



Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association
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Council Meeting Minutes

Date: October 25, 2010

Place: Web conference

Time: 6:30pm

Attendance:

Amanda Nielsen, President
Denise Ferris, VP External
Michael Balaski, VP Academic
Nathaniel Ostashevski, VP Operations & Finance
Ric Wheeler, VP Student Life
Greta Kirstein, GDHERM Rep
Lorna Howieson, MBA Rep
David Keene, Arts Rep
Melissa Seaborg, Counselling Rep
Adam Snider, Coordinator

INDEX	MINUTES	ACTION
1.0 – Call to Order	Meeting called to order 6:40pm	
2.0 – Approval of Agenda	MOTION: Ric moved to approved the agenda & Michael seconded. Motion carried unanimously. (Nathaniel entered the meeting at 6:42pm.)	
3.0 – Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting	MOTION: Melissa moved to approve the September 22 meetings as presented; Ric seconded. Motion carried unanimously.	
4.0 – Old Business		
4.1 – AUGSA Money from MBA Program	Murray Walford will pay us this money out of the his department's budget (Finance Dept.) and collect the money from the MBA program himself, so that we can receive these funds sooner. Funds should be transferred in approximately 2 weeks.	

<p>4.2 – AUGSA in-person event</p>	<p>MOTION: Amanda moved to approve \$2,000 to host an in-person graduate student event in Edmonton in January 2011; Nathaniel seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.</p> <p>Participants will be asked to complete a post-event survey so that we can make necessary changes/improvements for future events.</p>	
<p>4.3 – Transition Package</p>	<p>MOTION: Ric moved to approve the costs to have BluFyre Media design the transition package as long as the estimate is under \$600; Melissa seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.</p> <p>If the estimate from BluFyre is over \$600 then it will be put to an e-vote for approval.</p>	
<p>5.0 – New Business</p>		
<p>5.1 – NDP AGM</p>	<p>MOTION: Amanda moved to send up to 2 delegates to the NDP AGM in Red Deer from November 4-6 and Ric seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>Amanda will go; Adam to check schedule.</p>	<p>Adam – Oct 31</p>
<p>5.2 – Western GSA Meeting Delegate Decision</p>	<p>Council feels that it is important for the President to act as AUGSA’s delegate at this meeting. The rest of the Council will attend via distance options.</p>	
<p>5.3 – Reboot Alberta</p>	<p>MOTION: Nathaniel moved that AUGSA send Ric to Reboot Alberta on our behalf and Melissa seconded; motion carried unanimously.</p>	
<p>5.4 – CASA Member Contract</p>	<p>After discussion, it was decided that Adam would send the contract to Keith for review before we sign it.</p>	<p>Adam – Oct 29</p>
<p>5.5 – Chief Returning Officer (CRO)</p>	<p>Greta developed tentative job description based on the CRO job at other SUs and GSAs. Please review the attached document and email any changes to Greta so that a finalized document can be approved at the next council meeting.</p>	
<p>5.6 – CASA Conference Approval</p>	<p>The approximate cost of sending Amanda and Denise to this conference, as indicated by the attached travel requests, is \$5,000.</p> <p>Michael noted that we should look for seat sales whenever we can, to save money on future flights.</p> <p>Nathaniel suggested having Amanda and Denise share a hotel room, as this would save approximately \$1,000.</p> <p>Amanda will look into the possibility of getting a single room with two beds at a lower cost than the two rooms that are currently booked. She will also see if it is possible to cancel the rooms that are already booked.</p>	<p>Amanda – Nov 1</p>

	Nathaniel will look into developing a policy on hotel room bookings for the future.	
5.7 – AUGSA Survey Prizes	<p>MOTION: Denise moved to approve spending a total of \$900 in cash prizes for those who complete the survey, with a 1st prize of \$500, a 2nd prize of \$250 and a 3rd prize of \$150. Ric seconded the motion. Motion defeated.</p> <p>MOTION: Nathaniel moved that we buy six \$50 gift cards from Chapters to use as the AUGSA survey prizes and Melissa seconded. Motion carried unanimously.</p>	
5.8 – Social Media Course Update	<p>Nathaniel indicated that the course is going quite well. More students are joining as they read the newsletter announcement about the course.</p> <p>Connections have been made with some international AU students from Germany and China.</p> <p>Some new student groups have been created on the Landing as a result of the course, so it is resulting in increased student interaction outside of the course, as well.</p>	
5.9 – Social Media Course Instruction Pay	<p>MOTION: David moved that AUGSA pay Nathaniel Ostashevski and Dr. Doug Reid half of their fee for designing and delivering the Social Media Tools and Supporting Your Professional Learning course now and the other half upon completion of the course; Ric seconded the motion. Motion carried with 8 in favour and 1 abstention.</p> <p>Nathaniel abstained from the motion.</p> <p>Dr. Doug Reid will be instructed to submit an invoice for the first half of the fee, as a result of this motion.</p>	
5.10 – Expense Cheque Policy	<p>MOTION: Nathaniel moved that expense cheques be submitted after three months or \$150 worth of expenses has been incurred, whichever comes first. Ric requested an amendment.</p> <p>The amended motion reads: Nathaniel moved that expense cheques be submitted after three months or \$150 worth of expenses has been incurred, whichever comes first, and that all outstanding expense cheques must be submitted and processed 14 days prior to the end of the elected member's term. Ric seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.</p>	
5.11 – MSIS Student Rep	<p>MOTION: Nathaniel moved to accept Eric von Stackelberg's self-nomination for the MSIS Council Representative position and Amanda seconded. Motion carried unanimously.</p>	
6.0 – Other Business		

6.1 – Clarification on Travel Approval	Amanda asked if a travel request form is necessary if Council has already approved a trip (i.e., if Council has agreed to send people to a conference, for example, do those people need to then submit individual travel request forms?). Nathaniel indicated that this would not be necessary, as it would essentially be double approval—just submit an expense claim form after returning from the trip.	
6.2 – AUGSA Website	Shrinking the “black banner” and potentially moving the AUGSA logo to the left (or at least shrinking it) was suggested. Adam to bring these ideas to Kris at BluFyre.	Adam – Nov 2
6.3 – AU Links to AUGSA Website	Lorna noted that some of these links are not redirecting properly. Adam will look into this.	Adam – Nov 2
6.4 – Access Copyright	Access Copyright responded to our letter, suggesting that we should send an objection to the Copyright Board, not to them. The deadline for this was August 11, 2010. We have submitted a letter to the Copyright Board, despite the deadline having passed.	
6.5 – Emergency Counselling Services	Ric has been investigating what sort of emergency counselling services AU has (if any) and comparing them to other universities. He will be sending out a report, with recommendations, in advance of the next Council meeting.	
6.6 – Student Group Services	Ric has been investigating the possibility of getting discounts on services for AU students when they show their student ID card. He has contacted Second Cup, Kal-Tire, and investigated the possibility of allowing AU students to take advantage of the UPass situation in Edmonton and Calgary. A full report will be sent out in advance of the next Council meeting.	
7.0 – Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.	

Amanda Nielsen, President

Adam Snider, Coordinator

Date of Approval