

Minutes Package for Summer General Meeting Minutes - August 12, 2021

APUS Executive Committee members in attendance:

President: Jaime Kearns

Vice President Internal: Susan Froom

Vice President External: Shanti Dhoré

Vice President Equity: Dianne Acuna

Vice President Events and Outreach: Jennifer Coggon

APUS Staff in attendance: Executive Director: Julian Oliveira

APUS Speaker: Nadia Kanani

I. AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Kanani calls the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m and confirms that we are at quorum.

2. Introductions and Access Needs

Kanani walks everyone present through introductions and accessibility features. If anyone requires ASL interpretation they are asked to please let Kanani know through a private message. She will then connect them to the ASL interpreters. Voting will take place via the Zoom hand raised function.

3. Land Acknowledgement

Kanani reads the land acknowledgement written by Kearns.

4. Introduction to APUS and CFS

Kearns says APUS is the part-time student union. APUS represents all students that find themselves studying part-time, whether that be in the summer or fall and winter. APUS is here to support all students. Advocacy is coming from the executives here, as we are part-time students as well. APUS has been advocating for over 50 years. Membership varies from semester to semester and year to year, with numbers generally higher in the summer. This summer we noticed a substantial increase in members which we assume is due to COVID19. We must be mindful about what student needs are and how best to support students. When COVID first happened, the university closed very quickly, APUS had to find ways to support its members. That looked like getting laptops for students who would normally use the libraries or other spaces on campus or for students with families and children also learning from home. APUS quickly jumped into action to best support APUS members at the end of March 2020.

Kearns says in a normal year APUS holds in person workshops such as mental health programming, academic support, financial aid, and more. APUS holds a wide variety of events and has navigated the challenges of moving to the online format. In the past, APUS offered 5 cent printing at the Sid Smith Office. APUS is looking at how to turn that service into no-contact. A lot of the stuff is behind the scenes. APUS also offers full year Health and Dental insurance for members enrolled during the fall and winter terms. APUS has an amazing rate being a part of the CFS. APUS has engaged in ongoing meetings with the University administration, particularly the Office of the Vice Provost Students. Two major issues have been the focus of these meetings -

1. Protecting student rights under the University Mandated Leave of Absence Policy, and
2. Concerns around COVID safety and the gradual return to campus and in-person learning.

APUS does advocacy for individuals and collectively. Collective work beyond the confines of the campus is made possible through the Canadian Federation of Students locally, provincially, and federally.

Dhoré says that APUS is a member of the CFS, which is a national bilingual union. It includes 80 universities and colleges. Being a part of CFS allows APUS to work collectively. It is the 40th anniversary of the CFS. Dhoré encourages students to familiarize themselves with their great work, with not only advocacy but putting campaigns together and bringing all the unions together. Dhoré is the voting member for APUS at CFS executive committee meetings that happen monthly. CFS also holds lobby week meetings with Federal and Provincial politicians on an annual basis in which students issues of concern are brought directly to those in power.

The experience opened Dhoré's eyes to the work going on. Free Education for All is one of those campaigns. There also is a GTA coalition at CFS Ontario. The staff and students on the committee are so intelligent and dedicated to making life better for students.

Froom says that in addition to representing students through lobbying and coalitions, the other advantage is that the CFS can represent students in the legal arena as well. Froom mentions a previous annual \$23 access copyright fee. CFS challenged this and it went to the Supreme Court of Canada and won. It meant that every student got a \$23 rebate. But it also changed the idea of fair use for academic research. A couple of weeks ago there was another victory with the Student Choice Initiative. This was a provincial policy that defunded student clubs and societies which was quite devastating. CFS won at the divisional court level, the province appealed, and on August 4th the CFS won again at the appeal court.

This all speaks to the power of numbers. Individual students have little power, but collectively through APUS and the CFS we are easily able to meet with senior government officials and successfully defend student rights in the courts. Collectively we can do it and have done it.

5. Approval of the APUS Preliminary Budget 2021 - 2022

MOTION Moved: Froom Seconded: Kearns

Be it resolved that the Summer General Meeting approve the APUS Preliminary Budget 2021-2022, as proposed in the addendum.

