

SESS Elections Forum 2018- Minutes

Courtney Offet – VP Finance

- Is the current VP Finance and it went well.
- Brought in new products, worked well with commissioners, lots of skills and experience with store
- Went and fixed existing issues with store
- Weekly maintained budget
- Fixed Budget issues
- Not done with initiatives
- Brought in new products, will continue
- Cheques out of Computer
- Continue developing the store, improve the display case and Estore awareness

Q: Do you feel that the new initiatives are because you did not have enough time this year?

A: Things had to take priority, once the larger items were completed, there was not enough time for the other projects. The transition was a rough process, with lots of the information being lost and having to have been re-discovered. Will

Q: There is often no budget for some commissioners, how can this be fixed?

A: This is related to beginning of the year planning, something we can focus on with the upcoming year. Requires work plans from the commissioners.

Q: The store budget is only a revenue and expense line. Would you expand this for transparency?

A: Yes, definitely something that can be done in order to expand so that the categories of the store are visible and clearly separate.

Dayne Gawley- VP Events

Currently in three commissioner positions along with council secretary

Aware that College morale has been decreasing, has noticed that it used to be a strong point for Eng students

Looking to use momentum from successful blood drive to push forwards

Wants to use Agro rivalry to push forwards momentum

Wants to work with discipline society with Communications

Wants to work with Corp Rel for increased professional development events

Bringing back Bernoulli's Lab

Wishes to work with entire incoming executive to expand event influence in all aspects

Q: Initiatives are outside of your portfolio, belong to commissioners. How will you work on this?

A: Not wanting to overstep and take lead, looking to provide support and framework for people wishing to headline these initiatives

Q: There is a high Events burnout rate. How will you work on this in the summer?

A: I consider myself organized, work on this a lot in the summer. Potential for a Winter Formal Commissioner which would help to take over some of the work.

Q: Bernoulli Labs. Frowned on by the College, there is a push to move away from drinking events. Thoughts?

A: Getting a liquor license is easy, want's to use as a development event with APEGS. Events would be held in Hardy Lab and more networking focused.

Q: Any ideas for more non-drinking events? Specifically for first years who only have orientation.

A: I hope to be working with Student Affairs to use the momentum from welcome week and carry it to more non-drinking events. Hopefully this will translate to upper-year retention. Looking at Sponsor bar with restraint for things like a Steak night.

Q: We have had recurring events around Christmas, are you aware of these and what are your plans?

A: Christmas caroling and Winter formal, along with Sno-Golf. Hopefully will be able to provide support for those groups. (After)

Q: Advertising Strategy

A: Building off welcome week. Using Store to advertise for events with word of mouth. Making and distributing posters. Will be able to advertise effectively.

Q: There have been a lot of events disappearing much to the chagrin of older members. How would you prevent this or mitigate this?

A: Looking for faculty support, along with sponsor support and executive. Looking at contingency events that are easy to plan and can be done easily.

Q: I hear inter-disciplinary events, inter-executive events. How will you make sure you stay within your portfolio?

A: I hope to rely on the executive to keep in check. I am aware of policy roles and want to

Q: I have had a pending friend request, what have you done to earn my friendship.

A: My enthusiasm to accept your response is how

Q: Inter-College events, Hell Week (Eng-Nursing). Would you be interested in continuing those relations other than Ag?

A: I do have access to this information through Archives. It was a great opportunity and I would love to have the chance to continue this.

Logan Hunter – External Affairs

Current VP Admin

4 Main points

Conference Awareness

- Talk to people before applications are open to explain the conference, including estimated cost and session content
- Would like to sit in on GE 101 classes and explain in person, first years are a valuable resource.
- First CSE will be happening in 2019. Wants to set a mandate for VPX to go in order to lay framework for conference and freeze policy on selections committee as past conference attendees will be

External Accountability

- Have post conference reports due 2months after delegate accountability reports are due. Report will show due diligence of VPX and plenary participation
- Amend policy so there is financial accountability for VPX, based on their report and delegate feedback

Sec planning

- Make sure SEC is planned in the summer, so that everything is ready to go for early October. Leave only small things that can be done month of

Conference Feedback

- Important to transfer conference feedback to future OC so benefits are maximized

Q: Why do you want to do VP Admin?

