

SASSH July 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Ciara Rahming (**CR**), Emmie Christie (**EC**), Abir Minhas (**ABM**), Carlos Andres Cardenas Vasquez (**CV**), Denise Yang (**DY**), Marium Khan (**MK**), Yohaana Bacha (**YB**), Tenlo Lundhup (**TL**), Meia Mathura (**MM**), Brehanna Robinson (**BR**), Karen Coelho (**KC**), Keith Dayate (**KD**), Kashaf Alvi (**KA**)

Late Arrival(s): Marium Khan (**MK**)

Regrets: Neel Lalla (**NL**)

Chair: Avala Moore (**AM**)

Manager: Avala Moore (**AM**)

Secretary: Karen Coelho

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1.0 - Call to Order (5:32 PM)

2.0 - Approval of the Agenda (5:32 PM)

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented.

Motioned by: KC Seconded by: KA
In Favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

[Motion carries]

3.0 - Haus of Met U - Funding Pitch (5:39 PM) [Presentation]

AM: So folks are you ready?

Justine Rose De Leon: Yes we're always ready!

AM: Okay perfect so we do have some folks online but they should be able to hear without having too much trouble, you'll have ten minutes to present and then we will have some questions and I will let you know when you are getting closer to the ten minutes. Okay?

Justine Rose De Leon: Okay! Well hello everyone like I said it's your favorite Haus of Met U so this is our bulk finance pitch. We are pitching 4 events for the fall semester. We will start out with Haus Party so this event is a SASSH collab with VP Events. This event we are asking for \$200 only and Haus Party is kind of a gathering or a big social event sort of an introduction to what Haus of Met U is throughout the semester and the best part about it is we just want to have some fun! We want to have a place where we can party - safely and also it is more accessible to campus as well. This party will be 19+ and we will have wristbands and there will be bodyguards at the front that will be checking ID's at the Met Pub.

Esther Akampurira: This is our Haus of Met U pie eating contest. It is meant to bring together all of our students in a fun challenge. I think it will be a really fun way to start out the semester, something really lighthearted and a bit humorous. It has also been a trend recently so a lot of people would flock to it since they recognize it and since there are going to be a lot of first years coming in I kind of wanted to target young minds in a way so I think this will be a fun thing to do.

Justine Rose De Leon: And if you guys were not here which half of you were not. During our presentation to the SASSH board last board year we did talk about slop events for example fight your ex-situationship contest or even oil wrestling. This is one of our slop events and we will be providing trophies as awards. Number one is the best muncher, another one is the honourable muncher and we are asking for a total of \$120 only and this estimate is for about 50 students but since we are doing it at the quad we will be expecting a lot more students as well.

Esther Akampurira: So this cost will go towards the prize and utensils and table clothes maybe.

Justine Rose De Leon: Okay so Dodge Ball, yes dodge space ball. For this event we wanted to just have a fun stress free night to kind of sense friendly competition with one another or if you hate someone in the other team you can hit them really strong either way there will be waivers involved with this one we are only asking for \$75 we wanted to make sure that we are able to provide a nice, safe space for students to have fun - again friendly competition. This is also partnered with the RAC so we will be using the RAC for booking as well as anything else we will need at the time. Here comes our final event!

Esther Akampurira: Yayy gay music video night, if you are gay you might recognize this. It is a classic social event often held at the end of a night out by queer people. It involves each person in attendance queuing up a music video that they love and sharing an appreciation for the music, cinematography, styling and other things about it. I think this would benefit queer students specifically because it is bringing a piece of home into their school and it is just a lighthearted fun activity that can help people unwind and socialise through shared taste and discovery of new music. As a total for this event we are asking for \$60 which will go towards the snacks and maybe a bit of decoration or props.

Justine Rose De Leon: Another fun fact we will be collaborating with a lot of our events for example for Haus Party we are collaborating with SASSH VP of Events for the gay music video night we are collaborating with the ECU Common Thread because it allows a lot of critical thinking of the musical videos and how they are made and produced so that's it. The total ask of it all is \$455 and I did include a google sheet to the presentation that has the exact budget breakdown as well as including how much it costs per student for the event.

3.1 - Haus of Met U - Funding Pitch (5:44 PM) [Question and Discussion Period]

Justine Rose De Leon: Any questions?

KA: Are these events - first of all an amazing presentation? I also really like the marketing on it but are these events all for the fall semester or is it for the whole year?

Justine Rose De Leon: This will be for this semester. We will be finishing our final events for the winter semester soon and will be doing a board pitch for that in December.

MM: Great presentation, you both did great! For the pie eating contest I was just wondering how many pies were you looking to order and do you know if that would be enough for 50 people?

Justine Rose De Leon: So it will only be twelve contestants but at least 50 people will be attending to watch the tournament and in terms of the cost we will be buying it from metro and for twelve mini pies it is about four different flavours each and the cost of the pie alone is about \$5-6 per and a pack of four is about \$24 each.

EC: And will you be planning to have all the ingredients listed out for the pies?

Justine Rose De Leon: Yes we will provide an ingredients list as well as to central or risk assessment folks since I know we are doing the quad they might ask for a waiver or just a list of the ingredients. We also have students on our team who are smart serve certified.

KD: Point of information - **CV** had a comment in the chat.

EC: Okay so his comment was will there be a form for the pie eating contest where people can know about the allergies?

Justine Rose De Leon: Yes we will make sure that every single person participating is providing so for example we are going to do a google form first as a sign up sheet for those who want to participate and then during that form there will be a list of allergens as well.

MM: I just wanted confirmation if you have reached out to the met pub and ask if there was a fee?

Justine Rose De Leon: Yes so it is included in the expense sheet and they are only doing a minimum purchase like you told me they are doing \$450 so that is how much we ordered and there is an optional \$50-60 as a service charge.

AM: Any other questions folks?

Justine Rose De Leon: If you guys have time I do want to provide maybe a sneak peek of our merch coming out? We have finished all our designing for orientation.

AM: I am going to say no because we do have to move forward but any last questions folks? Alright thank you so much for your time and presentation! Folks online could you hear everything okay?

CR: Yes it's all good, pretty clear!

AM: So your motion for right now is to approve funding for Haus of METU's 2026 -2027 event programming in the amount of \$455 but I guess it's just 2026 since there is nothing for 2027.

MM: I think it is a great layout of events, I especially appreciate how cost efficient they have tried to keep it I will flag one thing though for Haus Party I did not say \$800 I said \$600 so there is a chance they might come back for the remaining \$200 that is not included in that. So I agreed to \$600 not 8 and honestly that might be a bit lower with the minimum spend being \$450 we should be able to keep it under the \$800 price range but in the event there is more they might come back for another funding pitch and I will obviously be abstaining from this but just some information about the background of the financing but otherwise everything looks good to me.

KC: CV has put a question in the chat!

AM: Why is the Haus Party 19+ ? I am assuming because it is taking place in the Met Pub.

MM: Yep and the event is happening during the hours that they ID.

BR: Point of information so the \$200 that they discussed with me they are thinking that \$80 of it is the extra fees that they talked about and the rest is sort of contingency for them in case something does cost more they have that. So it should not be too much of an issue if they don't have that extra \$200.

AM: Any other questions, comments, concerns? Cheers of encouragement?

MM: I do have one more thing that I wanted to ask so for Haus Party I do want in the marketing for it to be - since it is mainly SASSH funded and they are only funding a little bit of it, is it possible to amend it to include that our logo needs to be in all of their marketing?

AM: For that specific event? Would you amend the motion?

MM: Do I have to?

AM: Well you don't have to amend it, you can also just negotiate it with them.

MM: No amendment then!

3.2 - Haus of Met U - Funding Pitch (5:50 PM) [Voting Period]

Motion: To approve funding for Haus of METU's 2026 event programming in the amount of \$455.

Motioned by: MM Seconded by: KD
In Favour: 12 Against: 0 Abstentions: 2

[Motion carries]

4.0 - Amendment of Agenda (5:54 PM) [Voting Period]

Motion: To amend the agenda to move up Item 6.0 Bylaw Amendment up to our next item.

