



Meeting 3
September 11 2018 // 7-9pm

Attendance

Executive Board

Flora Yin, President

Joshua Humphrey, VP External

Dimah Ghazal, VP Internal

Grace Wong, VP Communications

Naomi Litwack, VP Academics

Zoona Aamir, VP Student Life

Calie De Joseph, Commissioner of Health and Wellness

Kira James, Commissioner of Equity

Representative Board

Charlene Wichaidit, Vis General

Paul Berkun-Dreving, Arc Comprehensive

Cezzane Ilagan, Arc Technology



1. Land Acknowledgement

“The Architecture & Visual Studies Student Union would like to acknowledge this sacred land on which the University of Toronto operates. It has been a site of human activity for over 15,000 years. This land belonged to the Wyandot people in pre-colonial times, before changing hands several times from the Haudenosaunee, the Neutral, the Wyandot-Tionontati, and finally ending with the settling of the Anishinaabeg Mississaugas. The territory consists of ceded land, covered under the Toronto Treaty 13 of the Upper Canada Land Surrenders, and the Williams Treaties, as well as unceded land that continues to be contested.

Today, Toronto is the home to many Aboriginal peoples, including First Nation Status Indians, Non-status Indians, as well as Metis and Inuit peoples from across the continent. We can never work to end systemic and institutional violence if we do not center the narratives of Aboriginal peoples in our collective decision-making for social justice and equity. As settlers on this territory, we directly benefit from a colonial culture that has overseen the genocide, systematic oppression, and exploitation of Aboriginal peoples. In order to engage in resistance and solidarity against the injustices inflicted on the Aboriginal people of this land, it is imperative we constantly engage in acts of awareness and decolonization. We would also like to pay our respects to Aboriginal leaders and traditional teachers both past and present, and to any of those who may be here with us today: physically, emotionally, and spiritually.”

2. Week of Welcome

Flora: Continue to advertise. It's happening this week.

Zoona: Button making was yesterday. There was a decent amount of people. Friends Marathon tomorrow, Pub night on Thursday. I think people are most looking forward to that. Looking for music right now, but it should be a chill thing anyways. Fridays would be bagels. There will be 100 bagels. We'll be picking up the bagels at 10:30am.

3. Townhall



Flora: Should've been last week, but we never got a response from the Dean. Grace was in contact with Andrea and Jeannie.

Dimah: (From the email) Jeannie told us to give a 2-week time.

Flora: Probably better now anyways. There are certain things we do need to present at our first townhall. We need to present the budget, audit, etc.

Grace: Most things were resolved at the open meeting.

Dimah: Visual Studies courses aren't resolved quite yet. The letter was showed to Charles. He promised he would add more 200 level courses for Vis, but that hasn't happened yet. This meeting happened at the end of August. 4th year studios, main issues were enrollment for studio. Most students realized they had class conflicts, so most people got into studios. 3rd years, increased class sizes.

Calie: There are still people on waitlists for studios.

Zoona: No one's going to drop out of a class that is required. Landscape studios are fun, but we want design studios.

Dimah: People were expecting to take design studios, not just landscape. This was raised to Jeannie. She said people could do one landscape and one design.

Zoona: They still can't force people to take landscape studios. Like, we're one of the only schools that has landscape, but some people still don't want to take it.

Dimah: A lot of 4th years actually still need to take 361.

Kira: Got an email today, equity meeting on Oct 19 with the faculty.

Naomi: So what's the next steps, and what could I do? For course conflicts ...



Zoona: 362, I don't know if they'll even open another section.

Flora: People do have the option to take courses now.

Naomi: Vis situation?

Dimah: 3rd and 4th years have priority for course selections. By the time its second years, there's not more space. This always happens, like for the past 2/3 years. So most people end up taking second year courses in their 3rd and 4th years, but it's annoying, cause that shouldn't need to happen and some courses have pre-reqs. Also, there's a misconception people need to take ARC200 needs to be taken before ARC201. Course calendar should probably state that.

Naomi: We may be able to solve that in an email.

4. Elections / Hired Positions
 - a. Elections are 26/27 September
 - b. Roles need to be out Sept 12th

Flora: All roles will be sent out tomorrow. I'll send everything to Grace. We do need to hire a CRO. I've been reaching out to other faculties/friends. We need the CRO to run the elections. We're hiring reps, and staff. Do we want a graphic designer though?

Grace: I would like one, just so it wouldn't be so much work.

Dimah: Honorarium for the CRO, or no?

Flora: Nope

Dimah: But Café managers do get paid.



Kira: For the CRO, what are their duties?

Naomi: Because we have conflicts of interests, the CRO comes from the outside to make everything fair. They would run the elections.

Kira: How would I do elections for equity commissioners? I was thinking of having a group of people so we can plan events, and also having a broader range of perspectives.

Naomi: Why would you put it separate from the elections?

Kira: I didn't really know of the elections. Also, I would want to put out a survey to all the students to see what they're most interested in. And then I'd tailor the applications to that.

Naomi: because it's a new position, people on a commission being able to do things they want to do would be great. It would make them want to come back.

Kira: I'd want to address everything that students want to be addressed.

Naomi: Commissioners would be selected, not elected.

Flora: What we did in the previous years, we hired the commissioners at the exact same time. So that's when all the committees were formed. This would be later in the year, after the elections. This would probably be the first week of October.

Kira: I was thinking of making a survey, and going to first year and second year classes to hand out a survey to them.

Naomi: All elections are out tomorrow, and we should put it out there that if none of the roles are interesting to them, there are commissions as well.



Flora: (To Naomi) So was 2 people enough last year?

Naomi: 2 was good.. like 4 was better. IT's good to have like a "back up" just in case things do get busy and some people aren't available.

Kira: I would hand the surveys out by Monday. It'll be great if you guys could look at it before I give it out.

Flora: Oct 1 would be a good day to pick the committee. All applications should be in by then. I'll send you the form from last year.

Naomi: There's never really been a commission. So maybe you don't need to be too selective anyways, equity should be more diverse. Last year what I did was that we all took turns planning/ being at events.

Zoona: I think I would want around 5 on my committee. Kind of like Orientation, where one person is in charge of one thing. Josh also had the idea of a dance event in the Fall. Fall would be something more casual, but also it could be like a charity thing. Halloween – what about like a Halloween charity party? So how do I go about getting commissioners.

Flora: So Oct 1, we'll just send a google form on all the commissions. We have a hiring committee, so Internal, me and Academic would be one that and we would interview people.

Kira: If we were to have the charity ball, it would be great to be in this building.

Dimah: There's a person we can contact for bars, and body guards and such.

Kira: UofT beverage services – they're liable if anything happens.

Zoona: People aren't relaly going to come if its dry.



Naomi: We can do games that cost.

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Iora: I guess see if you can book Principal Hall first. See what day? Is one week enough for people to send applications?

Kira: So Oct 1 to 12?

Flora: We can hire the 15 to 19

Naomi: That's quite far apart actually

Zoona: So when should we do the formal, like the 31st?

Flora: Keep in mind you (Zoona) do plan the Reading Week trip as well.

Naomi: Scott planned a lot last year. So we can base it off that.

Kira: If there's more people to help, that would be great.

Naomi: We could combine this with another faculty too. And this would be like an external kind of thing.

Flora: So depends how big we want this to be.

Kira: So Trin can no longer have their charity ball on Trin anymore. So they might be desperate for a location. But... it may be too much to partner with them anyways. Probably not the best anyways. Their charity ball is important to them though.

5. Equity

Equity Calendar:

Categories:

- Mental Health
- LGBTQ



- Black History
- Muslim
- Christian
- Jewish
- Hindu
- Buddhist
- Chinese
- Disabilities
- Women
- Native American/ Canada
- Latino Holidays
- Other

Proposed Equity Calendar:

- January 11th: National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- January 15th: MLK Day
- February: Black History Month
- February 10th: Lunar New Year
- February 18th: National Eating Disorder Week
- March: Women's History Month
- March: National Development Disabilities Awareness Month
- March: Brain Injury Awareness Month
- March 1st: Holi
- March 2nd: Lantern Festival
- March 4th: National Sleep Awareness Week
- March 13th to April 15th: Deaf History Month
- March 30th: Passover
- March 31st: International Transgender Day
- April: Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month
- April: Stress Awareness Month
- April 1st: Easter
- April 2nd: World Autism Awareness Day
- April 8th: Vesak
- April 22nd: Earth Day
- April 23rd: Holocaust Remembrance Day
- April 27th: Day of Silence
- May: Mental Health Month



- May 5th: Cinco de Mayo
- May 16th: Ramadan
- May 17th: International Day against Homophobia
- June: Pride Month (June 24th)
- June 11th: Laylat al-Qadr
- June 14th: Eid al-fitr
- June 21st: National Aboriginal Day
- July 1st: Canada Day
- July 26th: Disability Independence Day
- August 20th: Eid al-Adha
- September 10th: Rosh Hashanah
- September 10th: National Suicide Prevention Day
- September 18th (sunset) to 19th: Yom Kippur
- October: ADHD Awareness Month
- October 8th: Canadian Thanksgiving/ National Indigenous People's Day
- October 10th: World Mental Health Day
- November: National Native American History Month / Diabetes Month
- November 2nd: Day of the Dead
- November 7th: Diwali
- November 12th: National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week
- November 20th: Transgender Day of Remembrance
- November 23rd: Native American Heritage Day
- December: National Impaired Driving Prevention Month
- December 1st: World's AIDs Day
- December 2nd: Hanukah
- December 3rd: International day of Disabled persons
- December 10th: International Human Rights Day
- December 25th: Christmas
- December 26th: Kwanzaa

Kira: So these are all the days. So let's go over which are more important. I want like the top 3 festivals/holidays for different religions. Just so it doesn't overload too much.

Naomi: Having the activity on our facebook is completely fine.



Flora: Your committee can also help write these posts too anyways.

Naomi: There's 52 of these.

Kira: Some can be condensed into one.

Naomi: Your equity committee can go through this again, and maybe even add to it.

Flora: Like certain events, we can definitely do something with it.

Kira: How do we address Oct 8. That's Canadian Thanksgiving / National Indigenous People's Day.

Naomi: Should be fine to combine the two.

Kira: Are there other categories not represented?

Flora: See what other faculties / colleges post.

Kira: We should also know the populations represented in our faculty. Not just religions. Could we get information on the population of Daniels. If we have the demographics, it may be better – so we know what/who we're representing.

Naomi: Even do that on your surveys. Surveys can be anonymous anyways, so it's not like we're targeting anyone.

Kira: I can keep all my posts on a google doc.

6. Café 059

Dimah: Contacting the hired people. I'll probably email them and have a sign up sheet posted. We should start working on that right away. I've prepared a contract for



them. All hired positions will be signing contracts this year so everyone knows where our money is going.

Calie: So undergrads can apply for managers too?

Dimah: Yes. So managers and co-managers can be anyone. Contracts don't say if they need to be undergrads or grads. They had a consultation meeting.

7. Other Business

Cezzane: Art history course, there's 14 people on waitlist. They were saying if you're on a waitlist, you can directly ask the registrar and they can put you in.

Naomi: So remember Yasmine's free food bar in our kitchen. Let's do that again.

Flora: We had studio dinners last year too.

Kira: Can we have a box on the AVSSU/GALDSU door for complaints and such?

Cezzane: Is there a merch update? Jessica said to order for this year.

Flora: I was thinking of doing merch earlier this year. So what do we want this year?

Zoona: Totebags

Kira: T-Squares – first years would want that. We could have a booth for that.

Flora: Email to faculty needs to be sent out tonight.

Calie: Mental health / first aid kits. We could bring this up, maybe for Destressor Week?



Kira: So there may be a common thing between us.

Dimah: Clubs, how did funding work last year? Like for SHIFT, ALD and AIAS? Also VSSP?

Flora: Last year, it was mainly SHIFT and AIAS.

Dimah: So there's a contract again. But they would send in their financial plan for the year, and we would all agree and sign the contract. And they would give all their receipts to us so we can reimburse.

Kira: Does that apply to intramural teams? Even if we wanted equipment for practices? Jerseys could be great too, if there's money.

Flora: So for all positions, send in all budgets so we can present them at our townhall.

Townhall proposed: Sept 26th

Next meeting: Sept 25th

8. Adjournment

8:33pm