

**Minutes of the 12th
Students' Association of Red Deer College
2016-2017 Winter Council Meeting
April 4, 2017**

Present:

Ben Fleury; President
Aiden Bridger; VP Student Life
Jessica Walker; Secretary
Lindsay Currie; Student, Voting
Shelby Dushanek; Student, Voting
Esther Oliva-Dzib; Student, Voting
Kara Canning; Students, Voting
William Baliko; Student, Voting

Nonso Onwuekwe; VP Operations
Liz Sweiger; Executive Director
Braden Alm; Student, Voting
Faith MacIntrye; Student, Voting
Nandini Sharma; Student, Voting
Chaise Combs; Student, Voting
Marian Young; Student, Voting

Absent with Notice:

Anne Marie Watson; Chairperson
Sylvie Masson; Student, Voting

Robin Chiles; Board of Governors
Owen Wyatt; Student, Ex-Officio

Guests:

Charity Lehn

Mitchell Visser

Other Attendance Notes:

William arrived at 5:46pm

Nonso left the meeting at 6:32pm

12.0 Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:32pm, chaired by Elizabeth Sweiger.

12.1 Approval of Agenda

16-17-136-W

Kara Canning, Braden Alm

Motion: Approve the agenda with the following changes:

12.9.1 – Food Bank Stats.

CARRIED.

12.2 End of Term Feedback

Executive Council asked Winter Council and Ex-Councillors a number of predetermined questions to collect feedback on the year. Councillors were given the opportunity to share their thoughts and give constructive feedback to the organization. Please see the attachment for more details.

12.3 Approval of Meeting Minutes

12.3.1 16-17-137-W

Kara Canning, Faith

Motion: Approve the Winter Council Minutes #11 as written.

CARRIED.

12.3.2 16-17-138-W

Braden, Faith MacIntrye

Motion: Approve the 2016-2017 Executive Minutes #45 as written.

CARRIED.

12.4 New Business

12.4.1 Council Honoraria

16-17-139-W

Nandini Sharma, Kara Canning

Motion: Expend an amount not to exceed \$4725.00 for Winter Council honoraria.

CARRIED.

12.4.2 Summer Budget Proposal

16-17-140-W

Kara Canning, Chaise Combs

Motion: Approve the 2017 Summer Operating budget.

CARRIED.

16-17-141-W

Braden Alm, Nandini Sharma

Motion: Approve the 2017 Summer Building Fund budget.

CARRIED.

12.5 Discussion

12.5.1

12.6 Executive Reports

16-17-142-W

Nandini Sharma, Kara Canning

Motion: Accept the Executive Reports as presented.

CARRIED.

12.7 Committee Reports

16-17-143-W

Marian Young, Lindsay Currie

Motion: Accept the following committee reports as presented: CAT Fund, Events, Issues, BARC, and Mental Health.

CARRIED.

12.8 Council Reports

BOG Report – Robin Chiles

*Robin was absent

Academic Council – Ben Fleury

*Ben presented an oral report (written report will be attached to minutes)

16-17-144-W

Faith MacIntrye, Aiden Bridger

Motion: Accept the Council reports as presented.

CARRIED.

12.9 Information Items

16-17-145-W

Nandini Sharma, Shelby Dushanek

Motion: Accept the following as information:

12.9.1 – Food Bank Stats

CARRIED.

12.10 Adjournment

16-17-146-W

Aiden Bridger, Faith MacIntrye

Motion: Adjourn at 8:33pm.

CARRIED.

Ben Fleury, President

Elizabeth Sweiger, Executive Director

Anne Marie Watson, Chairperson

Jessica Walker, Secretary

End of Term Feedback

Question 1: What was your experience being a student representative this semester?

Negative – There was frustration expressed with the length of time it took for the Council to begin; therefore, more events and initiatives were hosted in the Winter term. Some of the Councillors felt they were unable to share feedback (good or bad) with the Executives which in part made them feel less empowered. It is felt that Council lacks progress and efficiency.