Froom speaks to the preliminary budget. It was adopted by the board on July 27th. The operating budget and revised operating budget are presented later in the year as more information regarding enrollment becomes available. APUS gets its money from students' membership fees, collected on behalf of APUS by the university together with tuition and other fees.

It's always hard to tell at the beginning of the year what the final budget will be, since enrollment is always uncertain. The impact of COVID has made this even more difficult.

Froom begins with the Revenue side of the budget. Froom notes the revised budget column is fixed. The next column, the preliminary budget, is what is being planned for this year. The Summer Term membership fee revenue number is relatively accurate as we already received our membership fees for the summer. Summer Term Membership revenue rose unexpectedly by about \$17,000 over last year. We suspect this is due to students being unable to find summer employment or to travel due to COVID. We do not expect this increase to continue next year.

All APUS members are members of CFS; CFS fees are collected and fully remitted to CFS. OPIRG (the Ontario Public Interest Research Group) is APUS' sole levy group. OPIRG fees of \$0.50 per fall and \$0.50 per winter session and \$1.00 for the summer session (\$0.50 for each of the two summer terms) are collected and fully remitted to OPIRG.

Membership fees for fall and winter are projections based on the previous year as member numbers are still not known.

Froom moves to services revenue. Student Printing Service revenue last year was \$0.00 because the service was closed during COVID. This year the projected revenue is \$3000 as in-person service is anticipated to resume mid academic year. This will depend on public health and COVID restrictions, so this is a "best guess".

The noted interest income is due to two GIC's coming out. The miscellaneous income is due to handbook sponsorships and the possibility of ticket sales for events in the spring, assuming that COVID restrictions allow in person events (eg. spring banquet).

Froom moves to Expenses. Programming is for the most part similar to the previous year. Some expenditures will be increased in hope that people will be able to gather in person. You will notice the increase with the Career Services and Financial Aid programming both or which were curtailed last year due to restrictions on in person gatherings. There is an increase in Health & Counselling expenditures due to an anticipated need for help for students dealing with COVID related stressors. We hope to bring in speakers for Safety and Consent Culture Programming and have budgeted accordingly. We are significantly increasing funding for the APUS Bursary Program. Many of our members have lost income due to COVID so we anticipate a much higher need. This may drive us into deficit, however, last year we had a significant surplus which was placed into our contingency fund. The Board believes that drawing down this fund to support students this year is well justified. There was no money spent on an in-person Tax Clinic last year due to COVID closures, thus no money was spent on this item (although free online tax filing was provided via the CFS). We are planning to spend \$1000 in the 2022 Tax Clinic, assuming that in-person appointments will be safe at that time.

In terms of Events & Outreach, there was no spring banquet last year, but we are hoping that we can have a nice banquet in the spring and have budgeted \$3500. General outreach is also going up in hope that we can do in-person outreach. Projected expenditures for CFS meetings have gone up substantially. This is based on the assumption that in-person meetings will resume with delegates sharing in national and provincial travel pool expenses.

Froom moves to administrative expenses. Computer Software Supplies and Maintenance are projected to go up, as has office supplies. Last year expenses were lower due to the Sid Smith office closure. With the projected gradual opening we may have new COVID restrictions that will increase costs (eg social distancing equipment, wireless printing etc.) Also some of our computers are quite old and may need to be replaced.

Legal is hard to predict. Last year we spent nothing. This year we are projecting \$15,000. This is prudent. There could be issues related to the Student Choice Initiative, or a challenge under the University Mandated Leave of Absence Policy, or other issues with the University. We may have expenses pertaining to Collective Bargaining or other internal matters.

Froom moves to APUS meetings. APUS hopes to have more people attend general meetings. So those expenses may go up. APUS also hopes to have some speakers come to present workshops in training and equity and other issues at board and executive meetings.

