take place tomorrow.
• Meeting with ASA.

VICE PRESIDENT (STUDENT LIFE)
• Been in Calgary for Recovery Capital Conference, which was very eye-opening in terms of work that can be done to support folks on a recovery journey.
• A campus security incident at UCalgary is provoking conversations about crisis response mechanisms.

GENERAL MANAGER
• Been working on bylaw reforms and budget matters.
• Major conversations around orientation are ongoing.
DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

- Been working on Council transition manual and professionalizing hiring processes.
- Counterparts at Waterloo report similar trends around decreased interest in volunteering. However, counterparts at SAITSA are seeing higher interest in volunteering, which they link to sharply increased international student numbers.

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Focusing on getting the handbook ready for next year.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS SPECIALIST

- The GOTV campaign is ongoing. Working to keep volunteers engaged.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

- The Executives discussed the newly approved first principles to change Council’s size from 33-35 to 19-20.
- The Executives discussed the timing of the upcoming elections. The CAC Chair has taken steps to ensure this.

ACTION ITEMS

NO ITEMS

DISCUSSION PERIOD

VP External Responsibilities

- The Executives discussed how to allocate and triage the VPX's responsibilities, commitments, and incoming communications during his leave of absence.

Orientation

- The Executives discussed new students' top priorities for orientation when arriving on campus, e.g. finding services, finding classes, opportunities to get involved in student groups, how to get around, meeting people (especially for international students).
- The University is unilaterally planning for students' first acceptance/orientation experience to become a long list of sessions and modules and institutional strategy documents on eClass. The new unilateral approach appears likely to seriously reduce orientation attendance and buy-in while undermining
longstanding orientation processes and content. It is likely to undermine, not enhance, strategic planning to improve the quality of the student experience.

- This approach may be linked to institutional plans to radically increase remote enrolment in the coming years.
- There are also concerns about the level of collaboration and communication involved, the speed of the process, access to any of the new content, and how this is being funded.
- It does not appear that consultative groups with student representation have been consulted.
- The VPSL has asked for more information but the University has postponed follow-up conversations until a month from now.
- The Executives discussed how to urgently address and escalate these issues to preserve the quality of orientation, in advance of an upcoming major meeting co-chaired by the University and the UASU.
- International orientation has been rebranded to 'Bear Necessities.' The title is an English pun using a figure of speech that isn’t necessarily commonly understood among students. The title may not connect with students clearly as it is a dated reference that does not signal anything about what the program actually is.

**Mandatory Non-Instructional Fees (MNIFs)**
- The University is presenting scenarios for the Athletics and Recreation Fee. The Executives are asking for opportunities to get more information from the relevant departments, and provide advice on how these conversations should be handled next year. The level of information presented in these meetings has not always been sufficient for decision-making. There have also been discontinuities between the intentions attached to certain monetary asks in informal versus formal meetings.

**Iranian Students' Association Art Display**
- The intention is for a ‘women and freedom’ art display. The Executives discussed past practice and possibilities.

**Canadian Business Leader Award Dinner**
- Executives had been invited to this community event in late March. The Executives discussed availability.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM