



Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association
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Council Meeting Minutes

Date: November 22, 2011

Place: Web conference

Time: 6:30pm MST

Attendance: Amanda Nielsen, President
Greta Kirstein, VP External
Rob Janzen, VP Academic
Nathaniel Ostashewski, VP Operations & Finance
Adam Chisholm, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) Rep
Margot Van Sluytman, FHSS Rep
Moiz Bhamani, Faculty of Business Rep
Wilson Ho, Faculty of Business Rep
Ric Wheeler, Faculty of Business Rep
Eric Lavoie, Faculty of Health Disciplines Rep
Sarah Gauvreau, Centre for Distance Education Rep
Lorna Howieson, Speaker of Council
Adam Snider, Coordinator

Regrets: Meg Andronowska, Faculty of Health Disciplines Rep
Denise Ferris, VP Student Life
Jade Clarke, Centre for Distance Education Rep

Absent: Steve Harris, Faculty of Science and Technology Rep

| INDEX | MINUTES | ACTION |
|----------------------------|---|--------|
| 1.0 – Call to Order | Meeting called to order at 6:32pm MST. | |
| 2.0 – Approval of Agenda | MOTION: That the agenda be approved as presented. (Chisholm / Gauvreau) Unanimously carried. | |
| 3.0 – Approval of Previous | MOTION: That the previous meeting's minutes be approved as presented. (Bhamani / Wheeler) | |

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| Meeting's Minutes | Unanimously carried. | |
| 4.0 – Unfinished Business | | |
| 4.1 – Governance Committee Membership and Mandate | <p>The following people were nominated to sit on the Governance Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adam Chisholm • Ric Wheeler • Moiz Bhamani • Greta Kirstein • Margot Van Sluytman <p>MOTION: That we accept four members plus the Chair for a total of five members on the governance committee. (Ostaszewski / Bhamani) Unanimously carried.</p> | |
| 5.0 – New Business | | |
| 5.1 – Touching Base and Sharing Ideas: Open AUGSA Council Discussion on Services, Advocacy, and Processes | <p>An open discussion was held regarding the following topics: What are we doing well? What can we improve (services/advocacy)? How can we better connect with students?</p> <p>What are we doing well?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy – has brought awareness to AUGSA/AU, if nothing else, which is a good thing regardless of what other outcomes we may or may not have achieved. • Orientation sessions • Awards • Electronic system to effectively work at a distance • social media • working on swag <p>What can we improve (services)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Touching base with more students; Moiz noted that some students in his class still don't know about AUGSA • Need other ways of connecting with students, perhaps • Look at getting additional discounts for AU students • “Informal” meet and greets – student hangouts, get local students to host if there is not an | |

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| | <p>AUGSA council member in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have “rentable online space” that students can book? • Host professional development (PD) events and then have open conversation and networking afterward. • Lunch and learns • co-funding ombuds service • Student group support (bylaws and grants) • work with Faculty of Graduate Studies to provide PD opportunities • more faculty involvement at meet and greets • faculty giving “inspiring” speeches to students <p>What can we improve (advocacy)?</p> <p>How can we better connect with students?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys • Town halls • Links on course pages, class forums, etc. • Our own lobby trips to Ottawa • Can faculty representatives be on faculty websites so students can access them? <p>See attached audio file for more information.</p> | |
| <p>6.0 – Other Business</p> | | |
| <p>6.1 – Financial Report</p> | <p>The VPOF presented an update on the AUGSA’s financial situation and noted that he has created “how to” videos so that the next person to take on the VPOF role will be able to learn to handle the accounting quickly and easily.</p> | |
| <p>6.2 – Western Graduate Student Association Summit</p> | <p>The Western GSA Summit will be held on December 2 – 4th.</p> <p>MOTION: That the AUGSA President have up to \$1,000.00 to travel to Calgary to attend the Western Graduate Student Association Summit and AGC activities on behalf of the AUGSA. (Ostashewski / Janzen) Unanimously carried.</p> | |
| <p>7.0 – Adjournment</p> | <p>MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned. (Ostashewski / Gauvreau) Unanimously carried.</p> | |

Comment [A1]: Attachment to be added later; the audio file is on my home computer so I’ll have to transfer it tonight.

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| | Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm MST. | |
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Amanda Nielsen, President

Adam Snider, Coordinator

Date of Approval

