

SASSH December Board Meeting Minutes

Ciara Rahming (**CR**), Natasha Noto (**NN**), Alexander Zaleski (**AZ**), Thomas Nguyen (**TN**), Ellis Park (**EP**), Marium Khan (**MK**), Melody Schroecker (**MS**), Aisha Zubair (**AIZ**), Sani Bediako (**SB**), Harjas Toor (**HT**), Meia Mathura (**MM**), Angus Li (**AL**), Kashaf Alvi (**KA**), Andrii Shumilin (**AS**), Lucas Paliouras-Loureiro (**LPL**), Sara Xhango (**SX**), Ricardo Valderrama (**RV**)

Late Arrival(s):

Regrets: Ellis Park (**EP**), Andrii Shumilin (**AS**), Alexander Zaleski (**AZ**)

Chair: Claire Cornacchia (**CC**)

Manager: Josel Angelica Gerardo (**JAG**)

Secretary: Sara Xhango

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Item 1.0 - Call to Order (6:10PM)

CC: I see some folks are in the same room but also individually on the Zoom call which is very helpful for me. For voting purposes, please raise your virtual hand when you would like to vote or ask a question or anything like that. We can call this meeting to order and approve the agenda. Our first item on the agenda is remarks from **Dr. Anne Marie Lee Loy**. I believe she is in the waiting room so whoever is the gatekeeper please let her in.

Item 2.0 - Approval of the Agenda (6:11PM)

Motioned by: CC

In Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

Item 3.0 - Remarks From Dr. Lee Loy (6:13PM)

Dr. Lee Loy: Good morning everyone. I hope you are all getting ready for exams and not overworking yourselves. I just had a brief message from all of the inhabitants on the third floor. As you know, SASSH shares the kitchen space with everyone in the SEC and they have raised some concerns about the use of the fridge. They are finding that there is an overflow of food that is not theirs and that it is not being cleaned regularly. When it is a shared space and work environment, it's really important that people take care of their own messes because none of us have our mothers here to clean up after us, right? I am asking that you folks decide amongst yourselves whether that be you cleaning it out once a week or something else. If you know that you are putting things in the fridge but you are actually not going to eat it, sometimes we have ambitions that I will eat this later but don't end up bothering with that. Let's just use the fridge in a way that is mindful of the fact that it's a shared space and it's a way of sharing respect to your colleagues. Does that make sense? They'll be very happy that I shared that with you and you all look very positive about taking that on. Do you have any questions for me? Does it sound fair? Reasonable? Ok good. Let me hang around for a few minutes but you may see me duck out because I am having meetings and other things happening here. If I don't see you in person, thank you for all of your hard work and best of luck as you head off on your holidays.

RV: I just wanted to say that to you as well, happy holidays. Thank you so much for the reminder. I know everyone on the Board knows that we share the space, not just the kitchen but the SEC office as well and I am happy to know that this is something being raised of concern because it gives us more help on what to do in the next semester. So thank you again and happy holidays to you, **Anne Marie**.

Dr. Lee Loy: When we come back in the next term, it's just something to keep as part of your way of doing business. It's nice to see you again, **CC**. I'll let you guys get back.

CC: It's nice to see you as well and thank you for your message to the Board and wishing you a happy holidays. Of course, you're welcome to stick around for the duration of the meeting as well.

Item 4.0 - POGSA Ottawa Trip Funding [Presentation] (6:17PM)

CC: Our next item on the agenda is a presentation from POGSA about their Ottawa trip and some funding for that trip. There is a slideshow linked in the agenda so I encourage everyone to take a second and open it. Hello POGSA,

how are you folks doing today? Welcome to the SASSH December Board Meeting, my name is **CC**, apologies for having my camera off currently, but I am the Chair of the Board Meetings for SASSH. I'm just here to make sure that the meeting runs smoothly and that everyone is treated fairly and respectfully during the meeting and presentations. I understand that you folks have a bit of a funding presentation for your Ottawa trip. Are there slides that you need to have shared on the screen? Once you are ready to go, you will have approximately 10 minutes to give your presentation that will be followed by a five minute question period from the SASSH Board. Then you folks are free to be on your merry way and enjoy your weekend.

Tina Emerson Ortiz: Hi everyone, my name is **Tina Emerson Ortiz**. For those of you that don't know me, I am this year's Politics and Governance Student Association President for the 2025-2026 academic year. I am here with a few of my Executive Members who I am going to ask to introduce themselves before we start as they are going to be helping me do this presentation.

Alyssa Boodram: Hi everyone, my name is **Alyssa**, and I am the Vice President of Academics for this academic year.

Tina Emerson Ortiz: This trip is overall an exceptional experience for students to gain insight into Canadian policymaking, government affairs, and cultural immersion. It's a four day and three night trip taking place from April 27th to April 30th with 32 students across the whole Faculty of Arts. The trip is going to be costing \$23,193.48 in total. The Ottawa exploration trip promises a well-rounded experience, blending education, engagement, and leisure. It also creates lasting memories for TMU students. A few goals we have for this trip include providing an in-depth experience of the federal government to work with members of parliament. To provide students with experiential learning opportunities for a real-life experience of Ottawa, career/lifestyle, and it also aims to enhance students' knowledge about politics and creating friendship. Overall, this trip is taking everything that we have learned in the classroom as politics students, seeing it firsthand, and gaining experience, not only as politics students but everyone across the entire Faculty of Arts. On our agenda today, we have the tentative itinerary, selection process, and financing.

Alyssa Boodram: I am going to be going over our tentative itinerary as of date. This is our brief overview but I am going to be going a bit more in-depth of what we are planning on a day-to-day basis. Starting off on Monday April 27th, we are aiming to start pretty early in the morning. We were planning to ask students to get to TMU at 6:30am for a 6:45 boarding onto the bus and the bus will leave SLC at 7am. The bus will make one rest stop approximately halfway for students to either grab breakfast, maybe use the bathroom, and then we will be on our way to Ottawa. The trip starts off with a guided tour of Rideau Hall which will be approximately a 45 minute guided tour. Then we are going to head back onto the bus. We are going to head to our hotel which is still to be determined. We are going to get checked in where everyone is going to get their room key, students will have a chance to decompress before we head on to Byward. We are going to walk there, a very short walk. From the hotel, we are going to grab dinner as well as engaging in a group walk to Centennial Flame and Rideau Canal. Then, we are going to end the night with heading back to the hotel for our 10pm curfew. Our next day starts off pretty early as well with an 8:30 breakfast. We are then going to have a senate tour at 10am. This is a guided tour followed by a House of Commons tour shortly after at 11am. Students will then break for lunch and then we will meet back for our MP panel. At 4pm, there will be a parliamentary immersive experience where students get to witness parliament firsthand and be able to walk through the chambers. We are going to end off the day at 5pm with a group dinner and dessert likely at the Market as well. 10pm curfew here as well. For Wednesday, we are starting off a little bit later at 9:30am with breakfast followed by a bit of free time before 12:30pm which is when we are going to engage in a 45 minute Supreme Court tour. Following this, students will be able to witness a question period firsthand so they will be able to see the first stages of policy development. This will take place approximately at 2:15pm and shortly followed after the National Gallery of Canada which will be a

self-guided tour by the students. Then students will have an hour of free time before we meet up again for escape manor which will be a group escape room as well as group dinner. 10pm curfew will end the night there. For our last day Thursday April 30th, we are aiming for a 9am breakfast and students getting their bags back onto the bus. Then the bus will take a bus to the Canadian Museum of History for a self-guided tour. Students will be able to grab a bite and also be able to relax because this is a self-guided tour before we head back onto the bus for our long journey back to TMU. Once again, there will be a rest stop halfway and we are aiming to get back to TMU for approximately 8:30pm.