Motioned by: EC Seconded by: MK
In Favour: 14 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

[Motion carries]

5.0 - Bylaw Amendment - SAGM Motion (5:56 PM) [Presentation]

AM: So **KC** you're next

KC: The motion is to amend the SASSH Bylaws specifically, to remove - bear with me here - Article 2.2.8.2.3, which currently reads that a member from the Faculty of Arts Dean's Office shall be a voting member of the recruitment committee. With some context this means that a representative from the Faculty of Arts Dean's Office currently holds a voting seat on our Recruitment Committee so the motion before you today is to remove that article and seat entirely. This change is coming directly from the Dean's Office. They've told SASSH that they don't feel it's necessary for their office to hold a formal vote. Just to be clear this isn't the result of any dispute or conflict, it's the Dean's Office themselves stepping back from the seat they no longer think they should occupy. Under Article 6.4.6.5 of our constitution, any member-initiated amendment to a governance document has to come before the Board first, so we can determine that it's in accordance with SASSH policy. Then, under Article 6.4.6.5.1, the Board presents its opinion at the General Meeting, together with the motion itself. So what we're doing today is the first step which is reviewing the motion, confirming it's in order, and preparing to carry both the motion and our opinion on it forward to the membership which is our SAGM. The motion is as follows that the SASSH Board approve, for submission to a General Meeting, an amendment to the SASSH Bylaws removing Article 2.2.8.2.3 in its entirety. I want to be clear about what a 'yes' vote today actually does. Article 12.1 requires two votes to amend the bylaws: a majority vote at a Board Meeting, and a two-thirds majority vote at a General Meeting. Today's vote is only the first of those two, it does not change the bylaws on its own. It authorizes us to bring this motion to a General Meeting, where the final vote will happen and that is all!

5.1 - Bylaw Amendment - SAGM Motion (5:59 PM) [Question and Discussion Period]

AM: Just a point of information around that this is only for the position of VP IDEA. That is the only position on the board that it is required for. So that does not impact any other recruitment committee. Moving forward, do either of you want to make a comment?

KC: Not really I feel like I have said all that needs to be said. Does anybody have any questions?

AM: Questions, comments, concerns? Anybody online? Okay we are ready to move to a vote.

5.2 - Bylaw Amendment - SAGM Motion (6:00 PM) [Voting Period]

Motion: That the SASSH Board approve, for submission to a General Meeting, an amendment to the SASSH Bylaws removing Article 2.2.8.2.3 in its entirety.

Motioned by: **KC** Seconded by: **EC**
In Favour: **13** Against: **0** Abstentions: **1**

[Motion carries]

6.0 - ClickPix Proposal (6:01 PM) [Presentation]

AM: Alright Daniel can you hear me?

Daniel Dabir: Hello yes I can!

AM: Wonderful! So you are going to get ten minutes to present to the board. I am going to be timing the presentation and will let you know if you are going to be close to ten minutes. The Board will listen and then ask questions afterwards and then they will deliberate. Okay so are you all good ready to go?

Daniel Dabir: Yep all good I have my presentation so I will just start sharing that now! Okay awesome so I am going to talk about ClickPix and the SASSH partnership for the 2026 hopefully 2027 year. For those who are not familiar I believe in the last year and the year before my company and a friend of mine who is also at TMU in the Faculty of Engineering started a Photobooth company and we've been working with SASSH for three years now and we do something a little different where we provide credits so they are all paid for upfront and some of those credits are for SASSH to use and some of them are for student groups to use. I, myself coming from different student groups, found that it was really difficult to put the money upfront because that is how it usually works with student groups to go and pay for things like a photobooth or a photographer for events. So we came up with this idea and pitched it to SASSH and SASSH can put the money forward and ultimately make it more accessible for student groups to get these types of things happening for events. So just some overalls of what we did last year we had about 3000 photos taken, all of the events that you guys did that we were a part of and a total of 814 video gifs that we had. I always get very excited to see these online because it shows that people are enjoying these gifs and they're really cool and there are some really funny ones sometimes so those are really good to see. With photography and such included about 5000 photos and videos taken.

Last year what we proposed was student group credits and SASSH credits which I will get into the next slide but what we saw was that SASSH used essentially all of their credits so you had 4-6 large events through the year such as SLC Live, Kaleidoscope which did not use a credit but you did use one for Sprout, End of Year Gala and even the First Year Committee event and things like that. For the credits I mentioned that you guys provide to student groups and course unions to use some of them were used some of them were left on the table is we do choose to move forward with the contract between ClickPix and SASSH then we are happy to renew those credits as well because they did have a 365 day period where if they were not used they would be expired but if we do end up coming to an agreement we are happy to also roll over those credits so essentially they don't expire. As for photography these were partially used so these are essentially photography hours and like I mentioned these were least used but again this is a complimentary add on and we do not charge for this so just for some background context behind this it is essentially like a photographer and you can use it for student group events or SASSH events and minimum time would be an hour. So let's say you're having an event and you want both the photobooth and the photographer or maybe just the photographer to

come they would be able to show up for a minimum of one hour and maximum of how long you guys have which I believe is 15 hours and we did come to some events and captured some nice photos but again this was the least used out of all of them.

So this is what I am proposing for the 2026-2027 package given your usage from last year. We reduced the course union/student group credits and photography hours are kept the same again because they are complimentary and the SASSH credits have remained the same because you guys did go through all of them. So the SASSH credits and the student group credits are a little bit different so I will start with the SASSH credits you guys have 5 available to use and these are used in 3 hour blocks and the actual photobooth when the prints come out they can either be 2 by 6 inches or 4 inches by 6 inches so sort of like a vertical strip or a postcard style print and again this comes with unlimited printing. Like I mentioned, both packages come with the video gifs as well. The SASSH credit package essentially gets a custom photo strip design and the student group also gets it custom so you can customize your colours, the text or if you want to add the date. We've done that in the past and I'll go through some examples at the end of the presentation. SASSH also gets to have some custom props and backdrops as well if you guys request that. I know the end of year gala was very nice it was royal themed we had the red carpet and a lot of nice props that were used and we were there for the entirety of the night so the setup, monitoring and take downs which is included in both the student group and SASSH credits and photos are delivered digitally for both packages again. So the main difference between the SASSH and student group credits is that student group credits are offered for only 2 hours and they only have the option of choosing 2 by 6 prints. The 15 hours of complimentary photography credits does require a one hour minimum booking so we cannot come for anything less than that so events for 30 minutes just would not be feasible but I mean all events are usually an hour or more and these can be used on things like the SASSH board headshots if you guys don't have new headshots for the board yet or the traditional group photo that you guys always have on the SASSH board you guys are more than welcome to use the photography hours for that as well and they are allocated entirely at your discretion so if you guys want to keep all of them you can do so as well or give them out to whatever student groups you guys would like. So this whole package for the 2026/2027 season would come down to a little bit under \$9000 and can be split into multiple payments similar to what we did last year if that is needed. These are some photo booth pictures taken last year from the gala, the first year event, SLC Live and this one was Sprout I believe. Yeah so that is all I have and I am happy to answer any questions and this is mine and Clickpix's email either works if you have any questions for me.

6.1 - ClickPix Proposal (6:10 PM) [Question and Discussion Period]

AM: Wonderful anybody have any questions for Daniel?

KD: Thanks for the presentation Daniel this is **KD** from VP Marketing at SASSH. I am just sort of looking at the hours and the credits you proposed, it is just one thought I have had regarding the photo booths. They are a sort of novel thing for a lot of course unions and student groups to take on, it's a lot of planning on their end so we cannot guarantee that they can fill all those hours, is there a way - I understand the photography hours are complementary but can we possibly negotiate in the system

where photobooth credits can be converted into photography hours just for flexibility on the student group/course union end? Is that something we can work in?

Daniel Dabir: Yea I mean absolutely it can definitely be something we can work on. That is a really great question, in my opinion a lot of the course unions are already planning - and again please feel free to correct me if I am wrong - but they have already planned these large events and we were doing a few at Oakham House for two or three course unions combined into each other and I don't know if **SX** is there but we did one for the Criminology course union as well, there was a PSA event that unfortunately we were not able to do but they planned it so it isn't that the course unions are not planning these large scale events I think it is more so that they do not know this is available to them, speaking to a couple of people on course unions they have reached out to me asking if they can book this photobooth and I had to direct them to last year's VP marketing saying hey this person wants to book a photobooth why don't we use the credits? So I'm not sure maybe if you guys are still doing the course union/student group summit but this is something that could be brought up there and this is something we'd be happy to come and answer questions there or maybe provide a little pamphlet that maybe they could get some new information from but if it comes to it we are happy to put in a clause that says any unused student group credit can be either converted into either SASSH credits or photography hours if that is something you guys are interested in.

KD: Sounds good thank you so much. It is just to have that option of flexibility but that answers my question thank you!

AM: Any other questions? Anybody online with questions? Alright well thank you Daniel! We will let you know sometime later this week! Okay great questions, comments, discussion?

KD: This is a very broad thing he is proposing in terms of budgeting because it is technically photography and events expenses so which line would this be coming out of exactly? How can we categorize this?

AM: Uhhh good question.

MM: Not mine.

AM: I feel like it is a collaborative expense so a little bit of both of you

BR: I feel like we could have it split between events, marketing and community. I am trying to be very literal about it because it would be a combination of the three of it but how do we split it is the question

KD: That being said, would we have to amend the budget before we approve this?

AM: No it would have to fit into your budget. So what is your photography budget for the year?

