



**Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association**  
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## Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** September 06, 2011

**Place:** Web conference

**Time:** 6:00pm

**Attendance:** Amanda Nielsen, President  
Greta Kirstein, VP External  
Rob Janzen, VP Academic  
Nathaniel Ostashewski, VP Operations & Finance  
Denise Ferris, VP Student Life (exited at 7:43pm)  
Adam Chisholm, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) Rep  
Margot Van Sluytman, FHSS Rep (entered at 6:05pm)  
Moiz Bhamani, Faculty of Business Rep  
Wilson Ho, Faculty of Business Rep  
Ric Wheeler, Faculty of Business Rep  
Jade Clarke, Centre for Distance Education Rep (entered at 6:37pm)  
Steve Harris, Faculty of Science and Technology Rep  
Meg Andronowska, Faculty of Health Disciplines Rep  
Eric Lavoie, Faculty of Health Disciplines Rep  
Lorna Howieson, Speaker of Council

**Regrets:** Sarah Gauvreau, Centre for Distance Education Rep

INDEX	MINUTES	ACTION
1.0 – Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 6:04pm.	
2.0 – Approval of Agenda	<b>MOTION: That the agenda be approved.</b> Carried unanimously. Ferris / Kirstein.	
3.0 – Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes	<b>MOTION: That the previous meeting's minutes be approved as presented.</b> Carried unanimously. Ostashewski / Ferris.	

<b>4.0 – Speaker of Council Introduction</b>	Ms. Nielsen welcomed Ms. Howieson and introduced her and the new Speaker of Council.	
<b>5.0 – Standing Orders (discussion/information)</b>	The Speaker presented the draft standing orders (attached) and some of the basics of Robert’s Rules of Order, what her role is as Speaker, and how she shall address members of Council during meetings.	
<b>6.0 – Reports</b>		
<b>6.1 – Executive Reports</b>	The members of the Executive Committee presented their reports (see attached). The President noted that the Meet & Greet event in Calgary will cost less than the allotted \$2,500, as the University has agreed to help pay for this event; they are also willing to assist with the cost of a Meet & Greet in Ottawa.	
<b>6.2 – Financial Report</b>	Mr. Ostashewski presented the attached financial reports.	
<b>6.3 – Staff Reports</b>	Mr. Snider presented the attached Coordinator’s Report.	
<b>7.0 – Old Business</b>		
<b>7.1 – AUGSA Health Plan</b>	Ms. Nielsen presented the attached health plan proposal.  <b>MOTION: Be it resolved that the AUGSA approve the proposed AUGSA Health and Dental plan benefits and costs, as attached.</b> Carried unanimously. Nielsen / Janzen.	
<b>8.0 – New Business</b>		
<b>8.1 – Right to Research Council</b>	<b>MOTION: Be it resolved that the AUGSA join the Right to Research Coalition to assist in provincial and federal advocacy for Open Access within academia and to assist in educating our members and stakeholders on the importance of Open Access.</b> Carried unanimously. Nielsen / Van Sluytman  By joining the Right to Research Coalition, AUGSA agrees to support the Coalition’s “Resolution in Support of the Student Statement on the Right to Research”:  WHEREAS, writing research papers is a requirement of many Athabasca University graduate-level courses; and  WHEREAS, such assignments require access to articles	Nielsen – Contact Coalition & get AUGSA’s name added to the list of members / supporters – Sept 9

	<p>published in academic journals; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, student access to scholarly literature is primarily provided by subscriptions through the Athabasca University libraries; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the high cost of academic journals – in some fields, more than \$20,000 per year for a single journal subscription – restricts access to knowledge; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the cost of these subscriptions has been accelerating at a rate greater than inflation for the past decades; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, authors of scholarly articles are not paid for their work, with journal profits accruing solely to the publishers; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the majority of research funding comes from public sources, supported by taxpayers; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, all students deserve access to the full body of published scholarly literature; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, “open access” is an alternative to the traditional closed, subscription-access system of scholarly communication; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, open access provides free online access to the results of scholarly research while maintaining quality controls, such as peer review; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, several national and international student organizations and student governments have developed the Student Statement on the Right to Research to explain student interests in the scholarly communications system and to rally students in support of open access; then</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association endorse the Student Statement on the Right to Research and open access to academic research; and</p> <p>THEREFORE, BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association call on the Athabasca University administration, governments and research funders, researchers, and fellow students to support open access to academic research.</p>	
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<p><b>8.2 – Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference</b></p>	<p><b>MOTION: Be it resolved that the AUGSA approve an expenditure of not more than \$2000 to send a representative to the 49th Annual CAGS conference to ensure our members are represented in that body and to assist in the formation of an AUGSA opinion on the possibility of our lobby groups joining CAGS.</b>          Nielsen / Kirstein.</p> <p>A friendly amendment to the main motion was made, so that it now reads:</p> <p><b>MOTION: Be it resolved that the AUGSA approve an expenditure of not more than \$1700 to send a representative to the 49th Annual CAGS conference to ensure our members are represented in that body and to assist in the formation of an AUGSA opinion on the possibility of our lobby groups joining CAGS.</b>          Carried by a vote of 7 to 6.</p>	
<p><b>8.3 – AUGSA Policies Research: Future Directions Following September 2011</b></p>	<p>Ms. Kirstein presented the attached policy direction document, with a focus on Part 2.</p> <p>The document will be posted to the Landing for discussion. Discussion will be continued and finalized at the next meeting on September 29, 2011.</p>	<p>Greta –          Post to          Landing –          Sept 9</p>
<p><b>9.0 – Other Business</b></p>	<p>No other business.</p>	
<p><b>10.0 – Adjournment</b></p>	<p><b>MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.</b> Carried unanimously. Ostashewski / Harris.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.</p>	

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 Amanda Nielsen, President

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 Adam Snider, Coordinator

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 Date of Approval