Tina Emerson Ortiz:: Before we move onto the next part of the agenda which is the selection process, we want to emphasize that POGSA is committed to upholding the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout the duration of this trip. We invite TMU's diverse community of students to join us on this trip. The hotel and coach bus are also accommodating to students with physical accessibility needs. Furthermore, our events are located in accessible government buildings. We wish to accommodate a wide range of students and make this experience as accessible as possible. As such, POGSA is subsidizing the cost of the trip to provide financial aid to our students to increase participation and ensure most and/or all of our students have the opportunity to attend. Now the selection process. We have decided to divide the selection process into steps. The first thing on our list is to confirm six POGSA Executives which we already have checked. Our second step, after getting approval from SASSH, is to host two information sessions and these are tentative dates that we have on here that were very similar to the dates we did last year for our information sessions. After that, we are going to be opening and monitoring Google Forms and choosing 32 Arts students, including POGSA Executives, on a randomized basis to ensure an equal chance for everyone. Our last step is the \$75 fee that everyone has to pay by the tentative date of March 30th through SASSH's website. The students who miss this deadline will lose their spot and it will be given to the next person on the waitlist, we do have the option for a waitlist. Our next steps after SASSH's approval are the information sessions and Google Forms, the interest forms via Google Forms. After the students are chosen, we will be sending out rooming forms and also a form for them to choose their dinner for the escape manor. The third thing is the waiver forms. We have two waiver forms, one of them is a liability waiver on health and safety and the other one is a financial waiver form in case a student needs it. Next step, for students to agree for terms and conditions and attend a mandatory training session before the trip. We have done it last year and we also got one member from SASSH to also do a code of conduct session as well. The last thing we have on our next steps is after the trip, we want to gather feedback from attendees so we can make sure that next year's trip is even better.

MK: I am going to be covering the financing for hotels, transportation, events, emergency funds, etc. Let's start with transportation. I reached out to three different companies for quotes. The first is Canada Tours Coach LTD also known as Coach Lovers. They are offering us a payment of \$5,401.40. In terms of methods of payment, they accepted credit card, e-transfer, and bank transfer based on their EFTs. The price listed includes tax and I gave specific notice to each of the companies of the itinerary. The place may very well be subject to change depending on those adjustments if necessary. The second company that I reached out to is bus.com and the quote that they gave me was \$5,763. They only accept credit card payments with an additional deposit of 10% so that equals to \$576 for every seat as they require such by the company policy. Our last option is King Charters and theirs comes to \$7,684. They accept multiple forms of payment including credit card, interac/e-transfer, and bank transfer/EFT payment. This quote expires on January 1st 2026 and the quote includes the driver, fuel cost, and insurance costs. However, as a customer, we would have to provide driver's hotel accommodation and parking. For hotels and accommodations, I reached out to five different places. We unfortunately could not get a quote for the one that we were hoping for but we are still hoping to get that information as soon as possible. In the meantime, we got responses from four other places and I'll go through each one. The Andaz Ottawa Byward Market quoted us for \$239 per night. 16 rooms, 2 beds, and unfortunately an April reservation would not qualify for group booking unless we did it through their website which is an option. It was not

letting me get eight rooms available unfortunately so we would have to go through the system of the others. Compared to the last two years, the cost rate was \$310 per month. The total cost would be \$12,963.36 for this one. Then, Arc the Hotel, it'll just be \$179 per night and this again is 16 rooms. However, they did not have a double bed option. They are only able to offer us one bed per room at the moment. The rooms feature Wi-Fi, those that complement it, and an on-site restaurant that opens daily from 7-11am for breakfast and a fitness center, and the total cost is \$9,708.96 for this one. The third option we have here is the Hilton Garden Inn, Ottawa, and it's \$249 per night. 16 rooms and two queen bed occupancy. However, this price has already been held until December 17th. Breakfast is not included and it's only available at an additional fee of \$33.35 with tax and gratuity included. This is the same rate as they were going to get last year and the total cost is \$13,505.76. For the Alt Hotel Ottawa, it's a rate of \$287 per night. This would go from their website and it's 16 rooms for 2 queen beds per room. We received the rate from the hotel site and the breakfast comes at an additional cost of \$15-20 per person so it is not including the breakfast fee and comes to a total cost of \$15,599.42 whereas last year's rate actually increased this year. For the activities portion, there were four that we were hoping for from the SASSH. The guided tour of the National Gallery of Ottawa, which the solo amount that we were looking for was \$144.64 from the National Gallery of Ottawa. The cost per person is \$4 a ticket. The self-guided tour of the Canadian Museum of History. The cost per ticket is \$10.50 so including tax and everything, it came up to a total of \$379.68. Next, we have the escape room from Escape Manor which is something we did last year as well and everyone really enjoyed. The total cost would be \$1,175 for that and \$32.50 per person and there is an additional cost for the group dinner that we are also hoping to host which is \$2,079.20 total. The final slide is for our MP panels and our emergency fund. For the MP panel, we are hoping to get parliamentary catering. We don't have an exact number on this yet so it could increase or the price could vary in that sense. We are hoping for a minimum of \$300 to spend where we were going to place an order for light refreshments at the panel for approximately 32 attendees. We are required to place the order with parliamentary catering and we cannot go to an external source for the catering unfortunately. Below that, we would like to purchase gifts for the MPs and the gifts would range between \$25-30 per MP. We are hoping to create a small gift bundle which would include a TMU coffee tumbler, a POGSA lanyard, an \$8 Lindor chocolate bag, and a \$5 thank you card. Below that, we have an emergency fund at \$500 and this will be strictly used only for emergencies.

Tina Emerson Ortiz: I am going to briefly go through some testimonials. This has been a POGSA is not only known for but has been praised for many years. We have a quote from a participant in 2019 who has said the Ottawa trip was a critical part of their learning experience where they met with friends and where they met with people working in politics whose connection helped them land their first political campaign job. We then have an attendant from 2024 who said that she really enjoyed the MP panel, participation in question period, and the escape room activity plus dinner. The MP panel was a great networking experience and the question period activity was an amazing opportunity for her to listen in on governmental affairs and current events that parliament is focused on. She really enjoyed the escape room and dinner because of it. We also have some pictures included below from two years of the trip. Notable mentioned last year, we were actually able to run into **Mark Carney** at Rideau Hall which was our first stop. That is something that would be great if it happened again but that is definitely a highlight of the trip that we are hoping to have more highlights if it was to happen this year. Overall, POGSA is asking you for \$23,193.48 however the actual cost estimated for SASSH is \$18,714.28. This comes marked down because of the financing last year where we got our group dinner and escape manor all paid for by our Politics and Governance department as well as other fees here and there. The majority of the cost for SASSH therefore came from the hotel and the coach/bus fees as well as our House of Commons and Senate Tour. We hope that SASSH is going to give us this money so that we can enable us to access new streams and pursue involvement in government, government affairs, and to get real life experience and reveal all beyond the classroom. All of the events that make up this trip will assume an engagement in the form similar to that in the field, the trinkets, the field learning experiences, and the opportunity to observe professions within our field. This

will also show an opportunity for students to look into careers in their own industries. Thank you so much for listening.

