

Andrew Gammack
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February 2020

Contribution Hours: 221.5

Events, Meetings, and Conferences Attended:

- *General Faculties Council*
- *GA Bonding Committee Meeting*
- *Board Governance Committee*
- *Senate*
- *School of Liberal Education Advisory Meeting*
- *Strategic Planning Committee*
- *Board of Governors*
- *CASA SuperCon 2020*
- *CAUS Teleconferences (3)*
- *GFC Executive*
- *Unsung Heroes Call*
- *Townhall Speeches (3)*
- *International Dinner*
- *GA Bonding*

Descriptions of Notable Meetings/Events:

GA Bonding Committee Meeting

Early on in the month, I met with Holly Kletke, Selena Boutilier, Ryan Lindblad, Mathieu Lebon-Volia, Brianna Rogers, and Ryan Munn to discuss the next GA bonding session. After a fulsome and lengthy brainstorming session, we each voted for what we believed was the best option: a generic birthday party! With that as a starting point, I began a lot of work around the planning of the event. Overall, I was extremely thankful for the lighthearted and constructive brainstorming committee – it made the entire process a lot more cohesive. I will absolutely be recommending this for how to decide upon GA bonding in the future.

Strategic Planning Committee

Our February meeting was rather brief as we are moving into the final stages of creating this document. We discussed any edits put forward by the committee and also agreed upon contracting out the cover to a student for art commission. I followed up this with a social media post requesting students work. It gained a considerable amount of attention and led to a number of submissions. The final decision will be made into March and will become the newest cover of our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan!

Board of Governors

The February Board meeting was the longest of the year so far, taking over four and a half hours. And this was for good reasoning. There were a number of important matters to discuss – namely that of Student Fees and Tuition for the 2020 academic year. There was a very healthy and candid conversation around the Board. Obviously the political environment which led us to be in this situation is unfortunate to say the least. I did my best to communicate to the board the value of accessible post-secondary education - with everything from the barriers it reduces to the competitive advantage out current tuition grants our institution. Despite this, the fees and tuition documents were eventually approved by the board. I believe this challenging meeting illustrates the critical importance of advocating clearly and openly with the government. Unfortunately, by the time large scale decisions get made by the government, post-secondary institutions are placed in a situation where their options are limited. As the majority of expenses are tied up in salaries and majority of revenues (beyond the CAG) come from tuition, the university is placed in a situation where they have to quickly increase revenues or decrease expenses; both of which lead to potentially destructive decisions affecting multiple people. While we did our best to communicate this to the government in addition to many other messages outlining the importance of a post-secondary education, damaging decisions were still made. These decisions still having lasting impacts on our institution. I will be working diligently with the incoming President and VP External to communicate this value of advocacy and ensure we have representatives who are able to communicate with government in a way which limits these destructive decisions before it is too late.

CASA SuperCon 2020

The final CASA conference of my term was not a short one. Bailey and I flew out to Ottawa for eight days with the key goal of advocating to the federal government. As it is SuperCon, we also had the CASA Annual General Meeting. I would expand more here, however; I will direct you to my travel report which outlines this conference in much greater detail including the six specific priorities we talked to the government about.

Townhall Speeches

It was a bittersweet honor to attend this year's townhall speeches. Bittersweet because I cannot express how proud I am of all candidates, however; it is also difficult to communicate the feeling of knowing you will not be coming back to this organization. I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience as President this year, but I am ready to pass along the title and encourage the further betterment of this organization. I wish all candidates the best of luck moving into the voting part of elections.

International Dinner

It was an honor to attend the 27th annual International Dinner with Ryan, Selena, Holly, Cayley, Mady, Jordan, and Jon. The food was absolutely fantastic and had a lot of diverse options from many countries. The speaker was also a great experience, bringing light to a lot of

issues around social dynamics worldwide with a positive story. This was also a great opportunity to network with some important people; overall, the event was positive and a fantastic chance to meet partners within the community.

GA Bonding

It was actually really cool to see this event get pulled off. We hosted a "birthday" party in the SU ballrooms complete with a pinata, cake, and a ball pit! Huge shout out to Kate for all her help with decorations and planning. Additionally, a large and genuine thank you to everyone who showed up. It isn't easy to make a children's birthday party for a bunch of adults fun, but when you fill the room with positive and inclusive people, anything is possible! I am really happy with how everything turned out and want to offer one final thanks to the committee for inspiring the original idea.

Conclusion

February was a ridiculously busy month (see hours worked). It seemed that for every one thing I figured out, two more things would arise demanding my attention. Besides the weeklong conference, much of my time this month was spent on the furthering the creation of transition documents, following our ULSU elections, and helping out with various things which came up throughout the month. I am looking forward to next month where a lot of initiatives will come to fruition and a lot of documents/projects will receive feedback from the General Assembly.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding my report.

Best regards,

Andrew Gammack
President