A: Our current VPX was very excited and spread his passion. I had the chance to attend a conference and loved the community and the takeaways, as well as the . VP Admin experience will help with logistical side of this.

Q: Why move SEC to October, our policy says it should be in November

A:

- Not aware that is was in policy for November.
- It would give more time for delegates to be prepared before going to WEC.

Q: If the CFES/WESST is not fulfilling a mandate, what would be your strategy to address it?

A:

- Not sure.
- Would potentially bring it up in plenary.
- Maybe I would look at remandating the organization.

Manisha Jose – VP Student Affairs

- VP Student Affairs is responsible for dealing with advocacy and student priorities. Works with VPX for Eng Week
- Is current Charity Comissioner, the blood drive went really well and would like to bring forwards that passion to portfolio
- The current SA was very good and I would like to follow in footsteps
- There were issues with the first years, would like to institute some sort of “three strikes” or similar

Q: What is your first year engagement strategy?

A: Make sure they are aware of ongoing events. Have FYP very involved with FYC and in GE 101. Stress delivering the information to them, as they are often not in the college.

Q: First years are focused upon with SA, there are fewer tutorials for upper years. Have been redirected to discipline societies. What is your strategy for bringing tutorials to upper years?

A: Definitely useful to have upper year tutorials. Will compile a tutor list available to all students. Expanding current list to encapsulate more upper year tutors.

Q: Discipline Societies are responsible for planning disciplined classes. Plan for engaging them?

A: Very important to work with them. Remain in contact, consistently.

Q: There is a lost of SESS interest after first year. Plan to retain upper year students?

A: Make sure the word is out. Main problem with interest fading is lack of communication, increasing that will improve this.

Q: You work lots with First Year Priorities, which mostly works with FYC. They plan First Year Bowling, and other events in second term. Plan to return this?

A: Try to work lots with FYC to make more events available to first years, which will help retain their interest.

Q: R&D Commissioner works with recruiting high school students. Plan to expand portfolio?

A: Will work to engage high schools more, was personally recruited via one and wishes to help spread the benefit.

Q: What do you think can be improved with Orientation?

A: Would need to find out how it went in order to do so, in order to make changes.

Q: The faculty likes to make boring speeches. How will you deal with this?

A: Time limits, schedule, insert very exciting portions after faculty talks.

Q: You said bringing in city schools, any plans for rural communities.

A: I would like to look into it, lots of students from outside of community.

Q: Plans to be involved with First Year Council?

A: I would like to focus on first years as much as possible, work with commissioner to get first years excited. No set plans as of now.

Carmelle Pauly

- Role of VP Comms is to work with the Affiliated groups to work with them and maximize SESS benefit to those groups
- Sit in on those meetings, have an understanding of those organizations in order to meet their needs.
- Names
- Increase relations with discipline groups and design groups
- Work on communicating to first years all of the school's acronyms. Will communicate with FYC to help translate and distribute information
- Plan on strengthening relationships for the Morale Commissioner, with the Agriculture students

Q: Can you name all of the Design Groups?

A: Huskie SAE, design challenge in the states, Aero Design, challenge this weekend, ¼ Scale Tractor, USST, EWB, USIET,

Q: What are your motivations? Who are you?

A: I am going to into geo, I have always had the goal of being involved in student government. I made friends with the current SESS who made my transition very smooth. I wish to use this role to help others to receive the same benefits I received.

Q: Relation with Ag?

A: I understand it has deteriorated due to a variety of events. Wants to put the friendly in friendly rivalry, working with the College as well

Q: What do you bring to help your commissioners?

A: Work with them to set clear goals, communicate with them often and help them achieve their goals. Monthly meetings at a minimum to re-evaluate and continue developing the roles

Q: Include a acronym key in the fo? Would you encourage the meme war?

A: Yes to the meme war, return to the rebus problems. Yes I fully encourage the meme war. It is a fun way to get information across. Yes for the acronym key, especially for the first month until First Years have time to familiarize themselves with them.

Q: Goal of work with discipline societies?

A: Going above and beyond with meeting their needs. Including advertising requests with a potential form to be created, distributing them to the societies.