Item 4.1 - POGSA Ottawa Trip Funding [Question and Discussion Period] (6:38PM)

CC: Thank you so much POGSA for your presentation. SASSH, now is the time to ask any questions to our wonderful POGSA guests about the presentation. Please wait until you are called to speak. We are going to start with **AL** and then go to **LPL**.

AL: Thank you so much POGSA, **Tina**, and everyone for this amazing presentation. I always love the Ottawa trip. I went on it twice. I do have a question when it comes to the finances. Just to clear some questions in my head. Are you also applying for SIF funding as well or is it just mainly from the politics department as well as SASSH?

Tina Emerson Ortiz: We are only applying for SASSH and also from the POG department. SIF has a limit for the amount of time that a Student Group can ask for money, we have asked for the previous two years for SIF to cover a few things for the trip. There is also the option of TMSU and we don't really want to go through the reimbursement process or anything TMSU related for any type of reason. We want to stick to SASSH funding as well as the POG department who usually cover the dinner.

LPL: Great presentation guys. I just wanted to get some clarity on some language. You said you were going to subsidize the trip cost fully for students but later in the presentation it shows that students still have to pay a \$75 fee. Is that something that is mandatory and unavoidable or is that part of the subsidization as well?

Tina Emerson Ortiz: The subsidization is more specifically for the students who need the financial waiver but the \$75 has been paid in the past so we want to keep on charging that but we do want SASSH to get that money back at least. The subsidization is more for the students who need the financial waiver and cannot afford the trip.

LPL: My second question is how would the randomization process be done?

Tina Emerson Ortiz: Last year, we did it through a randomizer wheel. Obviously it is a randomization process but for example, if we get more guys than girls on the trip it wouldn't really make sense, at least not in the Faculty of Arts, where there are more women than men. We do shift things if the randomization process is not fair towards for example for the women to men ratio.

CC: Any other questions from anyone on the Board? All right, if not thank you so much again POGSA for your presentation. You folks are now able to leave the meeting and start your weekend early. A member of the SASSH Board will be in touch with you in the future with the decision so thank you folks so much. Good luck with exams and happy holidays. Do I have a seconder? **AL**.

AL: I really support this trip. I mean, I have been on it twice. Last year, I was on POGSA as the Deputy of External and Internal Affairs and I saw most of the process of the trip and how it went so they are really rigorous in how they apply their budgets and how they plan their trip. They have a plan A, B, C, D, and lots of others. I believe what they are doing is amazing. I know they have been doing it since 2019 so for the past 7 years roughly so I definitely support that they should get their funding.

MM: The POGSA trip has been successful for so many years before, it just makes sense that it would happen again. I also wanted to say that they are asking for less money than they did before. The trip total is costing even less than it did last year, which I think is a really good thing. I believe it was \$400 less. I feel like the breakdown was done well.

JAG: Just a reminder that if you are planning to perhaps apply for a spot on this trip, to be mindful of how many trips you have been on as a previous Board Member and also if you are going to apply, please abstain from voting. As a reminder, all these meeting minutes are public.

CC: Thank you **JAG**. Any final comments or concerns? No? Then we will go ahead and move to a vote.

Item 4.2 - POGSA Ottawa Trip Funding [Voting Period] (6:44PM)

INITIAL VOTE

Motioned by: CC Seconded by: AL
In Favour: 7 Against: 0 Abstentions: 7

VOTING ON PROCEEDING WITH MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Motioned by: CC Seconded by: RV
In Favour: 14 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

VOTE OF RECONSIDERATION

Motioned by: CC Seconded by: AL
In Favour: 8 Against: 0 Abstentions: 6

Item 5.0 - Trip Retroactive Funding Request [Presentation] (6:46PM)

CC: Next item on the agenda is retroactive funding for trip request. There are also a couple of documents in the agenda for you folks to open and refer to.

Sydney Jinjoe: Hello sorry I just had to step out for a moment.

CC: No problem. Hi **Sydney**, how are you? Welcome to the SASSH Board Meeting. My name is **CC** and I Chair the SASSH Board. I am just here to make sure that the meetings run smoothly and everyone's treated fairly during presentations, question periods, and things like that. I understand you have retroactive funding for a trip for us this afternoon.

Sydney Jinjoe: Yes. I shared the slides with **SX**, do you need me to upload it on my screen or are you able to manage the screen sharing on your end?

SX: Whatever is best for you. You have sharing access so if you would like to share it on your own that is completely fine but I could also share it if you need.

Sydney Jinjoe: The funding request that I have is for my trip from December 2nd - 4th to the EFAO which is the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario Conference. I submitted our request originally to SASSH preemptive funding however they were not able to find a meeting for me to pitch to the group before the conference happened. I chose to kind of take a risk and hope that I could retroactively reimburse it which is really great because it was a really incredible experience. I am an Undergraduate student in my second year, I am a mature student so I am coming back to school. I am in the EUS program so it makes sense that ecological farming would be something adjacent to my discipline. I am interested in pursuing urban growing as my career path going forward so I had a lot of interest in going to the EFAO Conference. What is the EFAO? The EFAO is a member-led organization that focuses on farmer-led research community building and information sharing. They are a wonderful organization that does a lot of environmentally conscious farming and social practices. It really aligns with the program in it and in fact, I would love to work for EFAO one day. They kept the conference in London and it was about 14 speakers so there was a lot of knowledge shared and a lot of opportunities for networking with others. This was the projected budget, I actually sent **SX** the receipts and it totals pretty much the exact amount and expenses. The conference included meals which were really great. There was no alcohol so it was very much a work-focused trip. I split this into two slides to explain the benefits to myself as a student as well as benefits to the University of my peers. In regards to my own academic and career benefits, I was able to access new knowledge in regards to growing mechanisms, carbon sequestration, and nitrogen management, all really important concepts for making, farming, and growing food and agriculture, a more sustainable industry. There was a lot of discussion and things that I can implement into the growing mediums I'm doing here. I also was able to network with a bunch of different researchers and potential employers. I talked to folks at the Master students, patients, professors at the University, I actually met folks at TMU that I didn't know before, folks from UofT, folks from Trent, as well as talking to researchers at EFAO and a couple of different farmers for potential partnerships in the future. I'm really interested in doing a research trial in the summer regarding biomediation with mushrooms and so talking to these folks who are doing farm research was really helpful for understanding how I would structure that experiment in the summer. I was able to talk to people who had done similar work with questions before, it was really great to connect with people who were doing that part now. I also wanted to talk about why it had a benefit to my peers. Because I have not requested money from the school, I wanted to talk about how it is not just benefiting me but the knowledge I require is really helpful for a project I am trying to work on right now. Remediating some of the gardens and landscaping around campus, particularly the parts of Nelson Mandela Walk that are not part of the pollinator garden. The land is super compacted and the soil is super bare. I have been talking about getting a student working group to pack soil and then add native wooden plants which is a difficult process but this was in there. There is so much to talk about that people are learning from others who are focusing on helpful things. I was able to connect with other girls and researchers. There are also ways to connect with the future research projects which would look good on TV if I had a publication credit. The fact that TV supported in this future research Board which continues to support the reputation of TMU. Questions?

Item 5.1 - Trip Retroactive Funding Request [Question and Discussion Period] (6:54PM)

CC: Thanks so much **Sydney**. SASSH folks, now is your opportunity to ask any questions about the presentation. I am seeing a lot of applause. I am not seeing any questions so thank you again for your presentation and you are welcome to head out and enjoy the rest of your day and weekend and the SASSH Board will be in touch with you with the decision in the coming weeks.