KD: 2.5

BR: So photography and videography is kind of built into the other events that we have for the year in the events budget already so the \$2500 that he has is for maybe a one time situation where we really need this and we have some budget set aside for it.

KD: Point of information, the photography budget for the 2026-2027 year was just for board headshots and one event that is outside of Kaleidoscope and Sprout and other special events that we have the budget allocated for already.

KA: Last year what Daniel was able to do if this might help so we were able to categorize each invoice according to the credits so for example we are interested we could split up the payments so that we are only being charged for a specific part if that might help. He was able to do that last year and I am sure he would be completely fine doing that this year as well.

AM: Yea I see. There is photography and videography under the events budget but I guess that is for orientation though.

MM: Point of information that is all for Joel. He has already given us a quote of \$4995, which is all of that budget gone.

AM: We could use it from Kaleidoscope under promotional materials? Okay so what is being discussed right now is that we know that there is money that is already allocated towards Kaleidoscope this year and that is in a separate cost center and is not even touching our cost center currently but we know that there is money there. The question is can we use that money for this purpose? I mean I think we can use it for some because it has to go towards Kaleidoscope but then any money from that fund which is going to impact the Kaleidoscope budget will alleviate cost from the events budget so it will move some money. I think you folks can now decide if you want to move budget lines around for this, you can also decide to just use Clickpix as a vendor and pay as needed.

MM: I would say I am more so a fan of cutting student group credits because again it is not marketed that much and we have not gotten a lot of interest in it so far. I think we are definitely going to need these services for Orientation which is really really soon so if we could at least approve one credit right now that would be great but we don't have an exact number. I would be okay with that being charged to my social events line but it's like I can't spare this total amount until we have another meeting where we can actually decide how it would go among portfolios so I don't think it is appropriate for us to approve this because we don't know where that money is coming from.

AM: So you can move to table this discussion.

MM: I will move to table the discussion because we don't know where the money is coming from and that is important and I would also suggest Clickpix comes to us or if they decide to come to us again they come back with separate proposals instead of a package have a cost for SASSH credits, course union and then the other stuff is complementary. That would make it so that we can approve each amount as needed or amend at the next board meeting.

AM: Okay so if you want to amend the discussion in the interim so between now and the next board meeting which would allow for time to reach out to Daniel where you could ask for that information as well so that when you are discussing it the next time we have that information ready. Okay so officially moving to table the discussion till the next board meeting? Great.

6.2 - ClickPix Proposal (6:22 PM) [Voting Period]

Amended Motion: To table the discussion until the August Board meeting

Motioned by: MM Seconded by: KD
In Favour: 14 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

[Motion carries]

Original Motion: To approve the ClickPix photo booth package for 2026–2027 at a total cost of \$8,759.74, including 5 SASSH credits, 8 SG/CU credits, and 15 complimentary photography hours.

Motioned by: Seconded by:
In Favour: 0 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

7.0 - Amendment of Agenda (6:23 PM) [Voting Period]

Motion: To amend the agenda to move up Item 8.0 Board Updates up to our next item.

Motioned by: KC Seconded by: EC
In Favour: 14 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

[Motion carries]

8.0 - Board Updates (6:24 PM)

AM: Moving to board updates, going to the executive portfolios. Updates should be in the documents already, you don't need to read through every update that there is, people should have already read through the updates but if there is anything you would like to highlight or maybe emphasize or

something new since you've put in your updates this is the time to mention those things. So VP Operations.

KC: It's all in the updates except the only thing new is that we ordered furniture for the T room for the CCU/SG space and they have been delivered and we should get them soon enough hopefully by tomorrow but yea besides that not much.

AM: Exciting, things are moving that is good. Community? Would you like to provide updates?

MK: Yes I now have updates. I'm sorry they're not tangible yet but they will be in a second. Orientation is going smoothly guys, all my purchases are pretty much complete we are just waiting on one which should be done by the end of the week, course union and student group outreach is ongoing however their deadline for event plans is August 10th at the latest since FMD requests are needed by August 3rd so that I will be following up with them soon just in case. If any of you are in contact with your course unions or student groups please urge them to submit their plans as soon as possible. I would really appreciate it as I would then get to be less annoying to you all. Sprout! University advancement approved our partnership list! Thank you **AM** for all your help on that and to my co-chair and we are currently finishing up our partnership package as well prior to beginning outreach hopefully that will begin early August fingers crossed everybody. That is pretty much it on the Sprout front at the moment, Kaleidoscope I had my initial meeting with the co chairs which I think we'll get into later on and community is still kind of at a standstill but she doesn't really have much to do at the moment anyways.

AM: Alright, perfect any question for either **KC** or **MK**?

MM: One question for **MK**, what are your outstanding purchases?

MK: It's just the temporary tattoos.

MM: Could you put that in the spreadsheet **AM** sent out?

MM: Yes of course!

AM: Okay alright, moving onto marketing!

KD: One new thing besides what is already written there, board merch updates. I just discussed this with **YB**, for Lululemon it would be the puffer jackets which are most likely board merch just for the diverse sizing it gives us. **YB** notified me about Nike, which could be a potential partner as well but would most likely be some sort of technical jacket like before. Those are our two options for now and if you are opposed to both of them let me know personally we can work something out. Directors please read, you are noted twice in my notes and that is all I have.

AM: Any questions for **KD**? Corporate.

YB: My favourite part of the week, I don't have a lot to say for those of you who have been at the Orientation weekly meetings you will already know this but for those of you who have not been there I have been reaching out and the number on there is actually outdated I think it is closer to 45. Lot of outreach, not a lot of responses, I have been going in person with **NL** a lot which is why **KD** mentioned Nike is currently a lead of ours. While I have done both in persona and followed up with emails through Nike, Little Canada and even Arc'teryx I don't have anything concrete yet and since I am running out of time for the final orientation sponsorship deadline I'm shifting after this week to other external outreach for other events throughout the year and just in general SASSH partnerships or sponsorships. Besides that I have discussed with **MK** a Alumni Relations event which is a work in progress so we are going to be collaborating on that once all the big deadlines for orientation are over with but just wanted to let everybody know that we are planning on an event to bring alumni to campus to sort of explain to them again how the SASSH is beneficial to them as a profession in their industry and then I have also been discussing with **NL** an Alterna Fund event since we have money left over from last year we were thinking of a one night only event because usually when events are spread out over two or multiple days there is usually less turnout so we are going to try to maximize turnout for all students and we will probably plan that out in August after orientation deadlines are through.

AM: Questions for **YB**? Alright, thank you. Events!

MM: Orientation is going great, as good as it can be. We have made a lot of progress. Most events are almost done planning or in the final stages, swag bags have been ordered very exciting. We were able to get the swag bags printed in full colour. I know **KD** discussed in previous updates that we couldn't do the shirts in full colour - maybe I am wrong about that - but he has discussed that we couldn't do them in full colour because they were charging per colour and we had over 5 which was making the price extremely way out of range. So we were thankfully able to use the full colour design on the tote bags because they were not charging by colour and so yeah we are going to have some full colour tote bags. They are neutral toned small tote bags and the size is 11 by 14 so think of the longest side of a letter sized page that is the bottom of the tote bag and then 14 inches going up so it's on the smaller side but that should be fine since we are not putting electrolyte in it this year. So yeah swag bags and tshirts have been ordered and we are doing cool swag bag inserts this year which is a colouring page and we will provide students with crayons so they can customize it to their own liking and style and **KD** has brought up an idea with **YB** and **NL** which is to use that blank/monochrome design and have students design it themselves and make it into a contest so students will be able to send pictures of their finished colouring design to I think vp.marketing@sassh.ca and they can win a prize which will be **KD**'s duffel bag - not confirmed on the prize yet. We will not be having any external food at all for any of the SASSH orientation events but we have some lovely TMU eats catering. You guys are going to have a fajita bar so there will be food at least once every day. There will be breakfast for sure everyday but we are not providing lunch on the Friday, there will be lunch every other day though. Otherwise volunteer/board/student tshirts have been ordered as well and besides that thank you all for the help for orientation!

AM: Any questions for **MM**?

MM: I have a reminder. Risk assessment deadline is at the end of the week and I think we only have one thing outstanding and I won't name it but make sure it is in by thursday.

AM: Okay! Finance.

BR: Hello! It's pretty straightforward, I would say the update on our account balance we are at \$331,578.46 and that's an estimate because we still have some costs that are being taken out from the account still.

AM: Any questions for **BR**? Okay. VP IDEA welcome!

SX: Not much from me except I do want to meet with the execs. It does not have to be right now but just throughout the summer and the course union and student group presidents just to kind of see where they are at and how I can help them throughout their journey. Otherwise it is all there.

AM: Questions for **SX**? Okay thank you and President!

