

MINUTES

EXEC 07/45

Executive Committee

January 29, 2008

Attendance

Michael Janz	President
Bobby Samuel	Vice-President Academic
Steven Dollansky	Vice-President External
Eamonn Gamble	Vice-President Operations & Finance
Chris Le	Vice- Student Life
Bill Smith	General Manager
Catherine van de Braak	Executive Assistant

- 1. Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by JANZ at 1:32 pm
- 2. Approval of Agenda** GAMBLE/DOLLANSKY MOVED THAT the agenda is approved with the following additions:
6b. Pamphlet
7f. SPR
VOTE ON MOTION 5/0/0 CARRIED
- 3. Approval of Minutes** LE/GAMBLE MOVED THAT the January 22, 2008 minutes be approved as tabled.
VOTE ON MOTION 5/0/0 CARRIED
- 4. Action Summaries** Reviewed and updated
- 5. Old Business** There is no old business
- 6. New Business**
 - a. Conference Request** Smith tabled a conference request for the Christine Rogerson and Jon Lovell to attend the Facility Management and Canadian Music Conference. This is a valuable opportunity and is budgeted.

DOLLANSKY/JANZ MOVED THAT the Executive Committee approve a budgeted expense not to exceed \$4560.00 for the Manager of Programming and Venues and the Operations Manger- Programs and Venues to attend the Facility Management and Canadian Music Conference March 4- 9, 2008 in Toronto.
VOTE ON MOTION 5/0/0 CARRIED
 - b. Pamphlet** JANZ: received this VPA outreach item, what is it? (see EXEC.45.BG.pamphlet.pdf.)
SAMUEL: it is an academic survey; outreach to students, lets them know what I have done in terms of my election platform from last year, what I am working on now, issues.
JANZ: what is the cost?

SAMUEL: paid for the printing out of my pocket, use of design came from my budget

JANZ: why did you pay for it yourself?

SAMUEL: not budgeted by Amanda

(see complaint filed regarding this statement by Samuel at the end of these minutes)

JANZ: there were 300 copies printed, what was the goal of this?

SAMUEL: to raise awareness of portfolio; let them know how I have been helping them

GAMBLE: was it to let them know that it was the SU or Bobby Samuel who was helping them?

SAMUEL: that it was Bobby Samuel

JANZ: you are hosting an academic session this afternoon, how are you distributing these?

SAMUEL: will distribute through student groups

JANZ: do you see how the average student could perceive these materials as campaign materials?

SAMUEL: no, see it as letting students know what has been going on

JANZ: why didn't you raise it in a communication meeting?

SAMUEL: just wanted to go with it myself

JANZ: there is a difference between an oral report on what you have been doing at Council and this. The SU flame was used; did you raise this with any of the exec?

SAMUEL: No

JANZ: the use of Genuine, Bold and Smart, will you use this as a campaign slogan?

SAMUEL: will probably use, those words describe the type of leader that I want to be; this pamphlet highlights traditional VPA issues. Teaching has always been a VPA issue, it doesn't look like campaign materials

JANZ: It says that you organized a historic national round table, Did you organize NART?

SAMUEL: no I did not create NART; Todd Anderson and Bill Smith did a lot of work

JANZ: this pamphlet deals with much more than your portfolio; do you remember how you raised the jurisdiction issue with us?

SAMUEL: the purpose was to get information out to students

GAMBLE: were you going to share any of the information that you collected?

SAMUEL: I would talk to you guys if you wanted the information, I want to go out there and be among the students, I want to step outside of the policy work and have a public image.

JANZ: is this is self-promotion?

SAMUEL: yes, I guess but student politics is about more than dirty politics, it is about getting out there and listening to students.

LE: found out that this was done with the marketing department, floored by this, a very thin line exists, so blown away that this was created by our design department

GAMBLE: why use marketing time but not organizations dollars to pay for the pamphlet? I know your budget and you are way under.

JANZ: it has the same look as all of the rest of the information designed by the SU. Can you not see how this compromises the election process? The whole thing floors me.