RV: I think this is a really cool opportunity. It is also very cheap. We have, in the past, funded many students to go to many conferences and all of them have received so much praise for their work that they have done here at TMU and in

the Faculty of Arts. I am more than happy to fund the student. I kind of understand topics that surround a degree but it also allows them to kind of push what it means to be a student in the Faculty of Arts and also the help that SASSH has provided. It's good for them and it's good for us. There are many positives here, no negatives. I am more than happy to just fully fund this.

LPL: In the past, when we funded people for conferences, have those been also personal endeavours where they just buy a ticket?

MM: Just responding to **LPL** directly. The main thing that we did not do is a car rental. That's the only thing in this situation that is different is that she is asking for us to cover the car share which is transportation to London but I don't think that it's that high and I think we can go past that.

Item 5.2 - Trip Retroactive Funding Request [Voting Period] (6:57PM)

Motioned by: CC Seconded by: RV
In Favour: 14 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

Item 6.0 - Honorary President Presentation [Presentation] (7:00PM)

Wolf (Omar Allison): Hello! How is everyone dosing this morning? Is it exam time or are exams after the holidays?

LPL: Some of us are done and some of us are still in exams. So we are either really locked in or really checked out. There is a wide spectrum in this call I think.

Wolf (Omar Allison): Just a little bit about myself for everyone who's meeting me for the first time. I'm meeting most of you for the first time. My name is **Omar**. My full name is **Omar Allison**. Most people call me **Wolf**. Maybe I'll share why, maybe I won't; we'll see how that goes. I'm doing a lot right now. So, my full-time job right now: I'm Head of Recruiting for the Canadian Armed Forces for Toronto. I really do go around; I talk to schools, I talk to students, teachers, staff, parents, everybody, about the opportunities in the Forces. I've been in the Forces for about 11 years now. By trade, I'm an infantry soldier, so what that means is, what most people think the army is—that's what I've done for a bit. So, the jumping out of planes and doing all that cool stuff. It's fun one or two times, but not so fun when you're a little older and your knees start to feel it. Now, I'm a Sergeant, so I teach quite a bit, and I go to schools and I talk to kids. How that kind of came about: Outside of that, I run a nonprofit organization called Mental Balance, which focuses on men's mental health. I go to schools and organizations and talk about how men can be seen in their day-to-day lives as normal but are dealing with a lot on their minds. That started in the most unconventional way possible. Unfortunately—or fortunately, depending on how you look at it—I grew up with a twin brother. I was a twin for about 26 years. My twin brother was actually killed in 2018 when I was away with the army for a bit here in Toronto. I lost my mind; I went insane. I was really struggling with my mental health in that regard. I lost a lot of friends just because I couldn't handle my emotions around the whole situation. I stopped working for a bit, and then I just realized that this thing that, you know, culturally growing up, called "feelings" wasn't really appreciated in my household. It was more of a "drink tea or ginger ale and solve your problems" approach. I realized that the power of the mind is so, so important because, through those days, I really did have a few thoughts of committing suicide or, you know, killing other people. But I walked myself through it. I got into reading a lot. My time in the army helped me, so I was able to pull myself out of it during a very hard time. And now, I teach other people how to do the same, especially

the young boys in the city right now. As you all probably are aware, Toronto's in a bad place, not just because of the violence, but the economy, the snow, everything. We're in a bad, bad place right now. It's going to take the community to build that again. So that's what I do today. I also own a printing and marketing company. We print everyone's things. The school board and the Toronto Board are two of my biggest clients. We print spirit wear, grad sweaters, a bunch of things like that, staff wear—anything they're trying to do, my team prints it. And we offer marketing around it as well, because, as you all may know, you can have an amazing product, but if you don't do proper marketing, you won't sell anything. But if you have a terrible product and you do amazing marketing, you actually sell quite a bit. That's just how things go. A little background on my education: I was a soccer player for a place in town. I went away to school in the States on a scholarship. Obviously, that did not pan out because I'm sitting here talking to you all. So I did not turn out to be Ronaldo or Messi; I'm here. I went to school in New York for two years. I would say that I still wasn't ready to be away from home and in the States. So I came back. At the time, I couldn't live in Toronto because it was just going to be a very big distraction. So, UofT and Ryerson at the time were definitely where I was scared to go. I just needed to be away. So, I went to a treacherously cold place called Sudbury, and I went to Laurentian University. I did four years in the winter wonderland, and I learned a lot about myself, because boy, is it ever cold over there. Actually, you know what? It's colder here, but it snows more there, if that makes sense. The snow is actually a lot there. I was doing COVID learning long before COVID was a thing. I was sending emails to the teacher saying, "Hey, there's too much snow outside. I cannot make my way to school, so just send me the work." And we had a little banter back and forth with that. I graduated with a Law and Justice degree. I used to want to be a lawyer for quite some time. I still dream about it here and there, but because I'm an athlete, and when I finished playing soccer, the army did great recruiting on me, and they convinced me to join. If I knew what I know today, I would have just joined earlier. I might not even have gone to school, just because of the housing market. If I had joined when I was 17, and I had the money to acknowledge that the housing market was going to be ruinous today, I would have gone straight to work, bought two houses, and then sold them and been a realtor—one of those people. My time in Sudbury taught me so, so much. I would say that it saved my life for sure. I learned how to articulate myself with people that were outside of my culture and my community. I became friends with people who I wouldn't have hand-picked at the time, and it really just introduced me to perspective and different ways of thinking and enjoying life. In Sudbury, your ten-year-old boy is hunting. In Toronto, your ten-year-old boy is playing, like—I don't know what you all call it, but when I was young it was called "Micki Niki Nindor." What is that? When you ring a doorbell and you run away? Is that called, like, "Ditch-a-Dush" or something like that? I don't know what people call it. But the point is, two cities, same kids, same as you, do different things, and you learn a lot. I gained a love for country music. I never would have thought I'd be into country music, but you know what? I love it. It's not bad. It has a couple head-nodders there; I can get with it a little bit. But the biggest thing that stuck with me was perspective. And understanding that, especially if you want to be rich or anything like that, you need to learn that your community alone is not the only community out there. There are so many people with different perspectives on life, and it can really bring you to a point of success, because a lot of the work I do today is solely because I can communicate with so many different people and bring a bunch of different opportunities to the table. I think someone said, "Ding-dong ditching." Yes, yes, that's what we did. It was fun. People didn't have the door cameras and stuff they have now, so you did it with success. Now, it doesn't really make sense to do that. You might as well just say hi to the person at that point. I'm very, very honored. I'm sad that Andre's not here right now, but what I will say is, the social sciences and those degrees really do kind of communicate with how people think and how people view the world and stuff. One of the biggest things I'll say to you right now is, life has become a space that is not so much about what you know, but a lot more to do with who you know and how you leave impressions on people and how you communicate with people. I don't know what I did with **AS** but he presented this idea and said it was a great opportunity. I know where it was from, but I'm very, very thankful. I would have loved to give him his praises in front of you all, but he did a great job with that. Regardless of me and the opportunity we have here, he is definitely a very strong part of your organization based on the opportunity he's bringing. So SASSH, I did a