KA: Everything is there, only thing is recruitment committee form is out so please connect with your co chairs to figure out hiring so that you can build up your teams and also for directors there is a bunch of to do list things to do on there so if you can connect with your course union please do all of those things but that's it from me.

AM: Beautiful, any questions for **KA**? Okay and then Director updates again if there is anything that is not in these notes already, does anyone have updates that they want to share?

CR: Sorry are we going in order or are you asking all the directors to share?

AM: I am asking all directors so if you have an update please raise your hand.

TL: I think a lot of what I am about to say has already been said so my co-chairs are people I am working with but for the first year committee I am doing a presentation alongside SASSH on thursday for Kickstart. I have started the slideshow and updated the existing google interest form which is going to be posted on a QR code at the end so we can gauge interest before recruitment begins for FYC. I talked to **KA** and **MM** about it and then for the O-week mental health mural, thank you **SX** by the way for reaching out to them. **BR** and I have reached out to the center for student mental health and counselling as well as the consent comes first team. The former has confirmed they will be able to have a 15 minute presentation for the mental health mural, consent comes first they did reply but I guess we are still in talks with them and the next step would just be to measure out how big our canvas needs to be before we order it. Also a point of personal privilege I need to go.

AM: Yes of course, perfect thank you everybody for those updates.

9.0 - Athens Democracy Forum Youth Leaders Program - Funding Pitch (6:39 PM)
[Presentation]

AM: Hello folks, so I don't think you can see us but we can see you and we can hear you and see your presentation. You folks are going to have 10 minutes to present and then we will ask some questions and then afterwards we politely ask you folks to leave while we discuss and we will let you know what the decision made is after the board meeting has concluded and I will let you know if you are getting close to your ten minute mark if you get there but otherwise if you are ready we are ready.

Moaaz Lulat: Good evening everyone and thank you for giving us the opportunity to present today. My name is Moaaz and I am presenting alongside Arsham and Sophia on behalf of 20 TMU students selected for the Athens Democracy Forum Young Leader program. Today we wanted to explain what this program involves, why it is such a valuable opportunity for students and the Faculty of Arts and why financial support from SASSH is essential to ensure all 20 selected students can participate.

Arsham Saijadi: So it is going to be a week long trip but the main event is the democracy forum of course. The philosophy of the democracy forum is that for some time now democracy has been under attack across the world while here in the west we live expecting democracy to be the status quo regardless of what happens and that is not the case anymore so what we want to do is students who are going to be the future of Canada and the world, go out there see what the fight is like on the ground and then come back with our newfound knowledge to help our peers also join the fight. Moaaz is going to tell us about the itinerary for the week now.

Moaaz Lulat: There are four major parts of the program that make this much more than simply attending a conference. First we will participate in an international student symposium where we will work with students from universities around the world, through workshops and quality discussion we will exchange perspectives on democratic innovation and learn how students in different countries understand the challenges facing democracy today. Second we will attend the Athens Democracy Forum itself, this will give us access to mainstage sessions, policy panels and international networking opportunities involving leaders from government, journalism, academia and civil society. Third, the program includes field based learning which gives us an important opportunity to experience Greece beyond Athens and encounter its history, culture and regional traditions first hand. Local guides will help connect the experience to our interest in democracy, public policy and civic life bringing our conference learning into a wider Greek context. For many students in our group who have had limited opportunity to travel internationally this kind of immersive learning would be rare, meaningful and potentially transformative. Finally we will participate in Canadian diplomatic engagement through the embassy of Canada in Greece and the Canadian Institute in Greece. This will allow us to meet diplomats, researchers and civic leaders while learning how democratic ideas are translated into policy and international cooperation. One of the most valuable parts of this program is having accomplished leaders and thinkers from human rights, journalism, politics and public policy gathered under one roof. These are the people with direct experience addressing major global challenges including threats to democracy, political polarization and declining public trust. Learning from them will expose us to perspectives we would not normally encounter while helping us build connections that can support our academic, professional and civic goals.

Sophia Di Manno: So in terms of who is actually going to be a part of this trip besides the cohort of 20 students. We have an entire delegation of civil society leaders, there will be dozens of representatives but just to highlight some key figures we have the Executive Director of Apathy is Boring, Editor in Chief of the Toronto Star, Founder and Director of the Democratic Engagement Exchange and the Canadian Ambassador as just a few names of who will be joining us.

Arsham Saijadi: When it comes to why this is beneficial for the school, our thesis here is that we want to go to Greece and be so imperative that all the other students and all the other faculty leaders go back home and say wow those Canadian kids from TMU are pretty interesting I wonder what they are up to now and what projects are they working on. I wonder how they got their funding to come here all the way from Canada. Secondly I think through working on this project with all my peers I think we have a really impressive group here and it's going to be an impressive alumni group in 20 years and I know personally this is going to be an impactful academic event of my career so far and so in ten, twenty years I am going to come back and say wow my career really took off when I went to Greece funded by SASSH supported by TMU and I came back with all these experiences that helped me and my career and my future.

Sophia Di Manno: So in terms of how this trip is actually going to be able to benefit the Faculty and SASSH as a whole, we've come up with some ideas of ways to make sure that the benefits extend beyond just the 20 of us. So, some of the ideas that we've come up with are creating an impact report, creating photo and story packages, and social media content that document what we learned and how it can be applied. Particularly, we highlight the social media part as a key way for us to document and share the experience in real time. We plan to create dedicated accounts where we can post daily highlights, key lessons from the discussions at the forum, and reflections on the people and the organizations that we meet. Not only will this allow people to follow along on the trip who aren't attending, but it'll also serve as a lasting resource that SASSH and the Faculty of Arts will be able to share with current students, prospective students, and the wider community as a whole. This allows everybody to benefit from the knowledge and connections that we gain.

Arsham Saijadi: So the price per student to do this is \$4,000. We're a core of 20 was picked based on merit out of a pool of many, many more students, and so I think it would be sad and frankly a bit disappointing if this turned from meritocracy into just whoever could afford to go on a trip like this. I think it's important that those who've been picked for this, who've worked hard on this project, get to go and have to represent TMU on the global stage. So here we have the breakdown of the full money. It's going to be \$80,000 for all 20 students, \$4000 each. We have the per student for every section, the section for all 20 students, and then we're breaking down how much each section contributes to the total cost. We have flights, we have accommodations, we have the Athens Democracy Forum tickets. We have workshops, field business, and local programming and of course the symposium tickets. We have meals, and we have the educational day trip, which will tie in Greece itself to what we're going to be learning at the projects for Athens.

Sophia Di Manno: Yeah. So we also pulled some quotes of comparable options. So the flight option that we saw on the previous slide, it's actually the only nonstop flight option that is offered. It's with Air Canada. On the previous slide, the \$2,000 that's with our group discount. If we were to pay for it without a group discount, it would be about \$2500. It's considerably more expensive. Every other flight option was a connecting flight that ranged between 13 and a half to 17 and a half hours. A little bit cheaper, but again, this includes having to do layovers, this price also doesn't include the airport transfer. These prices are also subject to change, whereas our group discount is locked down and cannot change between now and September, and it's also a logistical nightmare to book 20 seats individually. In terms of accommodation, our current accommodation is with MIXT by Zia Living. Without a group discount, we're looking at about \$1,400 per person. We were able to grab a group discount for \$700 per student rather than \$1,400. So you get a 50% off discount there, which is a really good discount in and of itself. Looked at a variety of other accommodation options, different hotels that are also located in the heart of Athens. However, what's special about where we've chosen is that it is known for being a student accommodation building. It's known for its safety, its security, and traveling as a group of students. Safety is our number one priority. Additionally, the location is perfect. Every venue that we would attend for the symposium and the forum are within walking distance, so it just checks all of our boxes. And then finally. Looking at the actual price of the Democracy Forum admission ticket, the standard one, when converted from Euros, is actually close to \$2000 a person, which is quite a lot of money. Even the academia price is about \$964 a person. Ours is about a 60% reduction from the Academia price, so we're already getting a really, really good discount as a group on our admission to the forum itself. We did look at a variety of other funding options. We looked at things like the Global Learning Award, the Global Exchange Award, the Student Initiatives Fund, and the Student Project Grant Team. However, for one reason or another, whether it be the due dates, it doesn't accept enough students, or it simply does not have enough funding available. None of these options were feasible, unfortunately.

Arsham Saijadi: And finally, we were very happy and quite proud to have some tips and support from the dean's office as well. We received this email. The dean's office enthusiastically supports this funding request for the Athens Democracy Forum Young Leaders Program. As a faculty that prides itself on being a champion of democracy, public policies, engagement. We see this initiative as aligning perfectly with who we are and we stand for. The benefits to this program are threefold: for participating students, it offers a transformative, hands-on experience alongside world leaders, global policy experts, and international peers. For the Faculty of Arts as a whole, it amplifies our global visibility, showcasing the caliber of TMU students' leadership on an international stage. And finally, for the broader student body, returning fellows will share their insights to elevate classroom discussions and inspire civic action across every department. Investing in these student student leaders directly reinforces our faculty's core goal, core mission, and global reputation.

