

September 16, 2009

World University Service of Canada (WUSC) U of A

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: September 16th 2009

Executives Present: Rannie Tao, Aditya Rao, Ola Rydz, Kimberly Ketsa, Julia Frolich, Helen Zakrzewski, Laura Rivera, Thomas L'Abbe, Kayla Atkey.

General Members Present: N/A

Overview

1. Introduce WUSC to new members (by Rannie Tao)
1. Played a name game.
1. Introduction of executive and positions.

Executive Positions

Campus Engagement Coordinator – Roshanak Varnasseri and Aditya Rao

Member at Large – Rannie Tao

- Focus on engaging the U of A campus through various awareness initiatives. Focus for the year will be on finding a means of institutionalizing the Student Refugee Program.

Local Committee Engagement Coordinator – Kayla Atkey

- Responsible for administration of the local committee, keeping members up-to-date on volunteer opportunities, organizing bi-monthly general meetings.

Student Refugee Program Dinner Coordinator – Old Rydz

Member at Large – Helen Zakrzewski + Julia Frolich

- Organizing the annual SRP dinner and gala.

Bike for Aids Coordinator – Vacant

Member at Large – Vacant

- Planning our annual Bike for Aids event.

Fair Trade Coordinator – Kimberly Ketsa

Member at Large – Laura Rivera

- Organizing fair trade initiatives on campus.

Student Refugee Program Coordinator – Pauline Mukashema

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Member at Large – Vacant

Treasurer – Thomas L'Abbe

- Establishing and maintaining a budget for the LC, completing the annual and summer financial report.

Secretary – Vacant

- Taking minutes at meetings and sending them out to the LC.

If you are interested in any of the vacant positions, please email Kayla at katkey@shaw.ca

1. Introduction of WUSC main areas and activities.

Student Refugee Program

Aditya Rao gave an overview of the Student Refugee Program (SRP) and our goal of finding a sustainable source of funds in the coming year.

For information, contact agrao@ualberta.ca.

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Student Refugee Program Dinner and Gala

Ola Rydz discussed our annual fundraising event and the main components that are involved in planning the dinner; securing a location, donation of silent auction items, marketing the event, and entertainment.

Fair Trade

Kimberly Ketsa outlined our previous fair trade events in the past and our goals for the coming year. We will (most likely) continue in our partnership with EWB (Engineers Without Borders) and hold Fair Trade Mondays starting this semester.

International Opportunities and Other Events

Kayla Atkey, with the help of Kate Haddow (WUSC Alumni), gave an overview of the international and national travel opportunities available through WUSC U of A.

International Travel Opportunities

- **Students Without Borders (SWB)**: A WUSC initiative that offers university and college students exciting volunteer learning opportunities in Africa, Asia, or South American during the academic year. See www.wusc.ca – volunteer, for more info.

- **International Seminar:** Each summer 20 post-secondary students from across Canada join 20 students from the global South for the International Seminar, a unique six-week educational experience that changes their lives.

This year the international seminar will take place in Nepal. The Local Committee will be holding interviews sometime in November. See www.wusc.ca-volunteer, for more info.

Travel Opportunities within Canada

- **AGM:** Each year, the Local Committee has the opportunity to send one delegate to the WUSC Annual General Meeting in Ottawa. Preference will go to a local committee member who has some experience with WUSC and is interested in taking on a leadership position in the coming years.
- **August Leadership Meeting:** Every summer, the Local Committee sends one delegate to the WUSC leadership meeting in order to develop the skills necessary to lead their LC in the coming year. Preference is also given to LC members who are interested in taking a leadership position such as the position of a Co-Chair.

Other Events

- We will be holding a number of small events throughout the term, such as button making, BBQs, potlucks, seminars.
- Tentative Schedule for the year:

September/October – WUSC BBQ, Fair Trade, Class Presentations, Tabling, Stand-up Event.

November – Just Christmas, AGM

December – Final Exams

January – International Week Seminar

February – SRP Dinner!

March – Bike for Aid

1. Sign up for Events

- Campus Engagement (Institutionalizing WUSC, Finding a renewable Source of funds)
- Tabling + Class Presentations
- Bike for Aids
- Student Refugee Program Dinner

- Stand-up Take-Action (SUSJ) Event
- Fair Trade
- International Week Seminar

If you are interested in signing up for any of the above events, email katkey@shaw.ca

Announcements

- Button-making (I Support the SRP) – Thursday September 17th in the APIRG room in HUB.
- Anyone interested in taking on a leadership position with the LC, email katkey@shaw.ca
- WUSC general meetings will have an educational focus. If you are interested in a particular topic, email katkey@shaw.ca.
- The next general meeting will provide a comprehensive overview of the Student Refugee Program at the U of A.

Roundtable/Discussion

1. Some people are unable to attend meetings on Wednesday. It was decided that the general meetings would alternate between Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 5:00 pm so that everyone can at least attend one general meeting a month. The schedule will be up within the next week. Dates and Times TBA shortly.
 2. At the end of the meeting, we discussed the possibilities of having a referendum this year to increase the student levy. However, we have run into problems with two new bills that the students union is passing (bill 8 and bill 10).
- There are a number of arguments for and against holding a referendum. For more information please contact agrao@ualberta.ca.
 - The local committee decided to focus on institutionalizing WUSC and finding alternative ways to supplement the current student levy. We will also look into redistributing the
 - current levy to make it more sustainable.

Next General Meeting: TBA