lot of research, actually, quite a bit. One of the biggest things I will say, based on just the community space alone, everything that I do in my life is geared towards community. The biggest things for me are not just creating the opportunity, but my focus right now is creating opportunities and then putting people in place so that people can see themselves in these opportunities. Because I can bring an opportunity for you; I say, "Hey, join the Forces right now." But if I bring just, let's say, a bunch of—I don't think I see a South Asian gentleman here—okay, cool. Let's say if I bring one an army full of South Asian men, then nobody in here would have seen themselves as that. That's actually what happens quite a bit today in the Forces. They do a lot of recruiting engagements, and it's just a bunch of Caucasian men. And I'm like, "You guys are going to Jane and Finch, to Rexdale, to Scarborough, and you're trying to recruit, and these people cannot see themselves in that role." So, creating opportunity—we can do that tomorrow. But seeing people within that opportunity is one of the most important things as well. So, we create the opportunity, then we plug people in who are relatable to the community we're trying to create the opportunity with, then we build the connection. So, obviously introducing you all to a judge—"Hey, I'm working with SASSH, and they have this organization, and we want them to see judges that look like them, or lawyers that look like them, or police officers that look like them." So, creating that connection. And then the biggest thing is, building the confidence. I don't know how many of you have ever felt imposter syndrome before. When I first became a soldier, I didn't really care. I was like, "Oh, I'm a soldier, hippity-hoppity." Because when you're a Private or Corporal, you're just kind of doing what you're told to do. But as soon as I became a Master Corporal and now a Sergeant, and I'm in rooms with Captains and Generals, and none of them are Black, I'm like, "Okay, well, should I say how I really feel about this plan that this Captain has brought forth? Should I really speak my mind?" In those spaces, you'll think less of yourself just because you don't see someone like you. Just because you might not have seen anybody in that space like you, now you feel like maybe you don't belong, like the "fake it 'til you make it" has got me this far, but do I actually belong here? So, building that confidence is so important. I know that with my leadership skills and the community spaces, we're very, very much aligned. The real-world connections are important as well. I think—if I can say this, because I've done university to university, much like high school, is great. One of the things I don't think that it prepares you for, and what you guys seem to be working on, is that community relationship engagement piece, because we're all book-heavy focused. We're reading, we're doing all that stuff. Then once you leave, the job says, "Hey, where's your four years of experience?" or "Where's your... what have you done in this time?" The connection of getting to know people and having someone that can maybe say, "Hey, like, I know someone..." Basically, if my dad owns a construction company, I don't really have to worry about a job after because I know somebody. How many times have you heard somebody say, "Well, don't worry, I know someone, and that's why I got the job," or maybe a counterpart is like, "Yeah, like, I got a job because my mom works at a law firm or does this and does that." A lot of people with our culture or background may not have those opportunities simply because they don't know someone. And I promise you, they're probably more fit for the job than the person who knows someone. But we aren't provided the same opportunities because we don't know the person next door; we don't know that person. So what I can say is, I'm the guy who knows a lot of people. So I'm definitely excited to bring a lot of people to the organization. I definitely think it's a good opportunity, not just for you all, but, you know, when we look at push/pull, it's an opportunity for me as well, because you are the future. And no matter what anyone thinks, if you plan on sustaining your role for a little longer, or your business for a little longer, you definitely have to pay attention to who will be the future leaders. I was looking at some of the backgrounds in all of you—the third-year and fourth-year universities—you're next in line to create magic. So it just makes sense to introduce you to the people who kind of hold the keys to the secret chambers and go from there. Did anybody catch that reference? My friends, they question me sometimes, but oh my days, am I a Harry Potter fan. How could you not, with the snow and everything? It's just... And again, it's funny because Harry Potter got me through university. I've had some rough days in that snow, and I just put on Harry Potter, and it made me feel amazing. The next thing is, are any of you familiar with how sororities and fraternities work in the States? The only thing about being Canadian that really isn't the best—our universities versus American universities—we're very different. The universities in the States

are much more business-oriented. That's how they make money. That's how they give out scholarships. And that's how they are successful just from a standpoint of what they can offer the students. Now, the key is, how do we make SASH get to a point where students feel like they won't be successful if they don't join the organization? If you look at—I want to say Barack Obama was an honorary president, which is ironic; I looked him up the other day. He was honorary president for a fraternity. And there are a few NBA players, a few actors, a few notable people on both sides, sorority and fraternity. They were part of these organizations, and they said, "Hey, this organization changed my life and helped me get to where I'm at." And now, they in turn come back as alumni, and they donate to the organization. So what I would like to see SASH become is that part of TMU where everybody there feels like they have to be a part of that organization, at least in the social sciences and humanities. To be a part of this organization means "I will more likely be successful." So, how do we kind of cultivate that community, that culture, where people feel like, "I need to be a part of this organization. I need to give it my all so that I can be successful"? And then, when they reach success, now this is the connector: you all being alumni. The key is to come back and pay it forward now. SASH has done so much for you. You've benefited from it. So when you leave now, don't just leave everybody in the dust. Come back and donate. Come back and speak to the cause—those kinds of things. I'm not sure if you're doing that already, but that's a big part of growth, because people need to really feel like, "Hey, that girl, she's now like an MP or a candidate for Prime Minister or whatever it is, and they're part of this organization." All it takes is one. And I'm looking at about 13, 14 brilliant minds here. So one of you needs to lock in and make it happen so that we can put your face on a poster for the rest of the year. That's how that works. Now, in regards to the vision, as I said before, mental wellness—and I like to put "mental wellness" and not "health"—is extremely important to me. Because I can tell you right now, as bright as you are academically, if your mind isn't in a safe space, if you don't feel comfortable, if you're dealing with something and it's not being acknowledged or appreciated, you won't be able to create your magic. Or better yet, you might turn into Lord Voldemort and create dark magic, and that also is a thing. People can literally create insane things, but for negative reasons, because they weren't properly taking care of their mental health. As long as you all plan on keeping mental health and community peace together, I don't see how this cannot work in any regard. Again, with or without me, if your organization keeps the two at the forefront, you will be successful no matter what, because people need to feel seen, feel heard. If students feel seen for good, they'll do more for you. They will actually give you their all, as long as they feel like you care about them. That's one of the biggest things that I recently changed. We're going through a huge class action lawsuit—tell nobody—but the army is now in a space where we've put mental health at the forefront, and a lot of people are coming forward saying how they've been feeling, how they didn't feel like it was, let's say, the toxic masculine thing to do to speak about their feelings. Unfortunately, I had to leave a whole conversation about my feelings in front of big guys who I thought did not care. Transparently, I felt like they would judge me a little bit more, because my brother was involved in things he shouldn't have been and he was killed, and I didn't want them to look at me like that was also me. So I really felt like I was putting my career on the line, only to find out that everybody was feeling this way. So, this is why we have conversations to create that safe space. And because of my rank, I was able to do that. So now I want you all to think: you're in your third year, you're in your fourth year, you're going to be alumni soon. Please feel free to speak your truth, because I promise you, somebody else will go through, unfortunately, what you've gone through, and more, if not, are going through it right now and just don't feel like it's a safe space to speak. So, I think that kind of sums up... well, I'm all right. I think I'm pretty well-rounded on this. I just wanted you all to know that I'm very, very honored. I'm honored to sit amongst such amazing students and future leaders so that if you become Prime Minister, you remember me, and we go for it. Cool. That's it for me.

Item 6.1 - Honorary President Presentation [Question and Discussion Period] (7:26PM)

CC: Thank you **Wolf**. SASSH folks, if anyone has any quick questions about the wonderful intro and presentation we just heard or just any comments in general?

RV: Thank you so much for the presentation. My name is **RV** and I am the SASSH President for this year. A lot of what the Honorary President has done in the past was to maintain communications usually from the last President. It was monthly meetings with the Honorary President. My question going forwards is that you have talked a lot about mental health and making sure mental wellness, and making sure that, as a student body, not just the people you see in front of you but the members or a membership, which is the entire Faculty of Arts, ensuring that they are able to make sure that they are being catered to in ways that support mental wellness throughout the university experience. My question is what would you see yourself collaborating with us on in terms of initiatives that deal with mental wellness here at the Faculty of Arts?

