



ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association

STRATEGIC PLAN

2018 – 2019

Prepared: September 6, 2018

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A Message from the President

It is with great pleasure that I, along with the other members of the working group, present to you the 2018-2019 Strategic Plan for the Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association (AUGSA). AUGSA is dedicated to facilitating an exceptional student experience for all Athabasca University graduate students. Initially established in 2005, AUGSA now represents over 4000 students.

Over the past several years we have focused on creating a solid foundation of governance to support our operations and the needs of our members. This year, the Executive Committee and Council will continue to focus on providing quality Graduate Student services, while expanding and improving our student offerings and operations. An important focus of AUGSA is to enhance the student learning experience and advocate for the removal of learning barriers, to ensure the success of all our AUGSA members.

This year we also intend to work collaboratively with Athabasca University (AU) at an exciting time, with the release of AU's Imagine Strategic Plan. Additionally, we continue to represent AUGSA with membership and leadership positions in external advocacy bodies such as the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) and the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (abGPAC). These relationships allow AUGSA to share best practice and work collaboratively at the national and provincial levels on issues that affect all graduate students.

My commitment to the AUGSA community is to ensure that we foster relationships with important stakeholders and to support our members to the best of our ability for the 2018-2019 term. My mission is to ensure that we establish a sustainable operation to ensure ongoing future success.



Sincerely,

*Lindsay McNena, BA, MC Student
President
Athabasca University Graduate Students Association*

Our Customers and Stakeholders

INTERNAL CUSTOMERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

- Executive Director (ED)
- Executive Committee (EC)
- Councilors
- Internal committees as assigned by AUGSA Council processes and policies
- AUGSA Members

EXTERNAL CUSTOMERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

- Athabasca University (AU)
- External committees as assigned through AU and AUGSA collaboration
- Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)
- Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab GPAC)
- Athabasca University Students Union (AUSU)
- General Public



ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Core Principles

OUR MISSION

AUGSA's Mission Statement specifies the mechanisms by which AUGSA will achieve its vision. It provides a scope for how AUGSA's vision will be attained.

AUGSA provides services and advocacy in pursuit of an accessible, affordable, and quality graduate experience at Athabasca University.

OUR VISION

AUGSA's Vision Statement sets the high-level direction and justification for AUGSA's operations. All AUGSA's activities should be consistent with the attainment of the following vision statement.

AUGSA is dedicated to an accessible, affordable, and quality graduate experience at Athabasca University.



ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Strategic Goals

To maximize the probability of success, AUGSA will focus on a single strategic goal in alignment with AU's Imagine Plan, supported by strategies, actions and success measures.

The goal of AUGSA for 2018-2019 is:

GOAL 1

**ENGAGE AU GRADUATE STUDENTS IN SUPPORT OF AN
EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE**

AUGSA Strategies

GOAL 1 ENGAGE AU GRADUATE STUDENTS IN SUPPORT OF AN EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

<i>STRATEGY 1.1</i>	TO CONNECT WITH AU GRADUATE STUDENTS THROUGH OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
<i>STRATEGY 1.2</i>	WORK WITH AU TO CREATE A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AMONG GRADUATE STUDENTS THAT PROMOTES LEARNING AND COLLABORATION
<i>STRATEGY 1.3</i>	REPRESENT AUGSA IN PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL STUDENT ADVOCACY ASSOCIATIONS



ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Action Plan

GOAL 1: ENGAGE AU GRADUATE STUDENTS IN SUPPORT OF AN EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE

STRATEGY 1.1 TO CONNECT WITH OUR GRADUATE STUDENTS THROUGH OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

SUPPORTING ASSOCIATIONS,
DEFINED STAKEHOLDERS
AND/OR PROGRAMS

Initiatives and Action Steps	Resources	Metrics
Establish sustainable portfolio of awards and bursaries to be made available to Graduate Students.	VP Academics, Awards Committee, Executive Director, Council	Awards Policy Approval
Reach out to students consistently through the monthly newsletter and president's message	Executive Directive, Exec Committee, Engagement Committee	Tracking number of readers
Revise and update the AUGSA website	Executive Director, Executive Committee, Council	Website release Visit Numbers

STRATEGY 1.2 WORK WITH AU TO CREATE A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AMONG GRADUATE STUDENTS THAT PROMOTES LEARNING AND COLLABORATION

SUPPORTING ASSOCIATIONS,
DEFINED STAKEHOLDERS
AND/OR PROGRAMS

Research Conference Committee, Athabasca University, Graduate Students

Initiatives and Action Steps	Resources	Metrics
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ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Increase in meeting collaboration with AU to inspire and benefit our members.	Executive Committee	Number of meetings with Deans and executive team members
Renegotiate bargaining agreement with an emphasis on increasing graduate assistantship opportunities.	Executive Director, VP Academics, Negotiations Committee, Council	Signed bargaining agreement
Coordinate and facilitate Graduate Student Research Conference to showcase students work as well as provide volunteer opportunities.	Executive Director, President, VP External, VP Academics, Council	Successful Conference Event Attendance at Event Steering Committee Attendance and Makeup

STRATEGY 1.3 Represent AUGSA in Provincial and National Student Advocacy Associations

SUPPORTING ASSOCIATIONS, DEFINED STAKEHOLDERS AND/OR PROGRAMS	abGPAC Board, Ab-GPAC Governance Committee; CASA's Graduate Committee, CASA Membership and conference attendance; Faculty of Graduate Studies	
Initiatives and Action Steps	Resources	Metrics
Represent AUGSA's stakeholders within abGPAC.	VP External President	Attendance Committee Work/Meeting Outside feedback regarding abGPAC
Represent AUGSA's stakeholders within CASA.	VP External President	Attendance at all 4 major conferences Committee Work and Membership



ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Understand the barriers and the required strategic advocacy initiatives of the graduate student body at Athabasca University.	VP External Academic Reps President Engagement Committee	Attendance at Faculty and Board of Governor meetings All other committees attending by AUGSA members



ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Budget

The 2019 proposed budget for AUGSA is presented below.

We strive to enhance Athabasca University graduate student life and services. For this, we have made an important decision to enhance our support to fulfil our valuable students' financial needs by adding a substantial amount to our "Cash Awards and Grants" for the 2019 Budget. This means more money in more student's pockets, and more support when students need it. We have increased our budget from \$6,000 to \$25,000 in this area. We are going to make the following changes in the upcoming 2019 budget:

	2018	2019	Changes
Total income	\$428,765	437,172	\$8,407
abGPAC	\$9,964	\$10,090	\$126
CASA	\$5,500	\$5,548	\$48
Cash Awards and Grants	\$6,000	\$24,996	\$19,000
Payroll Expenses	\$196,719	\$208,059	\$11,340
Council Honorariums	\$39,456	\$40,200	\$750
Web Development	\$17,466	0	-\$17,466
Total Auto and Hotel Expense	\$27,700	\$32,700	\$5,000
Addition in Total expenses			\$18,798

Note: To see the full version of the budget, please visit the AUGSA official website.