Moaaz Lulat: So, with that in mind, we respectfully request \$4,000 per student. This support would ensure that all 20 students can participate, regardless of their financial circumstances. And we thank

you for giving us the opportunity to present here. And we open the floor to any questions that you might have. Thank you for your time.

9.1 - Athens Democracy Forum Youth Leaders Program - Funding Pitch (6:50 PM) [Question and Discussion Period]

AM: Excellent. Okay, thank you. We'll open it up to the board now for questions. Anyone have any? Yes, **MM**.

MM: Hi, all. Thank you so much for your presentation. Very detailed, and you all spoke about this really passionately. And I could tell that this is a huge, huge project for you guys. I was just wondering, in terms of the total students that are going, the 20 students, what percentage of them are Faculty of Arts students?

Moaaz Lulat: All 20 of them, from a variety of programs since the application was open to all Faculty of Arts, we were told they received hundreds of applications and they picked 20 out of them and here we are presenting.

MM: Okay, thanks so much. And I saw that in the budget, there's a line for meals and accidental support. Can you let me know how you got that figure?

Sophia Di Manno: Yeah, I can actually jump in. So they are covering all of our lunch and dinners for the course of the entire week, with the exception of breakfast, but all of our meals, like we're gonna have dinner, all provided in that funding for the entire week for each student.

MM: That is all for me, thanks so much!

AM: Any other questions? Folks online if you have a question please just raise your hand!

SX: Thank you so much for the presentation. Kind of jumping off that question, I was wondering if there, if you folks know about the selection process of which students are going to be accepted into the trip?

Moaaz Lulat: So the 20 students have already been accepted, but from a selection perspective, we wouldn't be able to speak to that unless you, Sophia or Arsham, you guys have any knowledge that I do?

Sophia Di Manno: We all filled out an application, and we've already been selected from a lot of applicants.

Arsham Saijadi: I believe the process was like two short essay type questions, and then one longer question. Or correctly, don't quote me on that.

Sophia Di Manno: And I think our transcripts and stuff were also required.

Moaaz Lulat: Yeah I know one of the requirements is that we were all in clear academic standing. And this is something that we can come back and give the board a proper response from Jill or Ashley. Jill works for the school with the post grad and international engagement. Yeah, international engagement. **BR** knows more about her or knows of her. Yeah, TMU Global. It is definitely something that we can get back to the board on and give an answer.

SX: I don't know if you folks know this answer at all, and if that is the case, that's totally fine. I was wondering why the organizers of this event are not presenting.

Moaaz Lulat: Because SASSH requires this to be a student-led initiative, for us to be granted funding the school and SASSH requires it to be student-led and student presented.

Sophia Di Manno: Yeah, I'm just gonna jump in. The organizers are all Faculty and staff, and they are not expecting any funding for themselves. It's just us. So just we the three of us came together on behalf of all 20 of us, and kind of decided that we were going to do it as as a group of students because you know it is just for us and our peers and the staff and the the organizers are Faculty and they'll obviously be taking care of themselves. So because of how important of an opportunity this is for us and for our peers, we just wanted to be able to represent us at a level that you know the Faculty can't really speak for how much of an opportunity this really is for us. So it really wouldn't mean the same I don't think if it were coming from the organizers. What for us as the young people, this is the biggest opportunity, like Arsham said of our entire lives thus far. I don't think the impact would even come close if the organizers were presenting. Honestly, because it's so important to us as the students.

SX: Yeah that sounds good. Thank you!

KA: Hello. My name is Kashaf. I just wanted to go back to how you mentioned that you considered other funding sources. I know one of the things that you mentioned was that there wasn't enough funding available. Did the team consider potentially requesting partial funding to cover some aspects of the funding request?

Sophia Di Manno: So what I meant when I said that was for example there was only two awards available for \$2,000 you know we could potentially if 2 of the 20 students won, there's a little bit there but it's definitely something we could potentially still consider but for the most part our main issue with most of them was the fact that the deadlines don't work, or that the board would use it past the date of our trip because it is right at the beginning of the school year. That was honestly the main blocker was the dates, unfortunately, but it is definitely something we could consider. Also, maybe we could see if anybody would reconsider changing their date for us. Actually I have applied for the Global Learning Award myself as an individual. I was denied it. So we did try some of them, and just logistically, none of them really seem to be working. That's why we came here today. It's because

everything else we have exhausted our efforts or didn't seem to be super feasible. Of course, there's always more things that we could probably try, but you know, as far as we're here right now, I think that it's tough with it with the date of our trip being right at the start of the semester.

KA: Yeah that is fair. Thanks so much for providing the context.

MM: Yeah. Hi. Another question for me. For the workshops, field visits, and the local programming, are those costs entirely separate from the other lines within your expense breakdown, and if so, can you let me know a little bit about what those workshops and field visits entail?

Moaaz Lulat: So the workshops and field visits and local programming that would essentially fall under the student symposium part of it of the trip, and that's the first two days, and if anyone else wants to jump in.

Sophia Di Manno: I can totally provide some context for the day trip. We would most likely be heading to Aegina, which is an island right outside of Athens. It's the capital of modern independent Greece, so we're going to be really looking at how the nation built democracy from scratch. Then in terms of the workshops and everything, so we have our student symposium, which is where other universities, will be coming together for networking and workshopping opportunities, and then the forum is a separate event where we'll actually be participating in the main stage sessions with the actual leaders from all around the world, from all different domains, whether that be human rights or more media stuff, more government stuff. So there is a lot that we're doing. It's just broken down because the democracy forum is separate because it's separate from the workshops, the field visits, and local programming. The democracy forum is the main thing that we're doing. It takes up like three and a half days of our entire trip, and it is where we're going to meet the the Canadian Embassy, there's potential for like representatives like Kristia Freeland to be there, that is that day, and then everything else is more student focused, networking with other students, and then doing some boots on the ground investigation into Greece and the birthplace of democracy.

MM: Okay thanks so much. Is this programming decided by TMU Global? All of this programming?

Sophia Di Manno: No this is all decided the people who we are going on the trip with so on that slide it would be them and additionally we have Ashley Petch she is the main organizer and these people that you see on the screen are who we are all going with, so they are known as the delegation of civil society leaders. They are all who decided this with Ashley.

Moaaz Lulat: I think to better add to that, this is in collaboration with TMU Global and the Democratic Engagement Exchange.

Sophia Di Manno: Yes so it's really Ashley Petch and John Beebe. Ashley is technically the Project Coordinator and then John is the Founder of the exchange and then Global learning is a partner.

MM: Okay, so all of those visits, what you're saying is that they're not a core part of the trip, the forum that you're going to. It's external and it's other programming?

Arsham Saijadi: Those trips, I believe, are part of the forum but they're separate. So the symposium is for students, for example the people who go to the forum are adults, leaders, journalists. They wouldn't be included in that symposium. The symposium would be core for students' experience, but not perhaps for the conference itself if you're not a student.

Sophia Di Manno: And then the day trip, it's not part of the forum, but it is part of our program that John and Ashley and TMU Global have come together and created for us. The entire program is centered around the forum, but it is curated with more than the forum. We're listening to speakers and we're going to these workshops and everything. But then we're also getting the type of learning and the type of experience that you can't really teach from listening to somebody speak. So that's why we're going to have like curated local tour guides who are going to really take us to these areas and really break down the significance of these these landmarks that we're going to be exposed to and why it is it is so essential in building that knowledge of why are we here why did we travel all the way to Greece you know where did democracy start and why is it so important that we be a part of this today.

MM: Okay, so the Democracy Forum itself is - just making sure I have all my facts right. The Democracy Forum itself is three and a half days. You have one day trip, and it's a five day, five night total trip.

Sophia Di Manno: It's seven days. So we go, we leave on Saturday, September 26, and we come back Sunday, October 4. Because of the flight time we don't get in until Sunday. So in total, it's over the span of nine days, but we're actually in Greece for about seven days.

MM: Okay. Do you have access to a day by day breakdown of events and what you're going to be doing?

Moaaz Lulat: Yes, would you like to see?

MM: Yea if you could share your screen that would be amazing. Do we have time?

KC: Sorry, mine was just a follow up question of KA's. I see that you guys reached out to SIF as well for funding if you don't mind sharing what was their response to your proposal?

Sophia Di Manno: So with SIF, the thing was we actually couldn't reach out to them because they don't actually review until the first week of October. We will have already gone. Unfortunately, the deadline just doesn't work. They haven't even started taking the applications for the school year yet, and it's October 2, 3, and 4 that they review the applications, and we will have already done our trip by then, unfortunately. And we only found out that we were going on this trip in May, so it was way past the deadline already.