GAMBLE: this implies that the SU supports this

DOLLANSKY: it communicates that you are the SU candidate.

SAMUEL: its about academic outreach

JANZ: I am beyond disappointment that this document was conceived and produced for a variety of reasons.

GAMBLE: didn't you think that we would find out/see it?

SAMUEL: yes, I thought that you'd see it, but didn't think it would be a big deal

DOLLANSKY: my slide in the CASA presentation about textbooks being a federal issue resulted in you yelling at me for 5-10 minutes, that's how I feel but I am expressing it differently than you did at that time, I guess I'm just disappointed for your lack of respect to the Exec. Committee.

JANZ: last week you apologized to me and now I am not sure it was sincere.

GAMBLE: this could really discredit the SU in the upcoming election, if we use SU resources to boost a potential candidate. Do you have anything to say

SAMUEL: I'm sorry. Janz, my apology to you was sincere.

JANZ: who have you given these out to?

SAMUEL: just given them to student groups.

GAMBLE: Did you use your position as VPA to set up these meetings?

SAMUEL: yes

JANZ: how many do you have and whom have you given them out to?

SAMUEL: Alpha Psi is the only one I have given them to, approximately 15 have been distributed. I have the rest.

SMITH: where has this been distributed?

JANZ: the issue is also that it happened

SMITH: I have to step away from the relationship aspect and look at the potential damage to the organization, is damage occurring and what are we going to do about it. How can we cleanse the discredit? I don't want be accused of playing fast and loose with our electoral process.

GAMBLE: any damage to the organization Samuel is expected to fix

SAMUEL: fine with that.

GAMBLE/DOLLANSKY MOVED THAT the Executive Committee censure Vice President Academic Bobby Samuel.

VOTE ON MOTION 4/0/1 (abstention Samuel) CARRIED

LE: still floored that the design department was used, echo Smith's concerns, there are no hard rules about pre-campaigning but to use the design department sends mixed messages, very tough to swallow, abuse of resources

JANZ: where are the pamphlets and how many are there

SAMUEL: I have them in my bag

JANZ: do you have any more meetings with Student Groups

SAMUEL yes

SMITH: what proactive action should be taken?

SAMUEL: have spoken with the CRO, there are no rules about pre-campaigning

JANZ: you did this to us, didn't bring this up to us. You don't seem to see a problem with what has been done but paid cash. There is insincerity of action.

SAMUEL: I don't see why there is a problem

JANZ: then why did you pay in cash

SMITH: what can be done to fix this?

JANZ: the exec will write a letter and submit it to Council

SAMUEL: will not hand out pamphlets, will not meet with student groups about this

JANZ: it is more serious than that, you should seriously think about your future plans.

SAMUEL okay

7. Discussion Period

a. In Camera

JANZ/GAMBLE MOVED THAT the Executive Committee moves in camera.

VOTE ON MOTION

5/0/0 CARRIED

- b. Poll Clerk Swag** Request for CRO for swag for poll clerks tabled and discussed. Due to the high number, 100, it is very difficult to fulfill this request.
- c. SFAIC/ACCESS Fund** LE tabled a proposal from SFAIC for restructuring. There will result in a significant cost savings. Executive support this proposal.
- d. Feb 7 /Augustana** LE: would like to take Campus Got Talent to Augustana on February 7. Who can come from exec? Gamble and Samuel may be able to go.
- e. SPR** DOLLANSKY: there is 25 thousand in an elections reserve, would like to know what is left in SPR and if any of it can be used for the election campaign.
GAMBLE: can discuss at retreat on Friday
- 8. Reports**
- 9. Adjournment** Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm

Complaint received February 1, 2008 from Amanda Henry:

I would like to lodge a formal complaint regarding the January 29, 2008 minutes of the Executive Committee (UASU).

Part way through the proceedings regarding the pamphlet, this exchange is recorded (regarding the pamphlets recently published by Mr. Samuel, VP Academic):

"JANZ: why did you pay for it yourself?

SAMUEL: not budgeted by Amanda"

I take exception to being mentioned by name and for the inaccurate implication of Mr. Samuel's statement.

