



Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association
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Council Meeting Minutes

Date: June 27, 2012

Place: Web conference

Time: 5:00pm 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
Caitlin Cummins, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative
Meg Andronowska, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative
Eric Lavoie, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative
Rob Janzen, Faculty of Science and Technology 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:

Mandy Nielsen, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative

INDEX	MINUTES	ACTION
1.0 – Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 5:10pm MDT.	
2.0 – Approval of Agenda	MOTION: To amend the agenda to move item 7.6 to the first item under New Business, making it item 7.1. (Bhamani / Clarke) Unanimously carried. MOTION: To amend the agenda to add item 7.7: “Joint AU Union Statement.” (President / Cummins)	

	<p>Unanimously carried.</p> <p>MOTION: To adopt the agenda as amended. (Cummins / Clarke) Unanimously carried.</p>	
3.0 – Approval of Previous Meeting’s Minutes	<p>MOTION: To approve the previous meeting’s minutes as presented. (Clappison / Kirstein) Unanimously carried.</p>	
4.0 – Introductions	<p>Introductions were conducted.</p>	
5.0 – AUGSA Council Governance Procedures Review	<p>The Speaker of Council provided a review of Robert’s Rules of Order and how AUGSA’s council meetings shall be governed.</p>	
6.0 – Reports		
6.1 – Financial Report	<p>The VPOF presented a report on the state of AUGSA’s finances. In response to questions from the council, it was agreed that the VPOF would take the following actions prior to the next council meeting:</p> <p>ACTION ITEM: Find out from AU Finance what methodologies they use for their enrolment projections.</p> <p>ACTION ITEM: Change the term “gifts from other charities” to “income from AU” on the AUGSA budget documents in order to provide clarity as to what this line item refers to.</p>	Wilson – July 24
7.0 – New Business	<p>MOTION: That item 7.3 be moved up to item 7.1. (Kirstein / President) Unanimously carried.</p>	
7.1 – ASEC presentation and motion regarding ASEC membership	<p>Matt Armstrong and Carol Neuman from the Alberta Students’ Executive Council (ASEC) gave a presentation about their organization and what the benefits might be for AUGSA to join.</p> <p>MOTION: That the AUGSA pursue membership with the Alberta Students’ Executive Council (ASEC), so long as said membership does not conflict with the forthcoming bylaws of the Alberta Graduate Council. (President / Clappison) Unanimously carried.</p>	
7.2 – Resolution to change	<p>Mr. Chisholm gave a presentation regarding preferential</p>	Wilson –

<p>AUGSA Council voting to preferential IRV voting</p>	<p>voting and then made the following resolution:</p> <p>RESOLUTION: Whereas the AUGSA Council must occasionally vote on matters in which there are more than two possible choices, and the Council voting system should facilitate members being able to vote according to their consciences and in the best interests of their constituents, and;</p> <p>Whereas a first-past-the-post voting system prevents this by encouraging 'strategic voting' of members to avoid the adoption of least preferred options;</p> <p>Be it resolved that the AUGSA Council adopt a system of preferential instant-run off voting for all votes in which there are more than two possible choices; and</p> <p>Be it further resolved that the AUGSA Council task the AUGSA VP Operations and Finance to investigate possible technologies to best facilitate this voting system, and report back to the GSA Council by the end of July 2012. (Chisholm / Lavoie)</p> <p>Debate around the resolution ensued.</p> <p>MOTION: To call the question. (Kirstein / Chisholm) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>The main resolution carried with one vote opposed.</p> <p>ACTION ITEM: The VPOF will investigate the technologies available for executing IRV voting and present a report at the July 24 council meeting.</p>	<p>July 24</p>
<p>7.3 – Motion to move from Community Plan to Community Plan Plus bank account</p>	<p>MOTION: That the AUGSA upgrade its TD bank account from a Community Plan to a Community Plan Plus for the purpose of cost savings. (VPOF / Clarke) Motion carried with one abstention.</p> <p>ACTION ITEM: The VPOF will contact the bank to change the account.</p>	<p>Wilson – July 24</p>
<p>7.4 – Motion regarding approval of transcribing</p>	<p>MOTION: To postpone this item until the July meeting of the AUGSA council. (President / Chisholm)</p>	

awards and CCT report	Unanimously carried.	
7.5 – Resolution regarding TA / RA survey	<p>RESOLUTION: Whereas the AUGSA will soon begin a process of collective bargaining with Athabasca University to establish collective agreements to allow its members to work for the university as Teaching and Research Assistants, as per its mandated responsibilities under Section 96 (1) of the Post-Secondary Learning Act of Alberta; and</p> <p>Whereas the AUGSA recently conducted a survey of its membership to determine their collective bargaining interests and to guide the AUGSA Negotiating Team in effectively representing the membership, and this survey has provided a variety of valuable insights from which guiding resolutions can be made;</p> <p>Be it resolved that the AUGSA Collective Bargaining team aim for a three- year contract with wages equal to, or higher than, the rates listed for RA roles under the AUPE Local 069 contract with Athabasca University;</p> <p>Be it further resolved that the Bargaining Team strive to include the following other forms of compensation in the contracts, valued from most important to least: tuition waivers, professional development and training opportunities, and health and dental benefits;</p> <p>Be it further resolved that the Bargaining Team strive to include the following job security priorities in the contracts, valued from most important to least: preference for hiring AU graduate students, availability and accessibility of positions, fair grievance and disciplinary procedures, and minimum hour guarantees;</p> <p>Be it further resolved that the Bargaining Team prioritize the following student interests in the contract, from most important to least: actual wages, job security, and other forms of compensation; and</p> <p>Be it further resolved that the Bargaining Team strive to complete negotiations with Athabasca</p>	Bargaining committee – June 28

	<p>University by August 20th, 2012. (VP Academic / Harris) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>ACTION ITEM: The Bargaining Committee will take their direction from this resolution.</p>	
<p>7.6 – Votes regarding faculty council representatives</p>	<p>Mr. Chisholm withdrew his name from the nomination for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Council seat.</p> <p>MOTION: That the AUGSA council appoint Mandy Nielsen and Olivia Meyia to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Council. (Kirstein / Clappison) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>The Speaker of Council called for nominations for the Faculty of Health Disciplines Faculty Council seat and Mr. Lavoie put his name forward.</p> <p>MOTION: That the AUGSA council appoint Eric Lavoie to the Faculty of Health Disciplines Faculty Council. (Sommerfeld / Harris) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>Instant runoff voting was used to determine which of the nominees would be selected for the Faculty of Business Faculty Council seat. The VPOF noted that he would like to go on record in support of the VP External being appointed to this role.</p> <p>MOTION: That the AUGSA council appoint Lisa Barrett to the Faculty of Business Faculty Council. (Lavoie / Cummins) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>MOTION: That the AUGSA council appoint Steve Harris to the Faculty of Science and Technology Faculty Council. (Lavoie / Cummins) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>Mr. Sommerfeld withdrew his name from nomination for the Centre for Distance Education Faculty Council and nominated Ms. Clarke.</p> <p>MOTION: That the AUGSA council appoint Jade Clarke to the Centre for Distance Education Faculty Council. (Sommerfeld / VPOF) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>The President stood for nomination on the existing</p>	

	<p>Faculty of Graduate Studies Faculty Council seat; the VPOF and Ms. Clappison stood for the second, yet-to-be-made-official seat. A closed ballot vote was conducted to determine which nominee would receive the second seat.</p> <p>MOTION: That the AUGSA Council appoint Amanda Nielsen to the Faculty of Graduate Studies Faculty Council, with Wilson Ho appointed for a second student seat on the FGS Council, in the event a second seat is approved by the Athabasca University General Faculties Council in Fall 2012. (Lavoie / Sommerfeld) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>MOTION: To adjourn the meeting. (Cummins / Clarke) Motion defeated by a vote of 10 to 2.</p>	
<p>7.7 – Joint AU Union Statement</p>	<p>RESOLUTION: Be it resolved that the AUGSA officially endorse the statement below:</p> <p>Our purpose in meeting as a group of elected representatives of AU labour and student organizations - AUSU, AUGSA, AUPE, CUPE, and AUFA - is in support of the overall effectiveness and success of AU in achieving its educational mandate. Having met to discuss the process followed so far by the administration in proposing a substantive change to AU’s academic model—e.g. from the tutor model to a student support centre model—we wish to express our shared, serious reservations about that process. We urge instead that any consideration of substantive changes to AU’s academic model—its core student service—adopt a robust and transparent, consultative and collaborative, and research evidence-based process that is to be overseen and driven by General Faculties Council.</p> <p>(President / Chisholm) Unanimously carried.</p>	
<p>8.0 – Other Business</p>	<p>No other business.</p>	
<p>9.0 – Adjournment</p>	<p>MOTION: To adjourn the meeting. (Chisholm / Harris) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.</p>	

Amanda Nielsen, President

Adam Snider, Coordinator

Date of Approval