KC: Alright, thank you so much!

Moaaz Lulat: So, this is a day by day breakdown on what we hope to do.

CR: Hi great presentation but just for Sunday, September 27 the arrival orientation day. What exactly would that entail? Is that related to the symposium or is it just a chance for students to socialize?

Sophia Di Manno: That's just the day that we will get into Athens. We have to check into our hotel, and then we have a welcome dinner with the students. But we also have people who we are traveling with that are already in Greece that will be with us on our whole trip. I guess that's not so much the symposium that's more of just the day we're getting in, we're getting situated and we're meeting all of the people who will be taking us through the week.

CR: Okay, thanks.

AM: Okay, for the sake of time, I'm going to ask if there's anybody who has any pressing pressing questions, we can maybe entertain one or two. No, okay. And then I have two just clarifying questions for you folks that will just help us in our decision making. One is this part of a course of any kind?

Moaaz Lulat: No.

AM: Okay, and then two, you have the slide on support from the Dean's office. Has the Dean's office promised any funding towards this?

Sophia Di Manno: Not as of right now just their backing.

EC: It was the Graduate Dean .

AM: Okay thank you! So we will discuss it and you will hear from us soon!

Moaaz Lulat: Thank you so much for your time. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions. We're more than happy to get you answers and come back here and speak to you guys, and thank you guys. Appreciate your time.

AM: Wait wait we have one final pressing question!

BR: Hi guys, it's Brianna. So I remember during office hours, I had asked you guys to consider what's the minimum amount that you would need from us in order to help fund this. If you've been able to ask your peers what amount they would be able to contribute personally to this trip if they would have to, and what would you know kind of have to supplement on that? Were you able to get an answer from them?

Moaaz Lulat: I can answer this question. So again, we really really want to reiterate the fact that without this funding, with the money that we're asking for, a lot of students would not be able to go.

Like just flat out, that wouldn't be financially feasible for a lot of students, for the majority of the students. I feel like we did ask, and I've asked, and we didn't get a proper answer.

Arsham Saijadi: I talked to a couple students. The answer I didn't talk to everybody, the couple I did talk to the answers were generally if we're looking at something above 50% and 50 to 75 range. I did get a couple that were like, okay, I could probably do this, but then also a few that said no. That's not the entire group of 20. But out of the six, I think five people I talked to, if we're looking at something between 50 and 75, some of them could reasonably go ahead.

Sophia Di Manno: I'll just say because I've spent a lot of time with a lot of the girls on the trip too, they're like oh you're involved in the funding committee, I don't know if I'm going to be able to do this and I don't think that everybody wants to be upfront about their financial situation. Of course, that's their own business, so I don't expect them to give me an exact number or anything. But I do know from a lot of the girls that I have talked to for the same thing that they're like you know it's a lot of money and not a lot of money that a lot of people have unfortunately, and these are all very intelligent and and very deserving individuals that you would just hate to see an opportunity go to waste just because of financial constraints.

Moazz Lulat: And we, I also want to point out that we as a group of 20 still really, really, really want to emphasize that this opportunity is invaluable. Like we would not be able to open these doors on our own without this opportunity. I would never see myself going to a democracy forum in Athens on my own without any support from SASSH and or the exchange itself or this program, right?

MM: Thank you so much. I just have one other question for the 20 students, a lot of students, if they don't get this funding, would not be able to go on the trip. Does that mean that the selection committee, if they can't afford it, would go and select other students to go on the trip and on their behalf or in that spot?

Sophia Di Manno: That's their decision to make. We have not been told the answer but I am actually not sure. That would be their decision.

AM: Okay alright thank you very much. We are going to chat and we will get back to you soon.

Moazz Lulat: I do have one thing. We're more than happy to step out into a breakout room. You guys can discuss. If you guys have any more questions that come up, we're here, available. If that's something that you guys would like, if not, that's fine.

AM: I think we're okay. Yeah, we had our time to ask you questions.

EC: In my mind, it makes sense to give them the accommodation and the actual Athens Democracy Forum fees, which equals to 22,000. The flights and all the extra stuff is extra stuff, and in my experiences when I've done study exchanges or study abroad, if I couldn't afford the extra stuff, I just didn't go on the extra stuff. And I feel like whoever's planning these trips, because there isn't a - I don't

think there's a Faculty point of contact. It's just TMU global, so I feel like there should be some flexibility and if you can pay for this, you can attend this. If not, you can't, and that's not a bad thing.

AM: So just a point of information, kind of in response to that. I think the way this is put together is you sign up for, or you apply for the whole experience, or you don't. So I don't think they have the option to say, oh, we'll do this part but not that part, or or whatnot. Like it is just a flat yes or flat no? Okay, **CR**'s next.

CR: I did read about this when they were first hanging out with the academic advisors, and I think it is a really great opportunity. However, it is very very expensive. I think if anything just to ensure that everyone is able to participate, definitely keeping in the flights, the accommodation, and then the forum fees. But they did say that the workshop, field visits, and local programming- at least what I understood from the conversation is that it wasn't a part of the direct forum. So if we could ask if students are able to pay for that separately, or if they go to SIF or not SIF, but like some other alternative sources of funding, I think that would be great.

MM: As much as I hate to say, TMSU is accepting funding pitches right now, and so they have that avenue to go to if we are not able to fund the whole thing, and they accept on a rolling basis like we do. So the entire month of August would be there for them to go if they want to explore that avenue. I'm a fan of flights, accommodation, and forum fees. I don't think the day trip workshops, all of that, is a part of the core forum. And if all the networking and representing Canada and all of that is going to happen at the forum, I don't think it's as beneficial to the university as a whole if we fund the rest of it. Obviously, it's great for their personal development, but the university won't feel the benefits, and SASSH and the organization won't feel the benefits of that as well. I know it's enriching for them individually, and it would be ideal if we could fund all of it. But I just think \$80,000 is a huge ask, and we probably can't. It's so early in the year; we need to fund other things too. It's not responsible to spend \$80,000 on only 20 students, unfortunately, in my opinion.

SX: I don't know. I feel like this has nothing to do with the students because they applied for it and everything. But I didn't love that the selection process was completely finished, and then they came to us. I know they couldn't control that, but I would have loved for that to maybe be done earlier, if possible, from the organizers' part. But yeah, I just think it comes down to them not being totally aware of the details and just not able to communicate it, which is fine, but there could have been more. Like I do want to fund it to some point, but 80k is a lot to spend quickly, as **MM** mentioned.

YB: So just reading off the website for the Democratic Engagement Exchange. It seems like the \$4000 is all inclusive, including tours, excursions, and related activities. So it seems like that is part of the forum itself. So I agree with the idea that even if we can do flights, accommodation, and maybe even the fees, and then for how much of an extra thing this is to someone's education, funding it fully is a little bit steep of a request. I'm a politics student, I know what kind of opportunity this is for anybody in the Faculty of Arts. I mean, I didn't get to apply, but I just don't think the whole thing is something we can ever do. Even if we had like a bigger budget, just on the principle of it, this is something extra

that you're doing because yes, on merit you got selected, but some of it, I think some of it should have come from a student who was going on an extra trip. Even if they can do \$1000 of this cost, it would be a lot easier for us to consider something like that.

CR: I just wanted to clarify for the TMSU funding. What's the probability that they would say yes to a number like this, or even half of this number? Does anyone know, or has anyone had any previous experiences with that?

AM: They would have the same experience that we have. So, they can say yes to everything, they can say no to everything, they can do partial funding. I have no idea what the likelihood is, and it also depends on the students who are on that board and their priorities for the year and all that stuff. We have a comment from **CV** in the chat. Could someone read that out loud?

EC: I want to emphasize that we have to represent the entire Faculty of Arts student membership, not just 20 students under the FOA. This is a huge ask, and I fear risking prioritizing this over other potential things we could fund that could benefit everyone else.

KA: So I know we were talking about potentially doing the flights and accommodation and the forum fees. If you add up all of that, it would end up being about \$62,000, which is a lot. Only because we've also currently requested gay funding for previous initiatives, so that would be rounding up. It'd be like 25,000. Add this on 62,000. At the end of the year, we usually receive a lot of pitches for trips, if we lowball it, maybe 40,000, and then in total, if our funding budget is 160,000, we'd have only about 36,000 left to give to students and individuals requesting funding throughout the semesters. So, I do think even if we do flights, accommodations, and the forum fees, that might be a lot as well. I think if we could potentially look into doing maybe around 30,000, I feel like that might be a better number with our current trends.

EC: I just wanted to understand which line, but it's line 5.5121 for the project funding.