Under Human Resources and staff support, the executive members of APUS all receive an honorarium of a maximum of \$800 a month. The amount last year was lower for two reasons: 1. APUS did not have a full executive committee for much of the year; 2. The APUS Board decided to increase the honorarium from the previous \$600 to \$800 in recognition of the need for increased hours being expected of the Executive committee members. Wages are expected to rise over last year since there were staffing vacancies for part of last year. Additionally, we like to budget in for overtime work, should it be needed.

Kanani calls a 10-minute break at 7:11 p.m. The meeting resumes at 7:21 p.m.

Kanani asks if there are any questions regarding the budget.

Froom comments that regarding the bursaries, in a normal year there is a limited number at \$1,000.00 each. We added more last year in response to COVID.

This year we plan to have a higher number of bursaries, once again due to the ongoing need arising from lack of work due to COVID. We are offering a number of smaller \$500 bursaries in the summer as well as the general bursaries. We are also budgeting for more bursaries in the fall and winter for a total expenditure of \$50,000.

Froom also notes that throughout the Fall semester if a student has an idea to get in touch with Froom, Kearns, or Oliveira.

Ayiei asks if APUS solely relies on students' membership fees or is it partially funded by the government.

Froom responds that APUS solely depends on student membership fees..

Kanani asks if there are any more questions regarding the budget. There are no more questions. Kanani reads out the motion and calls a vote.

Vote carries.

6. APUS Executive Reports

Kearns provides a report from the President portfolio. Kearns and the team have gone to a lot of meetings with the office of vice-provost of students (OVPS). One topic was the university mandated leave of absence policy. It is a policy that has been implemented where the university can mandate

students out if they are going to harm someone else or themselves. Kearns also had meetings about a safe return to campus post pandemic, and wanting the university to offer on-site vaccination and testing sites. They have implemented it on the Mississauga campus. APUS has raised concerns about campus buildings not having adequate air filtration of 6 cycles per hour.

Kearns has also been organizing pickups and drop ups for the laptop loan program. Kearns also sits on the Provost's Undergraduate Student Advisory Group (PUSAG), where she meets with the vice-provost and other student unions. There has been a lot of discussion about the challenge of international students returning post pandemic. Kearns also sits on the Council on Student Services (COSS), which oversees operations and budgets of KPE(Kinesiology and Physical Education - Athletic Services), Hart House, and the Office of Student Life. It asks for increases and surprisingly a decrease this year in one case. Kearns also sits on CAR (the Council on Athletics and Recreation). Kearns has also been doing human resources and administrative work around the planned post-pandemic reopening.

Froom provides a report from the VP Internal portfolio. Froom also has been attending OVPS, she also oversees human resources and budgets. Froom worked on the new bursaries regime and was in the process of hiring an academic advocacy coordinator and planning for a gradual safe reopening of the student services in the Sidney Smith Office post pandemic. She also attended various meetings with other executives.

Froom sits on the CFS Ontario Executive Committee as the Continuing Education and Part Time Caucus Chair. Froom meets with part-time students from other student unions and she is the National CFS Part-Time and Mature Constituency Commissioner. At U of T Froom sits on the U of T library committee and has been pushing for access to the library during COVID which has been maintained at Gerstein. Also advocated for access to written material online. Froom also sits on the Community Liaison Committee which looks at new buildings and reservations going on. There will be a new accessible entrance to the museum subway. APUS is pushing for more student housing, especially family housing. APUS got U of T to agree that a part of the Spadina Sussex housing will be built for student families and students with mobility disabilities. Robart's Commons is hoping for a fall opening with 1200 new study spaces. Froom also consulted for new websites being designed for ACORN and U of T. Froom is involved with meeting with the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) around the issues of academic freedoms. There is an issue around academic freedom and a professor being critical of issues of Israel and Palestine. Unfortunately, there has been some censorship by the university in this regard, so right now CAUT is boycotting U of T. Froom has attended meetings with sister unions across U of T campuses and York.

