



Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association
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Council Meeting Minutes

Date: October 23, 2013

Place: Web conference

Time: 7:00pm MT

Attendance:

Amanda Nielsen, President
Phil Ferguson, VP Operations & Finance
Julia Radke, VP External
Sheri Oberman, VP Academic
Kurt Spady, Faculty of Business Representative
Maria Greaves, 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
Slade Sekulich, Centre for Distance Education Representative
Adam Snider, Operations Coordinator
Eric Snow, Speaker of Council

Absent:

Corina Hollingworth, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences Representative
Sofia Nteliopoulou, Centre for Distance Education Representative
Louis Watson, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative

INDEX	MINUTES	ACTION
1.0 – Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 7:03pm MT.	
2.0 – Approval of Agenda	MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented. (Greaves / Hill) Unanimously carried.	
3.0 – Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes	MOTION: To approve the September 10, 2013 and September 26, 2013 minutes as presented. (Greaves / Cummins) Unanimously carried.	

4.0 – Declaration of Conflicts of Interest	No conflicts of interest were declared.	
5.0 – Reports		
5.1 – Executive Reports	The Executives gave oral summaries of their written reports.	
5.2 – Financial Report	The VPOF presented the financial reports for August.	
6.0 – New Business		
6.1 – ASEC/Ministry Roundtable (Info item)	<p>The VP External shared updates from ASEC’s recent roundtable discussion with the Ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education; the updates included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory non-instructional fees continue to be a major issue for students’ associations, but the ministry continues to indicate they have no plans to regulate these fees • The Ministry noted that there have been some discussions indicating that students may be willing to pay higher fees/tuition; the students’ associations noted that the focus for students at the moment is predictable fees, rather than large, unpredictable increases. • It was noted that the Post-Secondary Learning Act is still going to be opened in the fall session, but the timelines have been pushed back so students’ associations will have more time to prepare their recommendations. 	
6.2 – IGNITE Focus Group (Info item)	The VP External and President shared an update on the focus group that followed the INGITE conference. The general consensus was that the event was a success, but there are major concerns among stakeholder groups about funding for post-secondary education.	
6.3 – PD Sessions	<p>The VP External noted that, due to instructor availability at AU, the sessions originally planned for October will be pushed back—likely to early November.</p> <p>The first two sessions will be on effective poster</p>	

	presentations and essay writing skills.	
6.4 – 2014 Budget Process Presentation	The VPOF presented a PowerPoint outlining the process for developing the 2014 budget.	
7.0 – Other Business		
7.1 – Graduate Tuition Fees	MOTION: To approve tuition fee increases in compliance with the Alberta Tuition fee policy and tied to CPI, and oppose mandatory non-instructional fees and fee increases until such a time that they are transparently and clearly broken down to graduate students, with MNIF fee increases tied to CPI or approval of the GSA Council. (President / Spady) Unanimously carried.	
8.0 – Adjournment	MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned. (McKinley / Greaves) Unanimously carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.	

Amanda Nielsen, President

Adam Snider, Coordinator

Date of Approval