Wolf (Omar Allison): Right away, I see that you guys have two Galas. I love Galas. Actually, that is why I should have my presentation but I run a mental health Gala every year in October. Now, men's mental health is in June and then there is something for world mental health in November or something. I could have done it in either of those months but I did it in October. I am just going to be as transparent as possible with you so you understand the weight. I did it in October because my birthday is in October. I did it because anytime my birthday comes around, that is the first time I think about my twin brother. Everyone kept asking why in October, when we do it, we do it the first Saturday after my birthday so for the last three years, where we have had the Gala, my birthday was on a Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. This year will be our 10 year anniversary for Hybrid Guards which is the clothing brand that my brother started. My birthday also falls on a Saturday this year, so it's a lot of alignment. I'd say that we should have an event with a panel type of discussion. It's always the best where people can interact and somebody doesn't have to be me. Anybody could tell their story, and get the crowd to really feel, because one thing is for sure, I know that humanity and stuff connect how we think with how society thinks, and how we view each other. But there's still a business part of there that the humanities kind of needs to understand, which is, you win minds by telling real authentic stories, and people will want to hear it, and they'll feel more comfortable. So, you must, and I say you must, because it's pretty self expansive why you should do this, but think about the first years of University students coming in and how do we get them to understand what the organization is about and how much we actually care about mental health? You do a panel, they get free t-shirts or something which my printing company can also do for us, but we will talk about that at a later date. They sit there and they will hear a story. And the story will bring tears, yeah, it'll bring some emotions, but I understand that, um, through this pain, I was able to build something amazing, and they all can do that, too, and they can change, they can change worlds, and minds, literally, with their story. There's a quote that says, one day, you're gonna tell somebody your story, and pieces of your story will become a part of their toolkit for life. So they may not necessarily relate to everything, but they'll take pieces out, and they'll put it in the toolbox for their own mind, and when they need to pull on it, they'll open the toolbox and remember you. I think that sounds like the best way to go. Because I have my own mental organization, by the way for our Gala the last three years, we did 550 people + all three years. People really do believe in what we're doing on this side, and, um, it is sad to see how many people do relate to that kind of pain and that kind of trauma. Um, but nonetheless, we have to create space so that people know they're not alone. Here and overseas, I see how important it is just to speak. Just even tell a story. And I know none of you, and, trust me, I'm still **Sergeant Allison, Mr. Wolf**, and I still hold a bit of toxic masculine when it comes to being emotionally vulnerable, but I do, I would hate to look at this screen of people, and then, you know, one day, one of you are not humour, because we didn't speak about this. So, I hope that answers your question.

SB: Hi! I'm **SB**. The Director of Sociology. Really great meeting you. I really loved your presentation about mental health because I am really passionate about that as well as someone who also struggled and still struggles with mental

health. Just relating it back to being black as well. It's really inspiring seeing a black man in a room and institution talking about your story. Just going back to what **RV** said, because that was essentially my question, how you wanted us to essentially collaborate with you on mental health. **AL** and I are thinking of doing an event for Bell Let's Talk Day so we were wondering if you would be willing to contribute in some way when we plan out the logistics and everything? I think the way you teach and tell stories is really important. If **LPL** is okay with this because I know his committee is planning for black history month but I think it is really important for black men especially to have someone who looks like them telling them stories about mental health.

Wolf (Omar Allison): I'm glad you brought up Bell. I do have a connection there so that we can talk about that. I am going to be honest with you guys. I don't really get into the bigger companies kind of exploiting when it is a convenient time to say Bell Let's Talk or mental health or things like that. I think because I have to play on the business side too I understand that companies take advantage of certain things but the same reason why I don't have our mental organization Gala in June is because mental health is every single day. A lot of people may not use Bell; they might use Rogers or other providers. But especially for Black men, we don't feel a connection to initiatives like Bell Let's Talk Day. The question is, what is Bell doing the rest of the year, especially in the wintertime when I'm really feeling it? So, I want you to also think about how we can change that narrative from "it's just this one time" to "how do we make it ongoing?" That is a challenge because, yeah, I've worked with Bell and done it all, but now that I'm where I'm at in life, I really see who truly cares. Who really cares? It's not always what it seems; it's unfortunate, but it is all just money for some people, and for others, it's very, very real. Of course, I support reaching out to my connections to see if they have a connection with Bell because that's still pretty big for the university to have, regardless of my personal beliefs. That's also something I want you all to know, because, as a soldier, we do very well with excluding how we personally feel versus what's going on, and that's very important for business as you all transform into that. Sometimes your personal feelings and what is happening can be two different things, and you can respect the other while still holding your dignity and what you believe in, so you don't have to compromise yourself. But you have to separate the personal sometimes and realize that, "Hey, I don't care for it, but the university could do really well with Bell," and I would definitely build that bridge, no problem, regardless of how I feel.

LPL: Thanks so much for the presentation, it was great. I love the initiatives you do. I am, as you can see, the Vice President of Events so we can do a lot of networking related things. We have an upcoming event in February called Celebrating Success where we hope to bring TMU alumni and perhaps other professionals depending on how the rest of our events calendar looks going forward. I wanted to see if you could speak to more of your network and who you are able to bring to these kinds of events.

Wolf (Omar Allison): We're working on an event right now as well. In partnership, we threw the idea out to the Peel District and Toronto District, and they're fighting over who should have the first one, but basically, we're doing an event where Black students can see Black professionals in positions that they probably might not usually see. In particular, we have a pretty big judge coming, we have a lawyer; obviously, I'm in the forces, but I brought someone in from the Navy. We also have the Staff Sergeant of the Peel Regional Police Internal Unit, which includes SWAT. We have someone from CSIS—so you all know CSIS is like the Canadian FBI—so anything in that world, we have access to. Now, on the business side, yeah, I have people who are doing very well with their companies, and we can definitely get someone from any of the Rogers or Bells or things like that. So, it's really how you guys want to proceed with this. That's great to hear, just to know that you have such a wide network to choose from. Thanks so much. Yeah, of course, and listen, feel free, all of you, to just ask. The worst I can say is one: no, or two: I don't have it, but this idea of "closed mouths don't get fed" is a real thing, so just ask; we can explore it, and maybe if I don't have it, I'll question why I don't have it, and I'll be able to look into it.

LPL: That's great. Just to know that you have a great wide network to choose from. It's great to hear, thank you so much.

