



Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association
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Council Meeting Minutes

Date: August 15, 2012

Place: Web conference

Time: 6:30pm MDT

Attendance:

Amanda Nielsen, President
Lisa Barrett, VP External
Olivia Meyia, VP Academic
Wilson Ho, VP Operations & Finance
Maria Greaves, Faculty of Business Representative
Margaret Clappison, Faculty of Business Representative
Moiz Bhamani, Faculty of Business Representative
Adam Chisholm, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative
Greta Kirstein, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative
~~Mandy Nielsen, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative~~
Caitlin Cummins, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative
Steve Harris, Faculty of Science and Technology Representative
Jade Clarke, Centre for Distance Education Representative
Sean Sommerfeld, Centre for Distance Education Representative
Adam Snider, Operations Coordinator
Eric Snow, Speaker of Council

Regrets:

Meg Andronowska, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative
Eric Lavoie, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative
Rob Janzen, Faculty of Science and Technology Representative

Absent:

Mandy Nielsen, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative

INDEX	MINUTES	ACTION
1.0 – Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 6:25pm MDT.	
2.0 – Approval of Agenda	MOTION: To adopt the agenda as presented (Cummins / Greaves) Unanimously carried.	
3.0 – Approval of Previous	MOTION: To approve the previous meeting's	

Meeting's Minutes	minutes as presented. (Kirstein / Bhamani) Unanimously carried.	
4.0 – Executive Reports	The members of the Executive Committee presented their written reports to Council. The VPOF also noted that he was required to update Quickbooks in order to get the updated tax tables for the year.	
5.0 – New Business		
5.1 – Belcour Brosseau Metis Awards	MOTION: That the AUGSA send the President to the Belcour Brosseau Metis Awards dinner on September 22, 2012, at a cost of \$106.99 plus tax, in order to meet with current and potential students and to network with members of the AU community who will be present at the event. (VPOF / Cummins) Unanimously approved.	
5.2 – Ignition Awards Luncheon	MOTION: That the AUGSA send the President to the Ignition Awards Luncheon on October 19, 2012, at a cost of \$49.95 plus GST, in order to network with members of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce and to meet Minister Tony Clement, President of the Treasury Board of Canada, to discuss issues affecting graduate students. (VPOF / Greaves) Unanimously approved.	
5.3 – Ombuds Service Research	MOTION: That the AUGSA spend up to \$500 to hire a researcher to look into ombuds service models used at other CARI institutions and report on best practices and possible improvements that AU could implement to its ombuds service. (President / Sommerfeld) Unanimously approved.	
5.4 – Collective Bargaining Update	The VP Academic and the President updated Council on the status of the collective bargaining process. Key points included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The originally scheduled meeting with AU was cancelled by AU at the last minute. - AU signed agreements with some students before a collective agreement was in place. The Bargaining Committee will endeavor to ensure 	

	<p>that these agreements are grandfathered in so that students currently working as RAs and TAs will not lose any benefits which may not end up in the collective agreement currently being negotiated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The AU Negotiation Team consists of the AU VP Academic, the Dean of Graduate Studies, AU's Legal Counsel, and the Director of HR. 	
<p>5.5 – Email Hosting Options</p>	<p>RESOLUTION: "Whereas the AUGSA Council requires a more professional email hosting service, due to criticality of receiving, replying and reach out to our constituents, where the current system in place is an old, non-supported email hosting services;</p> <p>Be it resolved that the AUGSA Council adopt Microsoft Email (Exchange Online) hosting service for \$93.80 per month plus taxes to ensure we have a reliable tool to better represent our constituents." (VPOF / President) Unanimously carried.</p>	
<p>5.6 – Preferential Voting Software</p>	<p>RESOLUTION: "Whereas the AUGSA Council has voted on June 2012 to adopt a system of preferential instant-run off voting for all votes in which there are more than two possible choices;</p> <p>Be it resolved that the AUGSA Council adopt Election Buddy service for free (under 20 voters) as AUGSA's preferred tool to use in the event of voting for all votes in which there are more than two possible choices." (VPOF / Chisholm) Unanimously carried.</p>	
<p>5.7 – ASEC Conference Update</p>	<p>The President presented her written report on the ASEC Conference.</p> <p>Ms. Kirstein asked if the VP External is able to fill any of the committee roles that AUGSA has taken on. The President indicated that the roles go to individuals, not organizations, so the VP External cannot fill these roles since she was not present at the meeting to accept them, however the President hopes that the VP External will be able to assist with some of the "behind the scenes" work involved in these roles even though she cannot</p>	

	<p>attend the meetings on AUGSA’s behalf.</p> <p>Ms. Clappison asked if there is some way to spread the workload around, so that the President will not be overworked, perhaps having a policy written by another executive but presented at committee by the President. The President indicated that she will work with the Executive team to get their assistance when possible.</p>	
5.8 – AUGSA Credit Card	<p>MOTION: That the AUGSA pursue a credit card for the Association, that the card be in the Operations Coordinator’s possession, and that the credit limit be no more than \$3,500. (VPOF / VP External)</p> <p>MOTION: To postpone this item until the next meeting. (President / Clappison)</p> <p>MOTION: To amend the motion by adding the word “and to have the VPOF report back on details regarding best practices from other student unions and private sector organizations regarding credit card use” after the words “the next meeting.” (Clappison / President) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>The amended motion reads:</p> <p>MOTION: To postpone this item until the next meeting and to have the VPOF report back on details regarding best practices from other student unions and private sector organizations regarding credit card use. (President / Clappison) Unanimously carried.</p>	
5.9 – Approval of Conflict of Interest Policy	<p>The President presented the revised AUGSA Conflict of Interest Policy to Council.</p> <p>MOTION: That the AUGSA Council adopt the updated Conflict of Interest Policy as presented. (President / Sommerfeld) Unanimously approved.</p>	
6.0 – Other Business		
6.1 – Doctorate in Distance Education Event	<p>MOTION: That the AUGSA allocate \$250 for hospitality costs for the Doctor of Distance Education event on Thursday, August 16. (President / Clarke) Unanimously approved.</p>	

6.2 – Graphic Design Costs	MOTION: That we allocate up to \$600 for graphic design costs for the OER Research Report project. (President / Kirstein) Unanimously approved.	
7.0 – Adjournment	MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned. (Sommerfeld / Clappison) Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.	

Amanda Nielsen, President

Adam Snider, Coordinator

Date of Approval