

September 20, 2023

**I. Preliminaries**

A. Call to Order- 4:30 pm

B. Prayer- **Strategist Peck**

C. Opening Remarks- **President Compaan**

1. We have hired our remaining team members. Training for these members will be taking place on Saturday so we can begin working as a full team at the beginning of next week. Two new hires are joining us today for our business meeting to observe our processes and get a feel for SGA as a whole. President Compaan thanked everyone for continuing to adjust to the changes that have come and the changes that will continue to come.

**II. WASC/WSCUC Presentation Led by Dr. Robert Duke**

- A. Dr. Duke has entered into the position of APU's Accreditation Liason Officer and is working with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, specifically, the Senior College and University Commission. In April of 2022, WASC visited the University while the institution was facing several difficulties, such as an interim President, CFO, and Deans. On July 11, 2022, APU was placed on warning to deal with Macro issues within the university. During this process, APU has been working with the accrediting offices for different schools to confirm the progress and effectiveness of different programs, and confirm their accreditation for upcoming years. ABET has been accredited through 2028, the California

Teaching Credential Commission

renewed our annual accreditation, the National Association of the School of Psychology has accredited us through 2027, and IACBE has accredited the School of Business through 2029. WASC has given us two years to begin making changes in the areas identified by the Commission and they will visit in March of 2024 to confirm that the changes have begun. The main areas of focus given to us by WASC are Financial Sustainability, Shared Governance, Board Effectiveness, and DEI Issues. Financial sustainability was impacted by our enrollment numbers and the drastic influx of students pre-covid and the drastic decrease post-covid. Shared governance refers to shared decision-making across students, faculty, staff, administrators, and boards. This topic will be picked up later in the presentation. Board effectiveness involves the hiring process, onboarding, training, and other aspects of bringing new members into the Board of Trustees. An outside consultant has been hired to advise the President and Board in this process. An additional 5 issues were identified as secondary areas of focus two of which address DEI-related issues and how the university will work to address those issues. Those two issues are university-wide communication and data collection and reliability. Our report to WASC detailing our progress will be submitted around Thanksgiving. The WASC team that will be visiting our school in March is made up of college Presidents which will create sympathy among the team for our school as they will most likely be facing similar issues and difficulties. The last major issue in preparation for this is reviewing what degree programs the university offers and how those are serving the student body and which ones need

to be reimagined. Shared

governance is one of the main areas where SGA can partner with the administration. Dr. Steven Ballz is partnering with the university to help with shared governance. He is extremely knowledgeable in this area and has already hosted a summit with APU administration on August 25th and he will return on October 19th to participate in several board and administration events. SGA will have representation at this event and can bring student concerns, thoughts, and hopes regarding communication with APU students. There is a seven-month communication strategy that will begin next week.

1. Questions regarding the presentation:

- a) Why does accreditation matter? Currently in the United States, the conversation surrounding accreditation has become extremely relevant and certain groups are lobbying for change in this area. However, accrediting bodies hold a major influence within the Department of Education and help determine which universities will receive government financial aid. Another reason is that peer institutions want to hold one another accountable and work to create similar academic experiences for students and to foster similar values.
- b) What was the biggest issue WASC wants us to address? Financial Stability. APU is a tuition-driven institution and therefore relies on enrollment and the proceeds from that and a dip in enrollment creates an unstable financial situation. APU has faced a lot of

instability which has caused disjointed projections and financial planning across the university. Dr. Duke is confident that President Morris is the right person to bring about cohesion and long-term stability at our University and believes that he is present and energetic, ready to tackle this challenge.

- B. President Compaan added that Dr. Duke was invited to inform us about WASC because as student leaders we need to know what's happening at the administration level so that we can properly serve the student body. He also clarified that Vice President McIntyre and himself will be present at the Board Meeting happening in October and will be presenting areas of focus for SGA as well as areas we have identified as integral to the students' section of shared governance. President Compaan also recognized that most universities do not make room for students in this capacity due to the temporary nature of students. However, APU recognizes that they are here to serve us and educate us, therefore, student opinion is of vital importance.

### **III. Committee Updates led by President McIntyre**

#### **A. PR Committee led by DoC Leon**

1. They will have a new member joining them next week. Currently, the committee is focused on blood drive graphics and having those posted across platforms and the newsletter which will be coming out at the beginning of October. The website is back up and all positions have been updated.

B. **Belonging Committee** led by

**Senator Garibaldi**

1. The main focus has been establishing points of contact with different ethnic organizations across campus. They have successfully connected with LASA and PIO and are trying to connect with BSA. They have also met with RezLife and have come to understand that we will support them by advertising their events on our platforms. Lastly, the committee is working on potentially hosting an ethnic club fair sometime in October after a Friday morning chapel.

