



**Athabasca University Graduate Students'  
Association**

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**AUGSA Council Minutes**

**Date:** February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 6:00pm MDT

**Place:** Web conference

**Attendance:**

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

**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, Liliana Quyen Tang

**Staff:** Meaghan Sullivan (Executive Director)

**Absent:** Derek Balay (Speaker)

		PRESENTER	NOTES AND ACTIONS
1.0	Call to Order		The meeting was called to order at 6:11 pm MST.
2.0	Approval of Agenda		<b>Motion 2.0 To approve the agenda as distributed.</b>  Moved: Ashley Ravenscroft Seconded: David Cloutier Motion carried without opposition.

3.0	Approval of Previous Minutes		<p><b>Motion 3.0 To approve the minutes of January 12, 2021 Council meeting.</b></p> <p>Moved: Lindsay McNena          Seconded: Julia Cornester          Motion carried without opposition.</p>
4.0	Reports & Presentations		Reports presented as distributed.
	4.1 VP Academic	Judd Asoyuf	Outside of regular monthly meetings that were attended, one of the bigger wins this past month was assisting a student on an academic appeal, which was successfully passed.
	4.2 VP External	Crys Vincent	<p>This past month took a focus on the tuition debrief and AUGSA press release in response to the tuition increase. Additionally, working with abGPAC on the AB2030 recommendations.</p> <p>The logo branding is almost done and participating in that was exciting.</p> <p>Crys Vincent is on the hiring committee for the new Dean of Faculty of Health Disciplines.</p>
	4.3 President	Mary-Anne Parker	<p>This past month involved coming up with a response to the tuition increase.</p> <p>AUGSA has been working very hard with abGPAC on AB2030 to ensure AU graduate students are heard in the AB2030 plan.</p> <p>Mary-Anne Parker has been working on abGPAC and AUGSA policies and bylaws, ensuring everything is set up and/or recommendations made for handover to the next Council.</p>
	4.4 VP Operations & Finance	Ashley Ravenscroft	<p><b>Health &amp; Dental:</b> AUGSA has decided not to move forward with Health &amp; Dental. Ashley Ravenscroft has requested Student VIP provide a proposal on a hub solution and an opt-in program.</p> <p><b>Finance Committee:</b> The committee met briefly and discussed audit. The Association is expecting an organized audit this year based on our improved records management. Membership fees</p>

			were recieved in January as always, ending the 2020 fiscal year of student fees income around \$420,000, as expected.
5.0	Financial Reports	Ashley Ravenscroft	No report presentation at this time.
6.0	Council Reports		
	6.1 Faculty of Science and Technology	Philip Kirkbride, Liliana Quyen Tang	No report at this time.
	6.2 Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education	Kelli Buckreus, David Cloutier, Scott Howell, Bernard Kikechi, Heather McGilvary	No report at this time.
	6.3 Faculty of Health	Julia Cornester, Nicole Klix, Lindsay McNena	Julia Cornester mentioned the NP program. The faculty has met, and had a discussion on the pressures students are facing. They are offering modified solutions to meet the unique needs of students.
	6.4 Faculty of Business	Margaret Clappison, David Newman	David Newman noted he has been promoting the elections on social media. He also indicated it's important to be aware of the realities of our environment with the recent news of Universities being insolvent. Being understanding of the balancing act Universities are facing is important.
7.0	Other Working Groups		<p><b>CASA:</b> Lindsay McNena gave a presentation on CASA. CASA has been working on an advocacy campaign called 'Close the Gap' on social media to address gaps students are facing.</p> <p>Lindsay McNena shared the Close the Gap <a href="#">website</a>, demonstrating how AUGSA reps and students can fill out the Showcase section to Tell Your Story. The more stories that are shared, the more powerful the campaign becomes.</p> <p><b>abGPAC:</b> Mary-Anne Parker indicated the group is focusing on proactively framing a response to the AB2030 report.</p>

			<p>Crys Vincent explained why students should be prioritized in our current environment, especially those who are at increased risk. Julia Cornester indicated the nurses and student volunteers who are administering vaccines are not eligible to be vaccinated themselves, which is a health and safety concern for our students.</p>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Committees</b>		
	<b>8.1 Governance Committee</b>	VP Operations & Finance	<p>Ashley Ravenscoft gave an overview of the agreements in place with the University and the general rules around data and privacy.</p> <p>Ashley Ravenscoft presented and proposed the details of striking a new Human Resources Committee, requesting it be adopted and appointed. Additionally, Ashley Ravenscoft requested the newly written confidentiality agreement, provided by the lawyers, be adopted into policy.</p> <p>Ashley Ravenscoft also noted AUGSA does plan to do an EI Ruling immediately after the bylaw revisions are approved at a Special General Meeting, which is planned for March 9th. The bylaw revisions will encompass all contractual duties for the executive and Council, eliminating the use of dedicated contracts, which represent more of an employment agreement than an elected official term. The EI Ruling is something a few associations across Alberta have done, and the expected outcome is that the Association should stop deducting EI from Executive Committee positions.</p> <p>Additional work completed with the lawyer was a new Independent Contractor contract.</p> <p><b>Motion 8.1.1: To approve the recommendation from Governance Committee on the creation of a Human Resource Committee.</b></p>