Positive – Many of the Councillors felt they were able to get out of their comfort zones and grow as a person this past year. They enjoyed building relationships and being able to help students around campus whether it was through the Mental Health Weeks or just talking with students in the hallways. Councillors feel this opportunity has given them a better understanding of Red Deer College and the Students' Association as well as an appreciation for the process of resolving issues, approaching tough situations, and putting words into action. Council enjoyed working as a team to get students involved, making them aware of events on campus as well as assisting problem solving with issues on campus.

The International Representative shared that she felt this pilot position was a great way to understand the needs of international students and to make sure their voices were heard, additionally it is a great way to learn about other cultures and their needs on campus.

Question 2: What was the most productive event/initiative this semester?

Council feels that the most productive events were the Mental Health Week, Risque Bingo, Pink Shirt Day and International Student Meet and Greet.

Question 3: What was the least productive event/initiative this semester?

Council feels that some of the Council meetings were too lengthy discussing items that didn't need to be talked about or items that had already been addressed. It was suggested to not give out food and pamphlets at events as people rarely read the pamphlets. Meet Your Council events were unsuccessful due to the poor timing on the event (during exam week) as well the Alcohol Awareness event in the Trades wing was poorly timed. The Residence Representative recommends to make his role clearer, he was unsure of what to do and who he should have been collecting feedback from (RA's or Residence Admin.)

Question 4: How can we effectively reach the RDC students community at large?

Winter Council would like to see the school specific reps continue; however, they would like more responsibility. Once table hours were enforced they showed to be very effective so they would like to see those continued. The Donald School of Business Rep's would like to see more events and activity from the Students' Association as many of the students feel they are part of the campus. Social media is also effective when Councillors and Executives are active with sharing and liking the posts from the Students' Association pages.

Question 5: What would you like to be implemented next semester and going forward next year?

The current Councillors would like to see more events take place at the DSB and more MH campaigns hosted throughout the year. It was suggested to find a second volunteer base around campus to help alleviate some of the stress up on Councillors. A past Council member would like to see more recognition for being a Council member as it does require a lot of time and work, he recommended to increase the honoraria or finding an alternate way to show recognition. Council would like to see committees advertised around campus so that students are aware they can sit on the committees – this will help alleviate stress with committee and event work as well as provide a different perspective. Recommendation to change the format of verbal reports at Council as they are often repetitive and don't hold much of value. Council would like to see more initiatives that make students aware they are members of the Association, and what the Association can do for them. The Association should welcome student's ideas and feedback throughout the year. The current Council would like to see the future Executives and Council hang out outside of meetings and RDC, this will create better relationships.

Council recommends to change the format of Council Orientation. They would like to see the orientation to not focus on things not to do, but work on team building and giving them the tools to have a successful year. It was suggested to invite past Councillors to share their experience and do a meet and greet with the incoming Council. Ex-officio and Councillors who join later in the year should receive an appropriate orientation on a smaller scale.

Additional Question: What are some ways Council Orientation could be improved?

Council felt there was a lot of negative energy during their orientation, it was recommended to not discuss issues until they arise. They felt this negative tone was counterproductive and made them worry too much about doing something wrong as well as made them less willing to build relationships with one another. In the future they would like to see a neutral facilitator host who focuses on team building, and developing personal goals as well as goal for the Council. Again, Council shared concern about the lack of orientation for ex-officios and late joiner – they would like to see this improve.

Additional Question: How welcome do you feel in the Students' Association office?

Most of the Councillors feel very welcome in the SA office. The DSB Rep shared she did feel a void as she is on a different campus.

Additional Question: How do you as Councillors feel about the flow of communication between Council and Executives?

Council feels there is a lot of room for improvement regarding communication. It was shared that the communication was either not there at all, last minute or very unclear. Ways to improve the modes of communication would be to have 2 forums for group chats, app and RDC email, create an events calendar, always share events at Council meetings and to ensure Councillors are aware of Executive's office hours. As well they would like to see better communication between SA committees.