



Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association
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Council Meeting Minutes

Date: December 17, 2013

Place: Web conference

Time: 6:00pm MT

Attendance:

Amanda Nielsen, President
Phil Ferguson, VP Operations & Finance
Julia Radke, VP External
Kurt Spady, Faculty of Business Representative
Caitlin Cummins, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative
Lynde McKinely, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative
Nicole Hill, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences Representative
Cynthia Gordon, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences Representative
Steve Harris, Faculty of Science & Technology Representative
Gerry McDonald, Faculty of Science & Technology Representative
Adam Snider, Operations Coordinator
Eric Snow, Speaker of Council

Absent:

Sofia Nteliopoulou, Centre for Distance Education Representative
Louis Watson, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative
Maria Greaves, Faculty of Business Representative
Slade Sekulich, Centre for Distance Education Representative

INDEX	MINUTES	ACTION
1.0 – Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 6:06pm MT.	
2.0 – Approval of Agenda	MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented. (Gordon / Spady) Unanimously carried.	
3.0 – Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes	MOTION: To approve the previous meeting's minutes as presented. (Spady / Hill) Unanimously carried.	
4.0 – Declarations of Conflicts	None declared.	

of Interest		
5.0 – Reports		
5.1 – Executive Reports	The executive committee members presented oral overviews of their written reports.	
5.2 – Financial Update	The VPOF gave a financial update, highlighting the fact that September was an expensive month because many membership fees in organizations of which AUGSA is a member were due that month. He also noted that October was a relatively inexpensive month because many costs were paid out in September.	
6.0 – New Business		
6.1 – 2014 Budget Process Presentation & Explanation	The VPOF presented the 2014 AUGSA Budget. MOTION: That the budget be accepted and passed as presented. (VPOF / VP External) Unanimously carried.	
6.2 – CASA Update (Info item)	The President gave an update on CASA’s activities, and provided council with a written report for further details.	
6.3 – ASEC Update (Info item)	The VP External gave an update on ASEC’s activities, highlighting the fact that the Students’ Association of Mount Royal University will be leaving ASEC and looking at joining CAUS due to the changing needs of their institution’s students. She also noted that there are potentially three new member associations who may be joining ASEC. The VP External also noted that Alberta has a new Minister of Innovation and Advanced Education, Dave Hancock.	
6.4 – ACHMI Update (Info item)	The President noted that AUGSA received a grant of just over \$30,000 to provide mental health supports to our members and will be hosting a town hall event for the AU community to explain the details and benefits of the program.	
6.5 – Collective Bargaining Update	The President noted that AU’s VP Academic has provided AUGSA with a new draft of the collective agreement. AUGSA has provided its feedback on the	

	latest draft and is currently waiting to hear back from AU regarding the proposed changes.	
6.6 – Provincial GSA Representation Update	<p>The President noted that the Alberta Graduate Council dissolved earlier this year and that AUGSA was the only member GSA that fought to keep it from doing so.</p> <p>While AUGSA is currently a member of ASEC, we do not have a provincial advocacy group that specifically targets the needs of graduate students.</p> <p>In January, the graduate students’ associations from the four CARI schools will be meeting to see what can be done to collaborate and potentially create a new provincial advocacy group to fill the gap left by the dissolution of the AGC.</p>	
6.7 – Review of Job Description for AUGSA Full-time Staff	After discussion, it was agreed that the current Operations Coordinator job posting is generally good and that any final changes to the wording will be left to the Executive Committee.	
6.8 – Compensation for Extra Workload for Executives	<p>MOTION: That the VP Academic pay (\$1,000.00) per month and bonus pay (\$1,250.00) per month be allocated to the remaining executives based upon ratio of hours worked by remaining executives on VP Academic duties retroactive to October 1, 2013. (VPOF / McKinely)</p> <p>MOTION: To amend the motion by striking out the words “and bonus pay (\$1,250.00) per month. (VP External / McKinley) Defeated by a vote of 8 to 1.</p> <p>With the amendment defeated, the main motion remains unchanged and was unanimously carried with one abstention. The VP External went on record as abstaining from the vote.</p>	
7.0 – Other Business		
7.1 – MAIS Student Concerns	<p>Ms. Hill raised a concern brought to her by MAIS students regarding major slowdowns in service within the MAIS office due to budget cuts.</p> <p>The President noted that she and the VP External have been advocating to the province for appropriate post-secondary funding, and that this issue is difficult to</p>	

	resolve until the funding comes.	
7.2 – Involvement with AUGSA	<p>It was noted that students have expressed interest in becoming more involved with AUGSA, not necessarily as council or executive members, but in other ways.</p> <p>Council members were invited to share their thoughts for getting more engagement from AU graduate students.</p>	
7.3 – Year End Bookkeeping	The VPOF reminded council to submit all outstanding 2013 expense claims by December 20 th so that he can close out the books for 2013.	
8.0 – Adjournment	<p>MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned. (McKinley / Cummins) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.</p>	

Amanda Nielsen, President

Adam Snider, Coordinator

Date of Approval