Q: Working with apathetic discipline societies?

A: Work very intently with the societies, and find the root of their issues and ask for their help in breaking down those barriers. Would encourage by regularly attending their meetings to establish self as the SESS rep. Encourage them to stop by the SESS office and clear up any confusions. Encourage them to overcome past animosities with discussion with myself and other executive, and clear up any potential confusions.

Q: Are you prepared to fill the role without overloading?

A: I am very organized and efficient. It would come down to prioritizing, and I will prioritize the SESS in my actions. If the course load does get too heavy, I think it would be important to reconsider priorities and reset timeline.

Jay Shah and Parker Campbell (Co-VP's)

- Parker: I was involved with my SRC, I have moved to planning large events with them and gone to multiple conferences and I have been involved with FYC moving here.
- Jay: SRC, golf club, math club, very involved with Air Cadets. Recently promoted to Commander of largest company in Saskatchewan. Also runs an apparel company on the side.

- Jay: Look into creating contacts with larger companies such as Nutrien, Hatch, etc. Looking to create lasting relations with students, many of which will be employed by these large companies. Looking to expand to Canada-wide companies.
- Parker: Will employ open houses, industry mixers to really associate students with potential jobs and contacts. Will continue past charity events to contribute to the community.

Q: How do you plan on securing sponsorships?

J: Using existing industry connections, family has contacts to be utilized. Physically go to corporations and talk to a representative. Cold call and cold email to utilize all potential benefits.

Q: How do you plan on not stepping on the toes of other groups with out-of-province sponsorship?

P: Look into working with other ESS's for mutual benefits, and create a very impressive sponsorship package.

Q: What can we offer out of province companies their local societies cannot?

J: With larger corporations constantly looking to expand, they have an interest in students. The benefit is a larger search radius. Will make sure that the benefit is equivalent to the sponsorship received.

Q: This is a lot. How will you manage timelines?

P: I will be looking to extend my degree, and spread work between the two of us. Much of the work is done in the summer, if we work our butts off we can lighten the work load during the year. If the work load is still large, we can split between the two of us.

J: Position is unique in that much of the work needs to be done in the summer.

Q: Why the co-position is beneficial? Challenges?

J: With Corp Rel, the best way to reach companies is to have more "Feet on the ground" with a larger spread.

P: Consistent branding is important, benefit of one person. We will have to work very close to ensure a clear and repeating message in order to increase SESS benefit.

Q: What happens if you disagree?

J: We have decided that we will focus on different parts of the role -> Parker – Charity, Jay – Sponsorship. If there is an argument, the easiest way is to set the clear boundaries.

P: VP Corp Rel is relatively new, it will be important to alter policy in order to account for these differences

Q: What if the task has equal say between the two of you and it does not fall under the clear role of one of you.

P: It is important to have more opinions. Bring points and opinions to the council or executive for further feedback.

J: Come to a mutual agreement through that

Q: How do you plan to work with one email and no phone?

J: Clearly split the companies being contacted so no overlap. Potentially buy a new phone.

P: There is always someone double checking your work acting as a safety net.

Q: Displaying professional image?

P: We likely saw the lack of opposition as an opportunity to excite interest and grab attention. If there were multiple candidates we would focus more on the professional side.

J: We want to stand out to corporations and why they matter (not through the poster) through professionalism

Q: How have you worked together?

J: We worked together this last year on FYC and the executive

P: I have worked with lots of people throughout various events

J: We have both done leadership roles, Parker from small towns, myself from Saskatoon. We both have lots of experience and think there is only potential benefit.

P: The biggest benefit is the widely different viewpoints. We have the same motivations but we can use our different view points to compliment each other.

Heather Caswell

- I am currently in 2nd year Computer Engineering
- Two main goals;
- Improving the Lounge -> Upgrades. I would like to make sure it stays in good condition with the Lounge Commissioner, make sure pool equipment is taken care of.
- Working with Comissioners -> Weekly updates on the executive, enable them to do the job to the best of their abilities.
- I will clean and organize the lounge in the Spring.
- I am currently working with a camp, and I have plenty of experience with administration.

Q: Commissioners begin excited to do their job, then taper over time. How do you plan on keeping motivations high?

