

**ANGLO-AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, ALUMNI COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AAU (ROOM 1.31), LETENSKÁ 5, PRAHA 1 – MALÁ STRANA
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2018**

ATTENEES PRESENT:

EGON HAMPL, Alumni Council Chairperson
PETRA KAKOUSIS, Alumni Councilor
NADIA KOTAISOVA, Alumni Councilor
VLADIMÍR PALIČKA, Alumni Councilor
ELIZABETH NOVACEK, Alumni and Career Development Specialist

ABSENT

JAN CHYTIL, Alumni Councilor

Start time 18:40

1. Alumni Presence at President's Inauguration Ceremony

Egon and Nadia confirmed that they are not able to attend, and Petra was uncertain, so it was decided that Vladimir would give a short speech as the President's Assistant requested an Alumni Council member to do so. Egon agreed to respond to the President's assistant's email to confirm Vladimir's speech, and also to help him prepare. Elizabeth explained that she invited about 30 active alumni to attend, and so far two have confirmed their attendance.

2. Recommendation of how to define alumni at AAU

What it means to be an alumni was collectively discussed; the difference between full-degree-sought and only some-credit-sought students is mostly a concern for internal use, so it is not needed to come up with two terms, but rather decided the differences distinguished are just needed through the benefits and possibilities provided to them. Alumni Council collectively decided on the following recommendation;

- Alumni Portal; open to anyone who has completed 4+ classes at AAU who expressed interested
- Alumni Newsletter; open to anyone who has completed 4+ classes at AAU
- Alumni Council and other advisory positions; open to anyone who has completed 4+ classes at AAU and with recommendation from other full degree alumni
- Alumni Cards: open to anyone who has completed 4+ classes at AAU

3. Boost Alumni Cards

Elizabeth explained to the Council that since the launch of the new multi-tier Alumni Cards, that there still has not been many purchases. Council discussed adding more benefits to the cards, but then concluded that the visibility needs to be improved primarily. Alumni Council reviewed the webpage and suggested that Elizabeth elaborate on where the donations can go, spell out the full name of the schools, and also to improve the layout grid of the various tiers.

4. Alumni portal update

Elizabeth informed Alumni Council that the sales contract for the alumni portal is currently being reviewed. Once it is approved the following stages should commence;

- Two weeks for company to build site once contract is signed.
- Review and feedback with Alumni Council, amend as needed.
- Grassroot “spread the word” invitations to get other alumni on it, Elizabeth explained that as it is a community platform, there will be more incentive if invitations come from fellow community members rather than AAU.

Egon expressed an idea that it would be nice for Alumni Council to directly email other alumni from our current database, Elizabeth explained that this may be difficult to share data due to GDPR. Egon a suggestion; when AAU is mailing out for GDPR approval, that we could use free Alumni Cards as motivation.

5. “The AAU Alma Mater” Newsletter content for fall edition

Elizabeth showed Alumni Council the MailChimp analytics from the last news letter sent out, and then reviewed the content of the newsletter itself. For the next newsletter the following content was decided;

- **Opening letter:** Egon will write it and submit it to Elizabeth before September 19th. It should mention the new President, and also that we are working on developing a new community platform portal.
- **President Lizal’s bio:** photo and a brief bio.
- **Alumni Cards:** full description again, but with the same updates as suggested for the website, add picture of Model UN Club and explain how the cards have helped fund it and a shout-out ‘thank-you to those who have bought donation cards’.
- **Summer Mixer:** brief follow up, mostly some pictures and perhaps a teaser for next year.
- **Event forecast:** include Career Center events, and Alumni Council BBQ on Oct.4th
- **Sexual harassment follow up:** review the harassment cases, and also moving forward with the task force (including alumni involvement).

6. Update on Career Center Events

Elizabeth informed Alumni Council of the Career Center events to be newly held this fall;

- “Life After Graduation” series: casual roundtable discussion with relevant alumni and professors of that field to discuss that particularities of that industry. This fall the first one shall be on “NGOs”.
- Skill development series: One industry expert will present on one specific skill to interested students. This fall the first one shall on professional social media.
- A panel discussion on the topic “what kind of graduates the world will need” to address new arguments that with the increase of tech industry, there will be a subsequent increase of demand for humanities and liberal art graduates.

Egon suggested that both the series would be very interesting for alumni to also learn from.

7. Harassment Task Force

Elizabeth informed Alumni Council that the sexual harassment cases reported over the summer were closed and that the professor it regarded was terminated. WASC audited AAU’s harassment procedures, policies and how these two particular cases were handled, and concluded that it was up there standard. Elizabeth followed up that AAU still wants to improve its reporting, policy and procedures up to students’ satisfaction, and explained the Task Force that was assembled to address this, making up of the following positions;

- Student Council Representative: Karen Kanazawa
- Alumni Council Representative: Nadia Kotaishova
- Student Representative: Steven Wilson
- AAU Staff and Human Resources Representative: Olgica Mitošević
- Chair: Carrollann Braum

Elizabeth explained that Nadia was selected to represent the alumni body, as she was involved reporting cases in the Lennon Wall while she was a student. Nadia reviewed the key points from the first Task Force meeting which was held on Monday, October 10th (see **Appendix A** at end of this document).

Elizabeth reviewed the university’s values as cited in the Student Handbook. Alumni Councilors said that they all wanted their own copy of the Student Hand Book.

8. Alumni informal get together

In conclusion to discussion about the next alumni event, it was concluded that on October 4th, Alumni Council will host an informal get together open to the whole AAU Community in the AAU courtyard. Elizabeth will facilitate organization and logistics as needed. Elizabeth to report to Egon how much budget there is available for it.

End time 20:28

Appendix A:

1. Improve anonymous reporting

- Online submission through website

2. Establish an ombudsman (or team of two)

- Ombudsman to assist students throughout investigation process emotionally and logistically; act as a logistical liaison with the Investigation committee
- Should be independent of AAU and qualified
- Concerns about AAU co-founder Michael Proskočilová being one of the two ombudsmen as she would be impartial

3. Improve accessibility to policy, reporting and support

- Should have a tile on the “For Students” page specifically ‘what to do...’
- Have hypothetical example questions regarding violations to help understand grey areas
- Have a more ‘digestible’ version which links to the full policies on web

4. Update policy

- Will compare with other universities
- Concern with that informal relationships between students and professors within certain bounds, is a factor that is appreciated and special about AAU,
- Question of if AAU wants to ban conceptual romantic relationships between certain stakeholders, and if it is legally possible

5. Workshops

- While counselling and policy are reactive measures, students can be educated and empowered through workshops which discuss harassment and personal boundaries in the professional sphere. These workshops will not aim to teach a ‘one-solution to all’ method, but rather get students thinking critically about how they personally feel and their own objectives. Workshops should be for men and women.

6. Improve psychological counselling

- More qualified psychological counsellor
- Counsellor who is not a professor at AAU or too ‘connected’ to AAU
- Currently ‘mis-advertised’

Call to action:

1. Create committees for the following;

- Investigations
- Reporting
- Policies and Rules
- Victim Support

Alumni should reach out to Nadia if they are interested in being involved.

2. Develop ‘leadership’ workshops