Wolf (Omar Allison): Of course. Listen, all of you feel free to just ask. The worst I can say is 1 no or 2 I don't have it but this idea of closed mouths don't get fed is a real thing, so just ask, we can explore it, and maybe if we don't have it, I'll question why I don't have it and I will be able to look at it. With the Mental Health Gala in specific. With all the gentlemen in the space right now, I want you to know that women run the world and it is what it is. Just understand that. And especially with the young boys in schools, their mental health does have a lot to do with how they think women view them. It's just how men are. We do things because we think women might think it's cooler or whatever it is. So we definitely have that conversation a lot about that. Now, I am Black and my mom is Black and we have a very good relationship. Most of the teachers on the Board are also Black. So a lot of our programs have to be ran around how they view themselves and how they view the relationship with men. We do a lot of collaborations. We're working with an organization right now called CareMasters. It's a female led organization, female Black led organization, and how they can help men support their mental health. That conversation is very, very rooted in how you're raised, how you're brought up. For instance, in the Black community, we have a divide just because let's say dad's not around for whatever reason, and mom's raising on her own, and she's going through a lot mentally, and now she becomes the strong Black woman, which the phrase that we don't want to push out at all. But how do we educate everyone else on what's going on in that community? And this is why the Bell Let's Talk thing is so funny because to understand the mental health part of things, it takes more than a month. You need a whole year to explore the cultural effect of how women were raised or how women are living in that society. You can't just wake up one day and say hey I am going to do Bell Let's Talk or do this for the Black community. The World Cup is coming and Jamaica's still fighting for their win in the World Cup. We are still trying to get there. But outside of being Jamaican, you know, you have the whole continent of Africa. Like, there's not just Jamaican people, there's Trinidadian people, there's Gani people. Nigerian people. And the same will go for the Middle Eastern community. Not realizing that every province, every country actually has its own way of thinking. I know for a fact, the South Indian community works the same way. Now, even when we want to get into colourism and the proximity to white and further from Black, I thought that was just a Black thing, but that's a South Asian thing. That is a Middle Eastern thing. It happens in other communities, but we all kind of act like it's just this one focus. So even diving into being gender diverse, and women, that's a conversation of who are we talking about specifically? Who do we want to talk about? Can we say all women will add up to this or all women will add up to that? And actually, I shouldn't have shown the presentation, but I sent it to **JAG**, but there's a picture of equality versus equity. I'm hoping you all know the difference. It's very very important to know that I can bring everybody to a soccer game right now. And there's a wall in front of us that I can see over the wall, because I am tall enough to see about the wall. And I brought this person to the soccer room, so they're equally there. They're there, but they're not tall enough to see where they're at. So, we have to put two boxes underneath their foot, so that not only do they equal, but the equities they like, they can see now over, we have to do a little bit more work for them to go to see the game. Yeah, they're there. You're scoring now, but do you all feel like you're equal in school? Do you all feel like you're seeing equally in school? Yeah, but you're all in school. So, one person might say, well, they're all at school. They all get the equal opportunity to learn. That's not true. Because people, they're not learning from the same, same, uh, same level. You know, like, if they don't see themselves there, they know, the teacher's gonna constantly be Caucasian, the Caucasian students may very well benefit from that. If the teacher's gonna, even if teachers me black, the black students may benefit from that. All of that stuff adds up, right? So, I think when we talk about women impact and diversity, even with men, it's very, very important to decide what we're doing here, specifically, and get very, very specific, because if you go very broad, and you try to encompass everybody, you might actually be hindering some people as well, because some people still may not be seen in that generic. So when we talk about mental health, if you

Google it right now and put it in account in Google, there's gonna be a mental health day for everything. There's a mental health day for men. It is a wellness day. So what are we actually doing? So I think brainstorming ideas and getting very specific, is extremely, extremely important. I hope that answers your question.

CC: Any final questions folks? Well, **Wolf**, on behalf of the SASSH Board, thank you so much for joining us this afternoon. Thank you for sharing your presentation and a little bit more about who you are and the work you do.

Wolf (Omar Allison): Okay, you guys have a great day. Again, regardless of where we go today, you all now know who I am. Feel free to reach out to me, even on your own if you're having troubles or problems with anything. You guys have a great day okay?

CC: Okay, folks, this is a voting matter on the agenda today to approve **Wolf** as the Honorary President. So like with all voting matters, I'll ask for a seconder. There's anyone who wants to start a conversation about the presentation.

MM: I think that was a great presentation. There were so many different dimensions of it that he had pushed on. He definitely did this whole work on what SASSH is, what we stand for, what we believe in so that's wonderful. I think that the biggest takeaway that I got from what he was speaking about is the fact that even though he's passionate about men's mental health, it's not his primary focus. It's mental health in general. This year, we've taken a huge wellness approach for the things that you've been doing. I know that for Corporate, when I reach out to companies, that's kind of something that I point at as the foreground, making sure that this is a company that aligns to wellness values and knows that academia is stressful and going through school is stressful and we want to kind of alleviate that stress for students. A lot of what we have been doing with the Corporate portfolio is aligning with that kind of bonus factor. DavidsTea for example, you drink a cup of tea and unwind. But all of those things are kind of around the main point of mental health. It's good and it supports wellness initiatives, but I feel like this is a more tangible way to prove that we care about mental health and that we can bring this resource to this person that has dealt with mental health tangibly in the workplace and knows the impacts that it has on people, even outside of university, bringing that perspective and teaching people or teaching our peers in university. Some ways to just look at mental health in such a way that it helps everyone around you instead of just preaching it through we offer counselling about the therapy, yes, but if we don't have those discussions ourselves on peer to peer basis, we don't feel fully supported. And I'm saying that because I've had many discussions with people around mental health and around wellness in university. Bringing products is amazing, you know, like the Nescafe, but we have piles of. It's amazing and it's a great thing, but it's also important to host conversations and bring a real mental health focus to people in real life. And we've never had an effect like that. We've never done anything like that before. I feel like that's just a good way to start.

SB: Just to go off of what AL was saying, I totally agree especially because it aligns with our SASSH values and mission, wellness is really important but I don't think wellness should just be centred on physical wellness, it should be centred on mental wellness as well. And so if SASSH is going to be serious about promoting EDI, which is something we care about and is literally on our website. We need to promote that in a way where students can see we're serious about it. And I believe that **Wolf** brings that contribution to such that we kind of haven't really had, and I believe it's so important. I also just really like the fact that he is a man of colour. It's important, especially in this setting, because a lot of times you don't see black men in institutions like this, and it's what students need to see as well. So I believe that Wolf would be great for SASSH and just a great person overall.

HT: Hi everyone. I completely agree with everything that **MM** and **SB** have brought up. I know **SB**, you brought up men's mental health wellness events during Black History Month which is something he had previously emailed

Andrii about, which I got super excited when it was brought up and I know **MM** at the meeting we talked about this initiative as well. I'm sure he will bring lots of amazing EDI initiatives into SASSH as well. I think he is a great candidate.

MM: Last comment. SASSH could touch on a lot of different aspects of the student experience but it is important to also identify gaps in things that we could bring to the student experience. I feel like this is a gap that we have identified and filling it would be the first step towards that. If **Wolf** is approved as our Honorary President, there is going to be a lot of extra work that we are going to have to put in to make sure that these initiatives come to light. I just want to remind everyone that this is just step 1 in a bigger process. If you do choose to vote him in, that is also going to push the rest of us to make sure that these gaps, especially in the IDEA portfolio, are filled for years to come. If we are the first one to make that change then that would be amazing.

CC: Any final questions or comments about the presentation? Congratulations to all the folks who had to do all of the background work into getting this on the Agenda and such.

Item 6.2 - Honorary President Presentation [Voting Period] (7:55PM)

Motioned by: CC Seconded by: RV
In Favour: 12 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1

Item 7.0 - Board Updates (7:57PM)

CC: We are done for voting matters for the day because we rejigged the POGSA trip so that's exciting. Now I'm just moving onto the Board Updates.

CR: I just want to highlight that I've done the majority of my FYC members and coordinator. This is just for me to touch base with them and to make sure that the FYC is running well and they feel like this is something useful for them. And then I've also done one of the booking forms for booking for the FYC event that's going to be in March tentatively, fingers crossed. And then the ACS course union also had the AGM, which was really amazing. We had a lot of students come and we were also able to give out a prize.