A: Point of weekly reminders is to remind of these things, but also to bring a reminder of the roles and help to trigger motivations. Work with reminders, first gentle then less gentle.

Q: Poster Boards are trash. Items are months and months old. Would you work to try and keep these organized?

A: Full bulletin board is a pet peeve. I will set (maybe weekly) reminders and will clear off the boards?

Q: Past Lounge Commissioners worked semi-monthly to clean the lounge. If the commissioner is unable to do this would you help?

A: Yes I would be willing to help. I would encourage the Lounge Comm to make sure that this is done but I am more than willing to work with them to ensure work is done.

Q: What is your favourite dinosaur and how does that apply to our leadership position.

A: It pleasaurus, a swimming animal, and that will help to keep the SESS afloat.

Shanleigh McKeown

Currently a 2nd year civil, I am currently the VP Student Affairs

- Connection with students

- We have the overall goal of serving students, this is not something that is ever addressed.
- This should be the driving motivation behind all of the SESS actions, especially with spending money
- We hold a lot of trust from alternative groups and need to be held accountable.

- Executive workplans

- Public documents to outline how the executives are spending their times over the year.
- Lots of promises in platforms, not held to it
- Open to the feedback of students, in order to best serve the students
- Public will make them accountable

- Semi-Monthly Meetings

- When deadlines are dropped or not met, this is due to lack of communication
- Meetings will address these issues as soon as possible, in order to best do work

- Justification reports

- Presented before nominations open
- Consider the priorities and time usage of the roles
- Allow the voting members to provide plenty of feedback and direction to incoming

Q: You talk about accountability, what is your plan if an executive did a bad job?

A: If elections are done on time (Feb), this would give time to adjust roles and policy so that things can be improved for future. Also plenty of time to adjust exec behaviour. In order to avoid this entirely is the semi-monthly meetings and public work plans.

Q: Why are you interested? How will your last role benefit this?

A: When I look at the SESS, I see a lot of students who care about the SESS, but not someone helping to direct those passions into the most productive manner. I am good to work with on a team and love to be a part of helping the team achieve their goals. Student Affairs this past year has had quite a few issues with first years. I was pushed out of my comfort zone to address and be vocal about controversial issues. I think the actions I have taken show I am willing to follow through and hold people accountable and say what needs to be said in order to prevent things from getting out of hand.

Q: Does your accountability also reach to transparency in the budget?

A: This comes down to promoting our councils where the budget is discussed, expanding the store budget in the overall budget and reach for student perspective on what we spend our money on.

Q: Currently Council doesn't even have all commissioners and Board to show up, how will you get outside students?

A: This is due to poor communication with the commissioners on the hand of the executive. Council meetings haven't always been advertised as for all of the members, so going to this in more detail and explaining the importance of having your voice represented. Stress the importance to the exec of keeping in contact

Q: How will you deal with lingering

A: Hopefully addressed in Semi-Monthly meetings. Issues are not addressed because people are not using proper communication channels, this can be helped and facilitated through the President. At the end of the day it is the exec team's responsibility to bring these things forward.

Q: Course load concerns?

A: Reduced course load, taking CPC classes and science elective in order to reduce the large strain.

Q: Strength of character is very important. What about you makes you the best suited?

A: I am willing to say what needs to be said, and have fun when it is called for. I am willing to promote this to the whole team, and am very willing to be assertive.

Q: How to deal with Upper Year Disconnect?

A: Create the connection with other groups students are a part of and advocate on behalf of them. It is important to address the large issues with these relations that have gone ignored in order to start to repair this disconnect.

Q: How will you uphold the style precedent set by Robert?

A: I need to stop wearing sweat pants

Q: President's joke in the fo? Can I get an example and are you willing to uphold this?

A: Yes I am fully willing to uphold this

Q: You have talked a lot about addressing issues. What has Robert not done and how would you address it?

A: We had communication breakdown, having a lot of personal issues come into the executive. Issues not being addressed as forcefully or direct as was necessary. Discussion happened so much later that it spawned a variety of other issues. Bi-monthly meetings are important in order to do this.

Q: Favourite Dinosaur? How does this apply?

A: T-rex as I have little arms and cannot reach anything. I can use my head in order to address all of these issues.