Dhoré provides a report from the VP external portfolio. A large part of Dhoré's role is sitting on the CFS Ontario executive. She attends the biweekly executive meetings, OVPS meetings, and most recently meeting with sister unions at U of T. Dhoré adds that CFS runs the RISE summit every year for racialized, and Indigenous students. Dhoré worked on this. Dhoré has also attended the CFS Skills workshops with trainings for the executive team and this has been a big learning curve and great experience. Dhoré has been working on social media and how best to work with social media and engaging with students and learning the ins and outs of social media. Also working with sister unions to make a collective difference. Also doing outreach to UTSC with VP E&O to connect with students there. Another highlight other than RISE and CFS Skills, but another on personalizing your land acknowledgement. The more involved you become the more she is getting out of her university experience.

Coggon provides a report from the VP events and outreach portfolio. She is involved in a lot of the common meetings with the other executive, but things in her portfolio would be a student housing survey through a non-profit organization that is trying to reach out and do more measurements on student housing needs. APUS participated in their survey in the winter and are in the final stages of

getting member feedback. We will use that data with administration and to lobby municipally and provincially and federally through CFS. Housing is a huge cost of living and the barrier it creates is troubling.

Coggon also advocates with Dhoré on TTC issues. The focus is inclusion of part-time students in discount programs, including TTC and Metrolinx. Coggon has been working with TTC Riders that advocates on TTC issues. Coggon also does some Committee work that ended in April that may resume in the fall with the Woodsworth Council advocating on mental health design on mental health services. Coggon also sits on the student library advisory committee and has been working in collaboration with SBA. In terms of mental health advocacy the goal is to improve mental health policies and services. The review for UMLAP was successfully pushed back to the fall, no date yet, but that is what we are working on with sister unions. Coggon highly encourages folks to attend online meetings. Coggon also had an expert from the states consult on the issues. Coggon has been working on mental health too, notes CFS mental health survey.

Coggon says under events, these are the opportunities for students to connect and learn around advocacy, learning, career supports, self-care and social events. Coggon asks folks to get in touch if they have ideas for events. Summer orientation was held with a raffle and the game Codenames in May. In June Quarantine Green Thumb was held by Sami from Regenesi, and we've held a couple of escape rooms virtually. Also did a social media spotlight for people of Caribbean descent and are in talks with Hart House and their literacy committee, and a decolonizing ENG conference in February and APUS has been asked to communicate about student needs. Coggon says to stay tuned for Queer Orientation and the APUS fall orientation on October 14 and 15th. And for those in attendance today, for all Summer APUS students, the APUS exam de-stressor is 5pm - 6pm led by Chloe.

Gurdat asks if the GO train is included with what TTC Riders is advocating.

Coggon says it is for Metrolinx, but she needs to double check about GO. If it is not, it should be. Coggon shares her contact with Gurdat and thanks them for the feedback.

Acuna provides a report from the VP equity portfolio. This is a new role for Acuna. In the learning curve, Acuna has attended exec meetings and meetings with the administration. Acuna has also attended workshops to learn how to be a better leader. With Kearns, Acuna coordinated tri-campus events for Indigenous History Month. One was around misconceptions Indigenous people face. Another was an anti-Canada day event that spoke about the treaties and the land we live on. At the same time, it was also Pride month. Acuna took the lead on writing the Pride statement which was published on the Stonewall riots anniversary, which is the anniversary because it was the first pride march. Acuna has reached out or has been reached out to by other organizations needing support. She wants to get out and help other groups. We have reached out to the Muslim Student Association and APS. We have given support by advertising their events, donations, and sometimes a combination of attending rallies or signing actions. Also reached out to the Muslim Students Association to offer support after the attack and that is part of what she does. Along with Coggon she is also helping to organize QO.

7. Announcements and Upcoming Events

Coggon brings up the 5-year plan she mentioned before. The TTC will be having a vote going forward. They are looking for someone willing to give a deposition on September 15. Letters and representatives will be needed. Coggon brings up the self-safety workshop with Chloe which is on social media and in the Voice. It will be an interesting exploration in self safety. Coggon wishes everyone the best on their exams.

8. Other Business

None.

9. Adjournment

Kanani calls for a motion to adjourn. Moved by Froom and seconded by Acuna. Everyone is in favour.

Vote carries.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.