KC: I was comparing their funding pitch to the LIR one that we just accepted or passed last month, and the numbers- the LIR flight trips that we funded were from Toronto to Shanghai. That is a further destination, and they were asking for 40,000 altogether, which we funded 20,000, which was only Toronto to Shanghai for about how many students was that? 17. Yeah, they are asking almost the same for a shorter distance, as well as almost the same amount of students, and I wish they would have shared like all of their funding, the line by line breakdown, because I know what's in their presentation is kind of just rough estimates, and it doesn't feel right going off of that.

SX: They probably just don't know it.

YB: Their website is not very detailed either.

ABM: Hi, everyone. I do think that this is a point of information. I am one of the students selected. However, I was not part of the process of making this finance pitch. I offered to help out for SIF, but

when we found out that that wasn't a route that we were going to be taking, I kind of took my hands off. I wasn't a part of this presentation just so everyone knows, I just wanted to bring up something from before. I don't think Global TMU organizes it; there's another subcategory called the Democratic Engagement Exchange. So technically, our coordinator Jill is from Global TMU, so she helps coordinate the students with Democratic Engagement Exchange. But then I also do agree about the breakdown. I'm wondering if we can reach out and see if they can break it down a bit more because the way that they explained it wasn't really clear because the schedule that I got as just a regular participant is that orientation would take one day and we only have one free day of a day trip but Monday and Tuesday would be the student symposium and everything's included in that symposium, so it's interactive session receptions, just different speakers, different talks. We're just going to be going to a different session every other day, and then from Wednesday to Friday, it's the Athens Democracy Forum. So I think that that should be prioritized in funding, maybe rather than other things that you guys are speaking to, because I agree that it is a big ask.

BR: Okay, so I know we talked earlier about what's their kind of minimum amount if they'd be able to afford this. I've had three different meetings with these students and I did explain to them the fact that \$80,000 is probably the biggest ask we've ever had on SASSH that I know about. Maybe you guys can give me more details on that. I did explain to them that what they heard from our previous meeting and our \$160,000 that we have for funding is essentially for the entire Faculty of Arts for the entire year. I've been trying to wrap my brain with a possible number to suggest just like a flat amount, and it's hard to do. It's really hard to do because if I'm doing calculations, like **KA**, I mean, considering CHIT accounts, and students would have that accessible, that's still not the same as more doctorate events that student groups have every year which is their annual this and their annual that. They're expecting to come to us for funding. I know that we do fully fund some trips, but an international trip compared to within Canada is a very different price, so it's hard. Just in case anyone's wondering what number I have in mind, I've been racking my brain for a week to come up with a number because I do understand how important it is for them. I mean, the first time I got to experience SASSH funding for a trip was last year myself for a EUSSA Montreal trip. It was like our inaugural trip for the course union. It was great. I would have never been able to step foot in Montreal for maybe another three more years personally, not for that. It was very enriching, but at the same time, measuring the enrichment of 20 students compared to a Faculty of almost 5,000 right now, when more and more students are coming to us for funding. I already had concerns about the funding budget as a whole for the year because I wanted to increase it, but we have limitations and more and more students are coming to us. So, if you guys have any you know thoughts on maybe just a set number, not considering maybe just a specific item let me know but it is hard for me as well.

AM: It is also a cost center transfer that they're asking for, rather than sort of a receipt and you pay the price for this thing. So you could do it almost like it's a contribution to an existing project, right? So you could just decide we're going to pay randomly, \$1,000 per student, and you can just transfer that amount. Like that, that's also an option.

BR: So my question to that is: It's a cost center transfer. There's a lot of them that are saying that if they don't get, 50 or 75% they won't be able to go. Yeah. If that's transferred and then it doesn't get used, can we just request that back to our cost center.

AM: Yes.

YB: I would like to read an excerpt from the Democratic Engagement Exchange. It says, and I quote: "It says the Faculty of Arts SASSH Fund and the Global Learning Award Program offer very generous financial support for conferences and international program participation. The program staff will support students as funding applications. Now, I'm not going to speak to that first part, but I did think it was important to bring up the second part. The second part, the program staff will support students in funding applications. I feel like if we have any serious questions about line by line breakdowns and other things, I think we should be reaching out to them because they said that they would be supporting these student applications and as far as I'm aware from this whole presentation, they just did this independently. So I think if we really have any pressing matters that we don't think the students can understand or are able to respond to, then this would be where we should go next. \$80,000 is a lot of money and **CV** also brings up a great point about how this is 20 students. So I think it's not unreasonable for us to be very strict with what we're willing to move around in terms of the expense. So even if we take cheapest flights, cheapest accommodation, and cover the democracy forum fees, that would be less than what is this? 62,000? If it's less than that, I know that's still gonna be a really big number. It's still gonna be like 50 plus, probably. I haven't run the math fully, but then asking each student to do \$900 on top of that, right? I don't. I don't think it's unreasonable. But again, it would still be above \$50,000 if we run the math on cheapest all options plus democracy forum fees.

AM: I do think that the students are going to have absolutely no control over that and I think what has happened is the organizers put together the program. Things are booked. It's all ready. I don't think that there's an option for anything to change. You know, probably ideally in this situation that the democracy forum would have come to us much earlier and sort of asked for support, and then we could have made some recommendations in terms of can we do something that's a little bit cheaper in this area or whatever it is, but that didn't happen. So I think the cost that we're looking at is what it's going to be, from what I'm understanding. That being said, I do still have a speakers list here.

MM: Direct response. For the flights, I think that is one thing that can change because they gave us alternative flight option pricing. One of them was \$1240, which is \$740 less per person, and the reason they said they didn't go with that option is because they don't want to do layovers, and they listed that in the bullet point section of their rationale. I think if you really want to make this trip happen, and you're really passionate about the benefits of it, you'll take the layover. So they actually didn't present us with the cheapest option, or they gave us a cheaper option and then said that they weren't willing to do it. So yeah, even if we were to approve half of this, \$40,000 of the \$80,000 ask is the flight, and they didn't give us the cheapest option for the flight. So how can we trust that they gave us the cheaper figures for everything else? Accommodation that wasn't the cheapest figure. We looked at the dates, and there are cheaper accommodations for those dates. I think that they over asked. We just can't trust

the numbers that they're providing us. So until we get confirmation from the program, I don't think it's appropriate for us to vote on this at all because the figures aren't correct.

YB: Yeah, direct response as well. So, according to this accommodation for seven nights is like \$14,000, I did my own booking on booking.com. I gave the same date range, 20 adults, and I said 10 rooms, but that's just because of the limitations and just like trying to find them. I think we need to definitely ask the staff a lot of questions that because I don't think the students are going to be able to answer them at all, and I know they seem very enthusiastic to answer them, but I mean they are students at the end of the day and they are not the ones organizing this trip.

AM: No and I think the students were told this trip costs \$4000. Are you signing up or not? Originally that is all that they know.

KC: Was that included in the application when they applied for this?

AM: I would assume so.

KC: So they knew they were signing up for \$4000 per person?

YB: Well, they were led to believe that we're very generous.

AM: Which I mean, you know, I think you folks are. Okay, I want to move forward in conversation, **CR!**

CR: I had a similar point to what was mentioned before, as **MM** and **YB** about asking for a cheaper rate for the flights because I do think, if we can cut that cost entirely or just lower it, it would be a lot better because 24 instead of 40 is definitely a better number. Also, I wanted to ask, do you guys think it would be fair? Because I know that LIR, when they were considering rates from Toronto to Shanghai, they excluded some students because some students were traveling from within Asia, so they had a cheaper flight rate. Would it be fair for us to ask the students from this forum, who in particular needs the 50 to 70% covered, and who can cover like their own flight, just so that we're not spending it on students that might be able to afford it? If you guys think that's fair.

AM: I think it's complicated and in that situation you basically are asking each student to come and pitch on their own.

CR: Would it be fair if we did like an anonymous form, and then students just responded by, "Yes, I can cover 50% of my amount. I can't cover anything, and I can cover 25% different things or would that be too complicated?

MM: We don't know if they have time. I also don't think that they would be truthful. I mean, they would probably say, "Yeah, I can't afford anything, and have it covered. I would like it to be covered.

AM: Okay folks let's regain here, I still have my speakers list going here and that being said going forward for all folks in person and online only provide new comments, if you are repeating what has already been said please refrain yourself. So only new comments please.

KD: I already forgot. Point. Okay, I want to make clear, point of information, **BR/YB** kind of, they were made clear about our budget for student group funding and given our conversation would it be fair to somehow get the organizers into this conversation of student funding or trip funding?

AM: I mean yes but not tonight. When is the trip?

KC: September 26th to October 4th.

KD: Because it does not really seem fair to the students to have to pitch for something that they don't really have control over the funding of because there are other options that are cheaper and reasonably accessible. So I would say that if they do want funding and they claim that we do give that funding it would be more fair for them to give that pitch rather than students.

