MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
June 22, 2015
10:30am

ATTENDANCE:
Navneet Khinda President
Fahim Rahman Vice President (Academic)
Dylan Hanwell Vice President (External)
Cody Bondarchuk Vice President (Operations & Finance)
Marc Dumouchel General Manager
Robyn Fenske Executive Coordinator

REGrets:
Vivian Kwan Vice President (Student Life)

ABSENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by KHINDA at 10:34am

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
BONDARCHUK/HANWELL MOVED THAT the Executive Committee approve the agenda as amended.

4/0/0 CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
KHINDA/HANWELL MOVED THAT the Executive Committee approve the June 18 minutes as amended.

3/0/1 CARRIED

4. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

4.1 COST ANALYSIS OF SUDS AND LEADERS HALL
• Decided against Leaders Hall, in a week and a half
• SUDS is our only option
• Cody email to see if they have an idea of their schedule for the conference to help with decision (action item)

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS
• Navneet will be working on the goals today with Surma and Simon
• Tomorrow they will finish putting them together

5.1 PA BALANCE
Points of Discussion:
• Used about 10% of it
• Will be doing a running tally every 2 weeks at Exec

6. STUDENTS’ COUNCIL
• NomCom will be reviewing governance review task force applications next Monday
• Policies will come out next council meeting for Experiential Learning
• Bylaw has two things coming – will be reviewing all election bylaws to clarify a lot of things
7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Discussion Period

9.1 International Students, English Fluency and Academic Integrity

Points of Discussion:
- Issue that would probably cut across Vivian, Fahim, and Navneet’s work
- Really need to figure out a unified stance on the issue
- Language barrier for international students and the U of A has one of the lowest requirements for English proficiency
- Office of Judicial Affairs approached VPA last year with concerns about the number of academic misconduct issues
- Did some research on other schools last year after this issue was brought forward
- We are a stakeholder in this concern as a student representative group
- Problem quite profound in the Arts Faculty based on the courses in the faculty
- What is the SU stance on this?
- Should be advocating to enable student success
- How much lower are our standards and how many students does that translate into?
- Could have stricter requirements to students to University but then it is limiting students access to education
- Will departments and faculties suffer if there is a decrease in international students’ acceptance – does this mean less students will attend if we increase our proficiency acceptance
- Increasing the proficiency standard would not lose that many students
- Another look at it would be to see what other supports can be provided to international students
- Next steps for this?
  - Look into expanding international policy – bring it up at policy committee at some point
  - Could provide support for a broad base of international students not just struggling ones

9.2 International Interdisciplinary Conference Sponsorship Request

Points of Discussion:
- General conference, request is pretty vague though
- Conference will be on campus
- Would be worried about sponsoring conferences because a lot will start to come our way then
- Happy to give them discounts or free stuff
- Defer to sponsorship committee
- Fahim forward Marc and Robyn the email
9.3 NEW DEVELOPMENTS
RE: DRPA HIRING

Points of Discussion:
  • Move to closed

10. REPORTS

  • President: going to use down time to plan this week. Hit a bit of a snag with the DRPA hiring. Management meeting all day Thursday so that Exec is cancelled. Move to sometime on Friday after 2pm.
  • VPA: Really good conference last week. Reaching out to other University staff to build bonds with.
  • VPOF: Been doing work to help with LNAP and it is going well. Tomorrow is all about groceries for Business Group and will send the report on to exec after for an information item.
  • VPX: Been working on MLA (provincial politic stuff). Going to look at what McKernan/Belgravia should look at for transit and students
  • Surma: Hired a 3rd researcher on a temporary basis to help out. Will be around for 2 months most likely.
  • Simon: Updates on interviews with the Gateway.
  • GM: Getting ready for the management meeting and getting all the operating plan organized. Working on getting stuff organized for the launch party. Would hope to have stuff organized to send invitations out by July 4.

11. CLOSED SESSION

12. ADJOURNMENT

KHINDA/BONDARCHUK MOVED TO adjourn. 4/0/0 CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am.