As the Executive Committee is well aware, it is impossible to budget for every foreseeable expense when creating the budget for your successor's year. As such, relatively large amounts of money are budgeted into discretionary lines. In this case, budget 519 (the department of the Vice President (Academic)) has internal, external and volunteer PR lines as well as a number of budget lines dedicated to specific 'academic outreach' in the form of committee expenses. Mr. Samuel had money allotted in each of these lines (as is the usual practice), and, though I don't remember what the money in each line was 'earmarked' for, I do recall that the external PR line in particular was very open-ended. Furthermore, any 'earmarking' of funds done by myself (other than salaries and conference expenses) are suggestions at best, leaving Mr. Samuel with quite a bit of discretion to change or amend the nature of his expenditures to better reflect his year.

Lastly, there is a mechanism in place within the Students' Union (as I'm sure you are well aware) that allows individual departments to transfer funds between budget lines as appropriate. There are also mechanisms for members of the Executive to request special, one-time project funding - this is how the 2005 Academic Survey was paid for, if I recall correctly.

In other words, I made every reasonable effort to ensure that a great many options were at Mr.

Samuel's disposal to cover the costs of the pamphlets (or any other projects he might have desired to pursue) through the usual channels. I resent the implication that he was in any way forced to use personal funds to pay for an expense within his year and find the implication that I should be blamed in any way shape or form for the current situation facing the Executive Committee to be inappropriate in the extreme.

I refuse to be held responsible in any way for Mr. Samuel's decision to pay for those pamphlets personally rather than handling them as a budgeted expense, and in particular to be held responsibility in the official records of the Students' Union without my opposition at least being noted. Furthermore, I contest the accuracy of Mr. Samuel's statement and request that it be struck from the record or amended as deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee.

Sincerely,

Amanda Henry
Former Vice President (Academic)
UASU, 2006/07

It's about being...
Genuine, Bold and Smart



VP ACADEMIC, BOBBY SAMUEL

THE MOST HUMBLING experience for me was when I won the election to become your Vice President Academic last year. Not only that, but every day that I have been on the job, working hard for you, I have truly cherished. So, I would like to give something back to you and share with you the progress I have made on my campaign promises.



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Enhance Technology

I promised to bring video cameras into classrooms. Unfortunately, I have to do something that few politicians actually do, and that is admit that I failed. I was unable to make much progress on this promise and for that, I'm truly sorry.

Increase Bursaries

I promised to create an equitable distribution between merit-based scholarships and financial needs-based bursaries in order to increase the amount and number of bursaries available to students. So far, I did a lot of research that showed a large gap between the amount of money that goes into scholarships compared to bursaries. Next, I hope to create a policy to ensure that an equal amount of money goes into scholarships and bursaries.

Improve Teaching

I promised to create minimum teaching standards for instructors using student evaluations. To date, I created a task force to explore how the University can better use this valuable student input when evaluating instructors. In a few months, we should have some recommendations that are very student friendly.

Reward Involvement

I promised to give academic credit for student group involvement through Community Service Learning (CSL). Fortunately, I now get to do what few politicians are able to and that is tell you that I fulfilled this promise.

Reduce Textbook Prices

I didn't actually campaign on this promise, but I was still able to organize a historic national round table involving student associations, bookstores, and publishers to discuss ways to reduce textbook prices. Although still a few years away, I'm confident that these ongoing discussions will reduce the price of all academic materials, including textbooks.



Now, I would like to know what you think- how can I help to make your experience at the U of A better? This is a pretty broad question, so I created a few themes to help in our discussion:

ACCOUNTABILITY

What should I do to make the SU more accountable?

AFFORDABILITY

What should I do to make the University more affordable?

COMMUNITY

What should I do to make campus more like a community that helps to empower students?

CONSULTATION

What should I do to make sure the SU consults more with students when it makes big decisions?

QUALITY

What should I do to improve the quality of the U of A?

Feel free to send me your responses at

vp.academic@su.ualberta.ca, visit my Facebook profile, or drop by my office at 2-900 SUB for a chat over a cup of coffee (my treat).