



Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association
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Council Meeting

Date: April 04, 2011

Place: Web conference

Time: 7:00pm

Attendance: Amanda Nielsen, President
Denise Ferris, VP External (exited at 8pm)
Michael Balaski, VP Academic (arrived at 7:19pm)
Nathaniel Ostashewski, VP Operations & Finance
Ric Wheeler, VP Student Life
Melissa Seaborg, Counselling Representative
Greta Kirstein, Heritage Resources Management Representative

Absent: David Keene, Arts Representative
Lorna Howieson, Business Representative

INDEX	MINUTES	ACTION
1.0 – Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 7:07pm.	
2.0 – Approval of the Agenda	MOTION: Nathaniel moved to approve the agenda with one amendment: that item 6.5 “Apple iPad for President” be revised to read “Communications Tools for Executive.” Ric seconded & the motion carried unanimously.	
3.0 – Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting	MOTION: Nathaniel moved to approve the minutes and Melissa seconded; motion carried unanimously.	
4.0 – Reports		
4.1 – Executive Reports	VPOF report: See attached. VP External report: See attached.	

	<p>VP Student Life report: See attached.</p> <p>VP Academic report: No written report was submitted; an oral report was provided. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missed a few meetings in the past month. • No student academic appeals this past month. • Still working on Turnitin, via Academic Council; will get something about this on Landing soon. • Looking into charitable status for AUGSA. • Working on transition document for the incoming VP Academic. • Wants to draft an ethics policy for AUGSA, will start a conversation on the Landing. <p>President's report: See attached.</p>	
4.2 – Council Reports	<p>Counselling Rep's report: See attached.</p> <p>HERM Rep's report: See attached.</p> <p>The Arts and Business representatives were absent & no written reports were provided in advance of the meeting.</p>	
4.3 – Staff Reports	Coordinator's Report: See attached.	
5.0 – Old Business	No old business.	
6.0 – New Business		
6.1 – CASFAA Conference	<p>CASFAA is a conference for student financial aid professionals. Students are invited to attend in order to better understand student financial aid in order to better serve their fellow students.</p> <p>MOTION: Nathaniel moved that Adam and Amanda attend the conference at a cost of \$25 each plus travel/accommodation costs and Melissa seconded; motion carried unanimously.</p>	
6.2 – 25% at AU Store/AUGSA Swag	The AU Store Manager will provide AUGSA with a 25% discount on AU merchandise to be used as swag.	

	<p>After discussion on whether or not this was preferable to AUGSA-branded swag, a motion was made:</p> <p>MOTION: Melissa moved to give Amanda a budget of \$2,500 for swag, to use at her discretion, as she attends most of the meetings on AUGSA’s behalf; Nathaniel seconded & the motion carried unanimously.</p>	
<p>6.3 – Tribute to David Swann brunch</p>	<p>MOTION: Nathaniel moved to send Amanda to the Tribute to David Swann brunch in order to continue AUGSA’s government relations work; Melissa seconded the motion & it carried unanimously.</p>	
<p>6.4 – CASA AGM Report</p>	<p>Amanda presented her written report on the CASA AGM (see attached).</p>	
<p>6.5 – Communications Tools for the Executive</p>	<p>Nathaniel noted that some Executive members may not have the tools necessary to connect to AUGSA the way that we would like; they may not have up-to-date computers, they may not have easy access to the Internet, etc.</p> <p>At the Executive meeting, he made a suggestion that AUGSA provide a laptop or a portable hard drive if to an executive member if he or she needs one on an “as needed/as-asked-for” basis. During that discussion, Amanda noted that an Apple iPad might be a good tool for her to have (web browser, video camera/editor, etc.).</p> <p>MOTION: Nathaniel moved that AUGSA purchase an iPad 2 and an external hard drive for the President position at a cost of approximately \$1,200; Ric seconded & the motion carried unanimously.</p>	
<p>6.6 – Upgraded Phone Plan for President</p>	<p>The President’s current phone plan does not cover all of her AUGSA-related phone costs, even with the \$75/month communications amount that AUGSA provides. Although she has been able to receive reimbursements on the overages, via the regular expense claim process, this is proving to be costly to AUGSA when compared to simply having AUGSA pay for a better phone plan for her.</p> <p>MOTION: Amanda moved that AUGSA pay for the cost of a phone plan for the President at a cost of \$135/month and Nathaniel seconded; motion carried</p>	

	unanimously.	
7.0 – Other Business		
7.1 – Audit Document	Nathaniel noted that the 2009/10 audit financial statements are now done and he will be putting the finishing touches on the package before publishing it on the AUGSA website. He will post the finalized documents on the Landing for approval from Council before publishing them.	
7.2 – Engaging Students	Michael suggested a goal for the 2011/12 term be to get students more engaged and involved in AUGSA, as we currently don't have a great deal of student involvement beyond the council itself. He will suggest some ideas in the future.	
8.0 – Adjournment	MOTION: Amanda moved to adjourn the meeting and Melissa seconded; motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm	

Amanda Nielsen, President

Adam Snider, Coordinator

Date of Approval