NN: Hi, everyone. Everything I have is basically on the doc but I just want to highlight that as you guys know, ECU has started an academic journal called the Common Thread. Submissions have been extended to December 19th so a week from today. It is open to all Faculty of Arts students, as long as it originated from an English course, really just any academic work, you can even get it approved by an English professor if it's from another course. A great opportunity to get published. That's all for me.

TN: Everything is pretty much in my updates. I think **SX** and **RV** will talk about the Recruitment Committee. I think **MM** will talk about the site visits we have been having. I have been going abc and forth with the Chelsea Hotel as well for their quotes in terms of Gala but I think the Events and Corporate teams have already decided what venue we are going with for the Gala. Other than that, on the department side, we did have an advisory meeting with the department a few Fridays ago, November 21st. It was just to talk about the co-op program and how there has been some not great things that have been said that really impacted the students that didn't get into the co-op program within the last 3 years. So there has been a lot of tension, a lot of feedback that has been received by the department

and for myself and my personal experience with the co-op program. So, we had an advisory meeting about that. So it is still ongoing and will be happening throughout next semester as well.

MK: Hi everybody. I'll start with my co-chair check-in updates. Like **TN** mentioned, we had our site tour of One Hotel which was amazing and really beautiful. I think **MM** will get into more detail on that later. Other than that, I've been having consistent check-ins with her pretty much weekly. Our sponsorship package is in good progress, progress tracker has been updated with this as well. Big shoutout to **MM**, she has been doing so well and so much work this past month, as always so wanted to bring attention to that too. As for my Director updates, like you guys saw earlier in the meeting, uh, we had our funding pitch, which, thank you guys for approving it. Um, and other than that, the last thing on my updates is that we're now gonna be beginning our funding for our winter event. which will be hopefully presented in the January board meeting. So that's all I have.

AIZ: Everything of mine should be in the notes. Thank you to everyone that came to Food For the Future. Big shoutout to **HT**, there was literally a lineup. It was such an amazing event. And, um, our exam distressing tips have been updated, and I know Alex is not here, but the PSA were extremely happy with Kaleidoscope. They had a lot of speakers. Thank you to the Kaleidoscope Committee.

SB: For me, I've been working on a sociology mentorship program that is now up and running. I have 9 mentees and mentors to use a mentor relationship better than people through the winter semester. So that's been great. Everything else about sociology is on the doc and **AL** and I are working on a Wellness Event which is next semester.

HT: They're all in my updates but I did want to highlight, thank you **AZ** for the wellness post and I will try my best to plan everything for the winter semester during the, um, winter break as well. So if there's any events you guys want to see, particularly happen, please let me know and then we'll try our best to work on it because, um, that's what we promote during our IDEA Committee meetings as well. Your voice matters, and open communication is key.

MM: To highlight, we did get those quotations from one hotel, like, two or three separate spaces before the, uh, Harriet's rooftop, the maple ballroom, the chestnut room. We ultimately decided that those were kind of too small of spaces. The Walnut room, which has the highest capacity of those 3 event spaces, has a capacity of 150, 200 people. The reason there is a range is because of the stage setup, so for the end of your gala, because it's kind of an award ceremony, they do need a stage so people can come up and accept their awards and see their kids and feel, you know, perspective and feel like their contributions and their awards are taken seriously. Um, if we choose not to have a stage, we can seat more people so we can hit 200 but I think a stage is integral. Um, it's possible, but we do have contact negotiations with the Fairmont underway, **JAG** would have to correct me if I'm wrong. I think the contracts haven't been signed yet, or at least one of them hasn't been signed yet. Okay, yeah, one hasn't been decided yet, one has been signed. I believe the sprout contract is signed and the End of Year Gala contract is not signed so that's why we were so torn in those spaces and trying to get quotations for that. But it just doesn't seem like something feasible. The Fairmont is giving us a better rate for more people. And they just can't accommodate the amount of people that we want. So, yeah, that's where we are with that. And then Marium and I had a lovely meeting with Maple Leaf Sports Entertainment in person. We had our Toronto FC partnership done. And so we have 20 season tickets as giveaway presents from March 14th, I believe, until October is when the season ends, and even football ends that are more knowledgeable about this, feel free to correct me, but I think the season ends in early October. So we can allocate those 20 giveaway prices anytime throughout the summer. And I think that SPROUT, as well as the End of Year Gala, those are the main ones. If anyone else has the event, I know the FYC was promised at least one pair for tabling. If you have anything coming up where your course meeting has anything coming up, have them email me so they can secure their

giveaway tickets and their great costs because we covered that, which is wonderful. And just a heads up to all the directors, me or Marium or both of us. We'll be sending out a form in early January, maybe at the start of when we get back from that break, just for the Year in Review. You're gonna be asked to give some information about your Course Unions, some details to events that you want to highlight, especially events with really good turnout or how to really get back to the community, as well as some details about your executive team, that kind of thing. This is number 4, I'm sure that the previous President may have mentioned it to you whenever you trained in or maybe your President mentioned it to you, your Director. But just keep an eye out for that email, because I will be copying all of the Directors in, as well as the President, when I reach out to them with the form. Thank you.

RV: Most of it is there, but just a couple things. I sent to our WhatsApp chat on our Holiday Social, and I know the majority of us cannot make it so I will be moving it maybe closer to the week where we start the Winter Semester. That way, everyone who travels outside of Canada can be there for our Socials. That will be, you'll see the invitation very soon. Please turn on your out of office emails. SASSH will be officially on break. Having your out of office response, I know JAG sent an email with a template that you could use, but just make sure that is on before we all go on the holiday break. I do have some couple words after the meeting is adjourned, so please do not leave, but that is it.

JAG: I sent you all an email with the summary of 3 action items. They are not that bad but they are very important. First, please turn on your out of office emails for December 15th - January 11th. I will be sending out a mass email on Monday anyway so I will know if you have not turned it on and I may message you to turn it on. It just helps the students know that we are on breaks and they are not left in the dust. Second, I think this is the most important one, please fill out the performance reviews. That is something new that we're doing this year. We are conducting performance reviews as one self-assessment and two peer reviews. You each get to review each other's performance from the past year, and the last is overall Board review. As you may notice, the self-assessment part is the longest because we want to make sure that all of you are reflecting on how your term went. The second section, peer review, only has 3 questions but it is 3 questions per Board Member. In January, the results of this form will be shared anonymously in a one-on-one meeting with myself that will be conducted based on availability of all parties. I only say based on availability because election season is coming up and that will take a lot of my time. The last one is please fill out the availability form for the SASSH day where we will revisit our why and set the vision for the Winter Semester as the 2025-2026 Board. I put that more at the end of January because we're gonna try to recruit all the new Directors by then so they will join in this SASSH day. Updates on the recruitment for the Criminology, GA, and Economics and Finance Directors, interviews are now moved to January 12th - 16th just because December was not feasible with availability. Heads up, I will send a communication to the Course Unions and Student Groups just sending them a feedback form and availability form to see what they want to see in our Winter SGLC refresher edition mostly to remind everyone of our finance policies. I included some key dates there and this is mostly for the marketing team, I will talk more with you folks on how we can make sure that we are promoting both elections so everyone knows about the opportunity. That's it, happy holidays and please take plenty of rest. Please do not check your emails.

RV: Board member of the month. Drum roll please, **AZ** for his work on Kaleidoscope! I know he isn't here but he will be getting his cupcake at the next Board Meeting. Whenever you do see him in person, please make sure to congratulate him for his amazing work on the Kaleidoscope Conference.

Item 8.0 - Action Items (8:13PM)

Item 9.0 - Adjournment (8:15PM)