

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE — 2023-2024 #51

January 11, 2024

1:07 PM

ATTENDANCE

Christian Fotang	<i>President</i>
Chris Beasley	<i>Vice President (External)</i>
Pedro Almeida	<i>Vice President (Academic)</i>
Levi Flaman	<i>Vice President (Operations and Finance)</i>
Michael Griffiths	<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>
Ari Campbell	<i>External Relations Specialist</i>
Courtney Graham	<i>Assistant Manager, Governance Support</i>

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

BEASLEY/GRIFFITHS MOVED TO approve the Executive Committee agenda as presented.
4/0/0 CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

GRIFFITHS/FOTANG MOVED TO approve the Executive Committee minutes from January 4
and January 8, 2024 as presented.
4/0/0 CARRIED

REPORTS

PRESIDENT

- Attended GALD presentation today.
- Working with CAMPBELL on tuition town hall.
- Working with Black Students' Association on Black History Month event.
- Held meeting on fee regulations.
- Met with Alberta NDP caucus members to talk about deferred maintenance; referred them to CAUS to learn more about how students feel about deferred maintenance.
- Supported OASIS in the context of the Humanities Building closure.

VICE PRESIDENT (EXTERNAL)

- Working on CAUS advocacy plans in advance of the provincial budget.
- Received last-minute request to present at City Council on affordable housing.

VICE PRESIDENT (OPERATIONS AND FINANCE)

- Meetings on washroom conversion plans and accessibility.
- Finance Committee approved disbursement of SLS and APIRG DFU funds, as well as Golden Bears and Pandas DFU funds that didn't come to Finance for ratification until now.
- Presented to Global Academic Leadership Development (GALD) Winter 2023 cohort, then led delegates on a tour of SUB.
- Will be receiving presentation in connection with cold beverage agreements.
- Bylaw Committee this week will approve last-minute changes to facilitate DFUs and elections.

VICE PRESIDENT (STUDENT LIFE)

- Met with ISU to support the leadership team.
- Attended Winter Clubs Fair.

GENERAL MANAGER

- Focusing on strategic plan and theatre matters this week.
- Working to schedule transition for the incoming Students' Council.

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Working to support the tuition town hall; solicited Executives' opinions on scheduling matters.
- University will launch Student Experience Action Plan at the end of January; solicited Executives' opinions on which items to highlight as student advocacy successes. GRIFFITHS will take point on providing MarComms with this information.

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY

- Continuing to process Annual Survey data and write Identity Matters 3.
- Continuing to support Elections staff in preparation for the General Election.

ASSISTANT MANAGER, GOVERNANCE SUPPORT

- Drafting materials with the Speaker for the special meeting of Council.
- Meeting with CAC Chair to prepare to chair part of that meeting.
- Logistics for Executive Retreat.
- Logistics for tuition town hall.
- Using OtterAI for committee governance support.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS SPECIALIST

- Provincial budget submission is in.
- Working on UASU promo handbill draft.
- Completed research on banking options and sustainability.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

- A student wants to create a proposal for a non-fee referendum or plebiscite. Governance provided resources in support of regulations and bylaws, and outlining all required timelines. A proposal at this point would be improbable due to the large number of signatures required. The CRO has not received a proposal.
- The Speaker has called a special meeting of Council to assess an appeal of a Code of Conduct complaint which was dismissed. While the majority of the meeting is in camera, the anonymized agenda will be provided to The Gateway because standard practice is to copy The Gateway on special meeting agendas as a courtesy.
- Resources and training for Councillors related to privacy and confidentiality will continue to be enhanced for next year.

ACTION ITEMS

CAUS Counterparts Registration

- The Executives discussed logistics to attend CAUS Counterparts; CAMPBELL will support.

DISCUSSION PERIOD

Banking

- CAMPBELL led an in-depth discussion of all Canadian banking options in the context of bank and credit union size, services, availability in Alberta, practicality, CDIC insurance coverage, fossil fuel investments, and other considerations, through a sustainability and climate justice lens. This is in the context of student calls in recent years to move away from RBC for climate divestment purposes. Virtually all options, including all options recommended by those student calls, came with comparably serious climate issues and/or were not practical/available for the UASU's geographic location and basic operational needs.
- The discussion touched on angles for potential additional research and will be engaged further at the committee level.
- The UASU has already instructed its investment management to not invest in oil and gas.
- A change of banks poses significant operational challenges and risks. CASA looked into this and found that safely and responsibly switching banks would take roughly one year, and CASA's finances are at least an order of magnitude less complicated than the UASU's.

Indigenous Representative Honorarium

- The UASU has had an excellent Indigenous representative to CASA's National Indigenous Advocacy Committee, Levi Wolfe, who has done major work and will be continuing in the position. Most other Alberta student associations and some other associations provide an honorarium for their NIAC representatives, as discussed at past meetings.
- The Executives discussed a proposal to provide an honorarium for current and future NIAC representatives, to be paid from Executive Project Allocation this year and included in upcoming budgeting for next year.

CLOSED SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.