



**Athabasca University Graduate Students'  
Association**

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**AUGSA Council Minutes**

Date: December 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm MDT

Place: Web conference

**Attendance:**

**Executive Committee:** Mary-Anne Parker (President), Ashley Ravenscroft (VP Operations & Finance),  
Judd Asoyuf (VP Academic), Crys Vincent (VP External)

**Faculty of Business Representatives:** David Newman, Margaret Clappison

**Faculty of Health Disciplines Representatives:** Julia Cornester, Lindsay McNena, Nicole Klix

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative:** Kelli Buckreus, David Cloutier, Bernard  
Kikechi, Heather McGilvary

**Faculty of Science and Technology:** Philip Kirkbride,

**Staff:** Meaghan Sullivan (Executive Director), Bob Cole (Communications Coordinator), Derek Balay  
(Speaker)

**Absent:** Scott Howell, Liliana Quyen Tang

		PRESENTER	ACTION	TIME
1.0	Call to Order		The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm MST.	6:02 pm
2.0	Approval of Agenda		<b>Motion 2.0 To approve the agenda as distributed.</b> Moved: Judd Asoyuf Seconded: Julia Cornester Motion carried without opposition.	

<p><b>3.0</b></p>	<p><b>Approval of Previous Minutes</b></p>		<p><b>Motion 3.0 To approve the minutes of November 10, 2020 Council meeting.</b>          Moved: David Cloutier          Seconded: Margaret Clappison          Motion carried without opposition.</p>	
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Reports &amp; Presentations</b></p>			
	<p><b>4.1 Student VIP</b></p>	<p>Drew Martin</p>	<p>Ashley introduced Drew Martin to discuss the Health and Dental initiative, which currently has an active survey out to membership.</p> <p>StudentVIP has been in the post-secondary space for 33 years, providing Health and Wellness supports. Drew noted the definition of a student has changed dramatically. The survey is intended to get a pulse of AUGSAs memberships health care needs. It will also serve as a form of a communications strategy, sharing with our membership the results.</p> <p>The survey was launched with the AU undergraduate students as well, with lower response rates that expected but of those who did respond, there was a consistent representation of a dynamic demographic. For AUGSA, there has been a great deal of effort put into the communications strategy of the survey, from the newsletter, to social media, and support from AU. Drew reviewed the current survey results as-is.</p> <p>Ashley Ravenscroft's has requested Council to help push participation rate but using word-of-mouth through their cohorts. The survey closes on December 16th.</p>	

	<b>4.2 VP Academic</b>	Judd Asoyuf	<p>Judd Asoyuf's portfolio has picked up due to the AU Awards Committee adjudicating on tri-council awards.</p> <p>The NURS530 advocacy work wrapped up in November. Additionally, Judd Asoyuf conducted support work with an individual student on an academic appeal.</p>	
	<b>4.3 VP External</b>	Crys Vincent	<p>Crys Vincent noted that the Welcome Package from the Engagement Committee has progressed along. AUGSA/AU's Information Sharing Agreement has been ammended and is going to the AU Board of Governors for approval. The first Welcome Package will go out in March.</p> <p>Both advocacy week and month (provincial and federal) with abGPAC and CASA went well with a lot of meetings that AUGSA represented on. The feedback from the provincial government officials and opposition was extremely positive. The asks were timely and appropriate with digital literacy, care giving, mental health, and professional development being the prime focus.</p> <p>Lindsay McNena commented on the CASA meetings being highly positive with key government stakeholders and many opposition seeking collaboration and demonstrating a willingness to hear from students. The general feedback was positive for CASA in respect to the research CASA does to backup its advocacy asks and the overall professionalism of CASA membership.</p>	
	<b>4.4 President</b>	Mary-Anne Parker	Mary-Anne Parker briefly noted that the presidential search is underway for the	

			<p>new University President. The current stage in the process is stakeholder engagement, where the University is investing a lot of time to ensure they hear from its stakeholders on what the collective vision is for AU's next President.</p> <p>Mary-Anne Parker also participated in advocacy week and advocacy month with abGPAC and CASA.</p> <p>Looking forward, Mary-Anne's focus in the new year will turn inward to AUGSA operations, to achieve some internal process and governance goals set out at the beginning of the year.</p>	
	<b>4.5 VP Operations &amp; Finance</b>	Ashley Ravenscroft	<p>Ashley Ravenscroft was able to move forward on the contracts work, doing the initial legal review on Executive Committee and Council contracts.</p> <p>Ashley Ravenscroft had an initial meeting with AU's Provost to find synergies between AU and AUGSA for cost efficiencies. This included discussions on web support, tuition credit, awards, and general knowledge transfer to understand AU's provincial agreements.</p> <p>Additionally, the health and dental survey was released November 2nd and is currently still active until December 16th. Ashley Ravenscroft requested Council to push this out to their cohorts for increased participation. The survey results will be communicated with AUGSAs membership.</p>	
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Financial Reports</b>	Ashley Ravenscroft	Ashley Ravenscroft communicated the current financial reports.	

			Year end is upcoming, preparation of T4's/T4A's, and audit work will be in the new year.	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Council Reports</b>			6:58 pm
	<b>6.1 Faculty of Science and Technology</b>	Philip Kirkbride, Liliana Quyen Tang	Philip Kirkbride noted he is working on a project with the faculty on adaptive testing, working on an algorithm for assessment that improves a student's learning objective.	
	<b>6.2 Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education</b>	Kelli Buckreus, David Cloutier, Scott Howell, Bernard Kikechi, Heather McGilvary	No report at this time.	
	<b>6.3 Faculty of Health</b>	Julia Cornester, Nicole Klix, Lindsay McNena	<p>Nicole Klix put together a working team of students to assess courses, which is a fantastic way for students to be involved in revisions of courses. Sandra Collins contacted her on behalf of herself, Murray Anderson, and Gina Ko as they restructure GCAP 671.</p> <p>Julia Cornester added that her faculty have also sought feedback from students, which has been welcomed and well received by her cohort.</p>	
	<b>6.4 Faculty of Business</b>	Margaret Clappison, David Newman	Margaret noted the Faculty of Business emails are being changed.	
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Mental Health Group Report</b>	Lindsay McNena	No report at this time.	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Other Working Groups</b>			
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Committees</b>			7:19 pm
	<b>9.1 Governance Committee</b>	VP Operations & Finance	The Governance Committee has not met in November but plans to meet in December, if not early January.	

	<b>9.2 Awards Committee</b>	Vice President Academic	The Awards Committee met twice in November, disbursing both bursaries and the Outstanding Distinction awards. Additional bursaries and awards are to be reviewed in December prior to yearend.	
	<b>9.3 Engagement Committee</b>	Vice President External	The Welcome Package is on target.  The committee met to review its strategic goals and discussed it's Q4 goal, turning its attention to increasing engagement around elections.	
	<b>9.4 Finance Committee</b>	Vice President Financial	No further updates to report.	
	<b>9.5 Strategic Planning Committee</b>	President	Mary-Anne Parker shared AUGSAs three (3) goals as reviewed by the strategic planning committee and noted in the Strategic Plan. The committee is in initial thoughts phase, with further discussion to be had, on goals and priorities moving forward.  Considerations on more opportunities for involvement were discussed, which included how Council members are appointed to advocacy roles, and how to maximize opportunities internally at AU for additional involvement.	
	<b>9.6 Elections and Referenda</b>	Executive Director	<b>Motion 9.6 To appoint Lindsay McNena, Nicole Klix, and Mary-Anne Parker to the Elections &amp; Referenda Committee.</b> Moved: Margaret Clappison Seconded: David Cloutier Motion carried without opposition.	
	<b>9.7 Adhoc Committees</b>			
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Old Business</b>			7:40 pm

<b>11.0</b>	<b>New Business</b>  <b>-Assessments</b>		Mary-Anne talked about the ILE working group and, more intently, assessment. She shared a padlet survey with Council regarding assessments, requesting their feedback by December 14th, 2020 from Council members as well as any fellow students they are able to share it with for added input. The survey results will be sent to Anne-Marie Scott, Deputy-Provost Academic, for incorporating into the assessments work being done at AU.	
<b>12.0</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>		<b>Motion 12.0: To adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm.</b> Moved: Judd Asoyuf Seconded: Lindsay McNena Motion carried without opposition.	7:45 pm

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 Mary-Anne Parker, President

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 Meaghan Sullivan, Executive Director

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 Date of Approval