SX: But they cannot which is why I asked that question in the first place because I understand that they are not physically able to give the presentation because they are covering their own section and the students are being covered but I think a lot more input from the Faculty or whoever organized it would be vital for this pitch to move forward.

ABM: Relatively most things have been said I just wanted to confirm that when they came to us the flights and hotel were already kind of set in stone so I'm wondering if we can still contact them to see if there was any leeway with that because just as **MM** was saying even with the flights with layovers because they are asking for this money we should be more mindful of having the most affordable option, it could be that there was different safety requirements or it was important to keep students all together since this is a symposium and forum so I am wondering if that paid a part in their hotel and flights and also during application process I am unsure if it was **KC** but I know there was a discussion about that and when applying they told you that you just had to have this deposit ready and the rest that they would be working on, they never gave any total upfront so this is all that the students know about and I do think it's worth to get the breakdown from the organizers and I'm wondering if they can meet with **BR** because for things like flight, accommodations and program participation is more mandatory however things like tours and excursions can be communicated with the organizers to see if students can cover that cost.

KA: So because this would be a direct cost center transfer - I am going to throw out a number of \$25,000 and then it would be up to the organizers themselves on how that could be distributed. I do want to say these students did great with the information that they had and I do think a lot of it falls on the organizers unfortunately. I remember when I was transitioning out of my role as VP Finance last year I had received an email from the organizers so this was something that they were considering from late april but unfortunately we were not apart of those conversations early enough for us to able to give those input so I hope in the future we can have more of a collaboration with organizers like that. I

think we had one similar with the Democracy Fellowship two years back so I know there are opportunities for us to work with these larger scale programs but if we are included in those conversations earlier I think it would be really great.

CR: I had a direct comment to **KA**'s point. I think the 25,000 could be fair but I think if we were to offer them that money we should have them give us a new expense sheet just so we know where we are putting that 25,000 towards so that in any event or if students drop out the money is not just going towards 3 or 4 students if that makes sense.

AM: Yeah I think what you could also do is say we go with **KA**'s amendment or suggested number of \$25,000 again it is a cost center so it would be approving \$25,000 cost center transfer to the Democracy Exchange for the purposes of the Athens trip to be allocated to whatever you wanted so fees, accommodations etc and that further conversation would be had with the organizers around distribution and return of any unused funds. Something like that and I think what makes sense is that we would be telling the students we want to support you in this learning opportunity that you have and we think this is great but we need to do some more conversations with the organizers to figure out the logistics.

9.2 - Athens Democracy Forum Youth Leaders Program - Funding Pitch (7:48 PM) [Voting Period]

AMEND: Motion to amend to say approval of 25,000 to be transferred to Democracy Exchange cost center for the purposes of Athens trip for the purposes of flights, accommodations and forum fees. Further conversation to be had with organizers of the trip about funding distribution and the return of unused contribution.

Motioned by: KA Seconded by: BR
In Favour: 7 Against: 3 Abstentions: 3

[Motion carries]

Original Motion: To approve \$80,000 for the Athens experiential learning program, providing \$4,000 each to 20 selected TMU student fellows from the Faculty of Arts.

Motioned by: KA Seconded by: BR
In Favour: 0 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

10.0 - Approval of New Directors (7:53 PM) [Question and Discussion Period]

KA: On May 30, 2026, the SASSH Board voted to establish a recruitment committee for the 5 vacant Director positions. On the recruitment committee was sitting the Director of Criminology, Director of Politics and Governance, SASSH President, Vice President of Operations, Vice-President, of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility and the Manager. The recruitment committee received at least one eligible application for each of the 5 vacant Director positions so the numbers are all listed below so for Director of Economics and Finance we had 3 valid applications, Director of Environment and Urban Sustainability, Director of History and Director of Philosophy we had 1 valid application and Director of Psychology we had 10 valid applications. As Psychology had over 3 applications, each member of the Recruitment Committee narrowed down the Psychology applications to form a top 5 based on their responses on the Google Form. From this sorting, the Recruitment Committee offered an interview to the average top 3 ranked candidates based on initial application. Interviews were offered to 3 Economics and Finance applicants and 3 Psychology applicants. These candidates went through an interview process with the Recruitment Committee. The Recruitment Committee narrowed down the selection to the top 2 candidates of Economics and Finance and Psychology Directors. Based on these interviews and the candidate's applications, the Recruitment Committee has recommended the following candidates for the position of the following SASSH Director positions. Just for transparency's sake one member of the recruitment committee had identified having a bias as they know one or more of the candidates enough for it to be a conflict of interest. While these members sat on the interview panel, they will be abstaining during the Voting Process. That individual is SX. The following positions had only one eligible applicant. The Recruitment Committee has reviewed their submissions and recommends the following candidates. For Director of Environment and Urban Sustainability, Ariana Christopher. For Director of History, Yiannoula Verrios and for Director of Philosophy, Brooke Guindon.

The following positions had multiple eligible applicants and so the Recruitment Committee recommends the following candidates based on their interviews in addition to their application. The recruitment committee moves that SASSH offer the position of Director of Economics and Finance to Cole Mckinnon. The Recruitment Committee were impressed with Cole's creative thinking and interpersonal skills, including conflict resolution through true collaboration. Cole was able to identify key SASSH initiatives, including Orientation, Kaleidoscope and SPROUT as an incoming second year. His answers to interview questions were the most sophisticated and well-thought-out. In terms of potential gaps Cole did not have as much university level student leadership experience, however this falls into the typical trajectory of a second year student and he has lots of leadership experience from high school. In the event that Cole cannot accept the role, the recruitment committee recommends reaching out to Kyle Flores and offering the position of Economics and Finance Director. Kyle consistently asked clarification questions and broke down the interview questions in order to think of possible solutions based on different perspectives. Kyle also promoted collaboration and consultation between different groups in order to find the best answer. In terms of potential gaps he did not talk as much about existing SASSH events or identify key initiatives. The recruitment committee moves that the SASSH offer the position of Director of Psychology to Joseph Ng. Joseph took his time with all of the questions and consistently brought up themes of advocacy and putting the membership first in his

answers. His experience showed that he had great initial ideas based in advocacy for others, in particular, for those who are not always heard. He also had a clear idea of how he can grow as a student leader within the role, which is something SASSH wants to encourage and support. In terms of potential gaps he did not have as much experience within SASSH and Course Unions. In the event that Joseph cannot accept the role, the recruitment committee recommends reaching out to Daniel Dabir and offering the position of Psychology Director. Daniel has a lot of experience within campus and identified many of SASSH's operations and initiatives, having held a role on the Board previously. Daniel consistently referred back to the Membership and used their feedback to make large decisions. In terms of potential gaps he focused more on existing channels and not on new ideas and due to Daniel's extensive experience and involvement within campus, including as SASSH's Vice-President of Operations, the role may not contribute as much to his long-term development goals.

AM: Exciting things, we may have a full board at the end of this meeting! We will vote one by one so anyone can identify any bias that they have, but does anybody have any questions or comments?

KD: Is it a bias that Daniel Dabir is technically a vendor of SASSH cause he is with Clickpix?

AM: No so he identified that and asked that as well, we can identify where there might be areas of conflict of interest and manage that.

EC: Just reading out **CV**'s note from online, 'I know Joseph Ng personally and suggested that he should apply for director of psychology'

AM: Excellent so **CV** you may want to abstain when we vote on that position, if you feel like that is a conflict of interest. Any other questions?

EC: Just for the acclaimed positions you've met with each of them?

KA: No we did not meet with them but reviewing their application the recruitment committee still recommends them.

AM: And if they were running in an election they would have been given the position anyways as well.

10.1 - Approval of New Directors (8:01 PM) [Voting Period]

Motion: To move that SASSH offer the positions of Director of Environment and Urban Sustainability to Ariana Christopher

Motioned by: KA Seconded by: MK
In Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

Motion: To move that SASSH offer the positions of Director of History to Yiannoula Verrios

Motioned by: KA Seconded by: MK
In Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

Motion: To move that SASSH offer the positions of Director of Philosophy to Brooke Guindon

Motioned by: KA Seconded by: MK
In Favour: 12 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1

Motion: SASSH to offer the position of Director of Economics and Finance to Cole Mckinnon. In the event that Cole cannot accept the role, the recruitment committee recommends reaching out to Kyle Flores and offering the position of Economics and Finance Director.

Motioned by: KA Seconded by: MK
In Favour: 13 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

Motion: SASSH to offer the position of Director of Psychology to Joseph Ng. In the event that Joseph cannot accept the role, the recruitment committee recommends reaching out to Daniel Dabir and offering the position of Psychology Director.

Motioned by: KA Seconded by: MK
In Favour: 11 Against: 0 Abstentions: 2

[All motions carry]

11.0 - Adjournment (8:05 PM)