			<p>Moved: Julia Cornester          Seconded: Margaret Clappison          Motion carried without opposition.</p> <p><b>Motion 8.1.2: To appoint Ashley Ravenscroft, Judd Asoyuf, Margaret Clappison, Julia Cornester, Heather McGilvary to the Human Resources Committee.</b></p> <p>Moved: Judd Asoyuf          Seconded: Margaret Clappison          Motion carried without opposition.</p> <p><b>Motion 8.1.3: To approve the confidentiality policy as presented.</b></p> <p>Moved: Margaret Clappison          Seconded: Judd Asoyuf          Motion carried without opposition.</p>
	<b>8.2 Awards Committee</b>	Vice President Academic	<p>The awards committee reviewed a number of applications in December and approved one, which was processed in January.</p> <p>The Awards Committee made some potential recommended changes to the awards policy and submitted these changes for review to the Governance Committee.</p>
	<b>8.3 Engagement Committee</b>	Vice President External	<p>Crys Vincent thanked Lindsay, Meaghan and Mary-Anne for supporting the Engagement Committee initiatives.</p> <p><b>Elections:</b> The AUGSA landing page now has a slider dedicated to Elections, social media has been actively advertising the upcoming elections, and an election Q&amp;A forum took place at the February 5th Grad Loung hosted by the CRO. Crys Vincent indicated the session was succesful and has added another mini elections Q&amp;A to take place this week at the Grad Lounge. Mary-Anne Parker will host.</p>

			<p><b>Welcome Package:</b> We are awaiting on the University to send back a completed signed Information Sharing Agreement. Once this is complete, we can move forward.</p>
	<b>8.4 Finance Committee</b>	Vice President Financial	No further updates.
	<b>8.5 Strategic Planning Committee</b>	President	No further updates.
	<b>8.6 Elections and Referenda</b>	Executive Director	
	<b>8.7 Adhoc Committees</b>		<p>Meaghan Sullivan shared the news that we have successfully hired a Conference Coordinator; however, the candidate is an outgoing Faculty Representative, meaning there is a two-month overlap until the end of their Faculty Representative term, which creates a conflict. The Faculty Representative is willing and has proactively offered to step down from the Council but has requested a ruling by Council vote to make a formal determination, given the uniqueness of the situation. The Faculty Representative will not be running for Council again.</p> <p>Council discussed the potential conflicts of interest which included reporting relationship, budget implications, fiduciary duty, and dual income from AUGSA. It was determined that given the uniqueness of the situation, short timeframe and early on stages of the conference, as well as the need for the faculty representative to wrap up their range of AUGSA committee work, the conflict could be managed. However, this does not set precedence for future situations such as this. It was indicated that in normal circumstances having a Council seat as well as a role that reports to the Executive Director would not be allowed. Some suggestions from Council included stepping out of budget conversations.</p> <p><b>Motion 8.6: To allow the faculty representative to remain on Council for March and April 2021 while</b></p>

			<p><b>also fulfilling the Conference Coordinator duties and responsibilities.</b></p> <p>Moved: Crys Vincent                  Seconded: David Cloutier                  Motion carried without opposition.</p>
<b>9.0</b>	<p><b>Old Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Logo Design</b></li> <li>- <b>AB2030</b></li> <li>- <b>UTILE</b></li> </ul>		<p><b>UTILE:</b> Crys Vincent met with AUSU, reviewed the past UTILE survey sample, and determine the survey from UTILE is not aligned with our association objectives and our membership needs. Rather, Crys Vincent has recommended AUGSA could include 1 to 2 questions on our annual membership satisfaction survey for the next 3 years and asked UTILE to contact us again in 3 years (when they plan to do their next survey). This allows us to understand our membership more on housing issues and make an informed and intentful decision at that point in time.</p>
<b>10.0</b>	<b>New Business</b>		<p>The University shared the news with AUGSA they have created a \$250,000 emergency bursary fund, to be administered by the University. The fund will be divide by percentage of those who apply (by undergrad and graduate student). The window of applications will be very brief beginning later this month. AUGSA will include this in the newsletter going out February 15th/16th.</p>
<b>11.0</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>		<p><b>Motion 12.0: To adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm.</b></p> <p>Moved: David Cloutier                  Seconded: Judd Asoyuf                  Motion carried without opposition.</p>

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Mary-Anne Parker, President

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Meaghan Sullivan, Executive Director

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Date of Approval