C. **Experience Committee** led by **DoE Vannatta**

1. Last Friday they hosted an event to gain student input on naming the new student space as well as informing the student body of what has been happening with the old Paws and Go. The student input and decisions have been given to Heather Snyder and hopefully, a name will be chosen soon. This project is coming to a close and after that, the committee will focus on Homecoming and The Table event.

D. **Wellness Committee** led by **Senator Fillari**

1. The blood drive is coming up and the plan is to have the slide presented at chapel on 9/27/23, 9/29/23, and 10/2/23. Currently, they are working on collecting the credentials for the event and setting up a table to try and gather interest in the event. They are also discussing the possibility of reaching out to Tampax to sponsor the APU track team to see if they would be willing to do so and help support women's health on campus.

**IV. Newsletter Updates led by DoC Leon**

- A. A form has been created for committees, clubs, and organizations to fill out to inform the PR team of any upcoming events they would like to have included in the SGA newsletter. It will be posted to Instagram next week for students to access.

**V. SGA Roles Within Committees led by President Compaan**

- A. With the recent change in the structure of SGA and the roles of the SGA staff, committees need to continue to move away from old classifications and assignment patterns and start distributing the work among team members in a more cohesive manner. This means we need to avoid old roles and job descriptions being the determining factor for who is assigned what task. This change will be more conducive to teamwork and keeping an equal distribution of workloads. We want to continue avoiding the pigeonholing that used to take place within SGA and executive members especially need to be aware of this.

**VI. Passdown led by DIA Buck**

- A. SGA needs to begin creating pass-down documents for next year's SGA staff immediately so that we can give the students next year a holistic, step-by-step view of SGA. The best way to do this is to document what is happening while it is happening, hence the importance of deciding who will begin the process for your committee now. Vice President McIntyre and DIA Buck will be heading up the pass-down committee and will decide on the formatting and overall structure of the documents. The main change being made to the pass-down process will be a shifted focus from individuals and their roles to committees and how individuals

work together for a shared goal.

There may still be a need for individual pass-downs within the executive committee due to the specialized nature of those roles. The main purpose of this shift is a desire to make the pass-down system less confusing for next year's staff, especially with the continued changes that they will see so that they can enter into their roles as smoothly as possible.

1. Questions:

- a) How will we fill out these documents? The plan moving forward is that each committee will come up with a way to start collecting that information now and once the Passdown committee has had a chance to meet and review, a finalized format will be sent out and the information will be transferred over. Within each committee, a senator will be placed in charge of the pass-down documentation process and will continue to work on that throughout the year.
- b) Is it worth mentioning the executive team's discussion of a handbook (SGA for dummies)? Vice President McIntyre will be creating a start-up manual for SGA, the structure, beginning processes, and how to do everything within our scope of responsibilities. This is meant to be separate from passdown documents. (Asked by DoE Vannatta and answered by Vice President McIntyre).

## **VII. Open Floor**

### **A. Fall Survey led by Senator Garibaldi**

1. The possibility of sending out a fall survey was brought up a few weeks ago and this was a time to touch base on that idea and the possibility of doing a town hall instead or in tandem with the survey. It was brought up that town halls are more effective when the question is specific. Students are more likely to come to an event where their opinions will be heard/ where they know issues affecting them will be discussed. Town halls can be expensive due to the logistical nature of the event. Town halls also are not required to be formal in either attire or operations. A town hall can be whatever the planner deems necessary for their topic of discussion.

**B. Work on Constitution led by Vice President McIntyre**

1. Vice President McIntyre had a meeting with **Monica Arellano** regarding the constitution and she gave him advice on how to work on reformatting it and the revision process. Monica is the assistant general counsel for the university and has knowledge of the legal landscape that may affect our constitution.

**C. Logo Feedback led by DoC Leon**

1. The PR Committee is working to create a different version of the SGA logo each month to be displayed on the newsletter and Instagram account. This is meant to be a fun way to gain student attention and to help frame the newsletter themes. Today SGA will be voting to decide which color of logo will be used for the newsletter and what the theme will be. For the



Halloween season coming

up the two options for the logo are orange and green.

2. Motion to vote between the two logo options
  - a) Motion- **DIA Buck**
  - b) Second- **President Compaan**
    - (1) Orange- 6
    - (2) Green- 6
    - (3) Tie Break from Vice President McIntyre for Green

#### **VIII. Meeting Adjourned**

- A. Closing Prayer and prayer requests led by **DIA Buck**
- B. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm