PAGSA November 2023 exec meeting

Time: January 30th, 12:00
Where: Elliott 038 (Basement meeting room), or on zoom:
https://uvic.zoom.us/j/4045074427

Order of the day:
1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Minutes:
    a. Agenda November 2022
3. Chair's Remarks   Alexandre Beaubien
    a. Update on the file storage system & cybersecurity
4. External Updates
    a. CUPE   Robert Gleisinger
    b. GSS   Samuel Fielder
5. Internal Updates
    a. Tech   Samuel Fielder, Simon Smith
        i.   Website update + to-do list
    b. Academic   Scott Wilkinson
    c. Social   Fletcher Waller
    d. Student Affairs   Aydan McKay
    e. Sports   Max Kurzner
    f. Reps   Aviv, Jericho, Charlie, Annabelle
6. New Business
7. Request for Support, Advocacy, and/or Participation

Minutes

Taker: Samuel Fielder

Exec In Attendance:
- Alex Beaubien
- Samuel Fielder
- Scott Wilkinson
- Aviv Padawer-Blatt
- Annabelle Czihaly
- Simon Smith
- Fletcher Waller
- Max Kurzner
- Robert Gleisinger

12:02 - Call to Order - Mover: Alex Beaubien

12:04 - Adoption of Minutes - Mover: Alex Beaubien

12:05 - Chair's Remarks - Mover: Alex Beaubien

File Storage Update:
New department storage is set up with a directory for PAGSA, however the permissions need to be set in order for PAGSA exec members to read and write to the PAGSA directory.

Credentials Storage:
Perhaps have a set of instructions in order to regularly keep the credentials across all PAGSA resources, all in one place. Perhaps set the Vice-Chair to have access to the credentials and the management of those items. Samuel Fielder can help develop this set of instructions.

12:11 - CUPE - Mover: Robert Gleisinger

Amendments need to be made in the constitution, to formalize this position in a way that allows for the flexibility in navigation CUPE's side of things, along with the PAGSA side of things. Samuel Fielder has specific thoughts on how this should be navigated, updates in the CUPE Steward channel in discord to discuss these changes.

12:20 - GSS - Mover: Samuel Fielder

GRC voted in a Special General Meeting to use $50,000 of surplus funding from the GSS treasury, to help pay off the debt of the Campus Food Bank, managed entirely by UVSS. Main argument was that since Graduate Students use a significant portion of the Campus Food Bank resources, that we should use our funds to help pay off the more than $300,000 debt. Samuel Fielder's thoughts were that the discussion should have revolved around the changes to how much of the GSS fees that Graduate Student's already pay for, are given to the Campus Food Bank. There should be more information discussed through the GRC about this decision in the coming months.

Otherwise, event information for this semester will be broadcast to the Discord once available. SAGM for GSS occurs in February, a summary will also be circulated department wide by Samuel Fielder.

12:25 - Tech - Mover: Samuel Fielder, Simon Smith

Backend Update:
The backend of the website has been fully configured and setup. Samuel Fielder has created documentation for the steps taken up to this point to create the webpage, including all history of ssh server configuration, as well as steps taken for the specific way the backend is configured (specific to the webserver host - the department itself).

Communication with Prospective Students:
Since we would like to make the website the main source for relevant information to incoming students to the department, there should be some communication between PAGSA and the department to get that information in the hands of prospective students/incoming students. Alex Beaubien to ask the department how they go about releasing information to prospective students or incoming students.

12:36 - Academic - Mover: Scott Wilkinson

Software Plumbing Workshop:
Main goals are the following by Scott Wilkinson:
- Keep the ball rolling on this front. The workshops have been overall successful over the last academic year.
- Build a poster template, for distribution of information on the website, discord, and hallways.
- Aim for 2 workshops per semester.

Perhaps the distribution of information to graduate students can be improved, as the turnout for the last workshop was rather low, despite the topic being the most suggested from the surveys that were sent out.

SPACE:
The main goal is to establish the name this semester, and to aim to start this summer (weekly or bi-weekly). Plans will be put into place by Scott Wilkinson to collect a list of names and possible topics to try and run this program according to some regular schedule.

12:47 - Social - Mover: Fletcher Waller

Attendance for events through the Holiday period was quite successful. This included the gift-exchange and trivia night. Also the PARSECs holiday event.

Future Ideas:
- Documentary Night (about JWST naming), perhaps invite faculty as well to make this completely exclusive.
- Coffee hangouts as well.

Having meetings in non-public areas, to promote safe spaces for PARSECs.

Simon Smith brought up: PAGSA ice skating event in February?
Added after meeting:
- Fletcher is also crowd-sourcing movie suggestions for a movie night.
- Photo-bingo has not been forgotten, just delayed because of website things.
- Fletcher would like to still do the cherry blossom photo contest this year.

12:55 - Student Affairs - Mover: Alex Beaubien

Aydan absent - no updates.

12:55 - Sports - Mover: Alex Beaubien

Communication:
Are there thoughts to make the Sports channel in the Discord more inclusive. It was brought up by multiple exec members that communication is perhaps lacking for the sports, in the discord. Perhaps we need to revisit how this is going, once the weather improves.

12:57 - Reps - Mover: Alex Beaubien

Departmental meeting: See posted updates by Aviv Padawer-Blatt in the relevant discord channel and email.

12:58 - New Business

12:59 - Requests - Mover: Samuel Fielder

Formal Request Given to Exec Members:
- Samuel Fielder would like to be sent documentation of events that are successfully run by PAGSA (and related entities), so that archival documentation can be put on the website for safe keeping. These could include (in future works), blog posts and page information regarding events that are run. Photos are vital to show the success of events, so please send them to Samuel Fielder in whatever communication channel is available (Discord most likely preferred).

12:59 - Adjournment - Mover: Alex Beaubien