



Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association
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AUGSA-AUSU Joint Meeting

Date: June 16, 2010

Place: Teleconference

Time: 6:15pm

Attendance:

Tamra Ross, Executive Director (AUSU) – Meeting Chair
Sarah Kertcher, VP Finance & Administration (AUSU)
Amanda Nielsen, President (AUGSA)
Barbara Rielly, President (AUSU)
Bethany Tynes, VP External (AUSU)
Greta Kirstein, GDHERM Rep (AUGSA)
Michael Balaski, VP Academic (AUGSA)
Ric Wheeler, VP Student Life (AUGSA)
Denise Ferris, VP External (AUGSA) – Entered at 6:28pm
David Keene, MAIS Rep (AUGSA) – Entered at 6:31pm
Adam Snider, Coordinator (AUGSA)

| INDEX | MINUTES | ACTION |
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| 1.0 – Call to Order | Meeting called to order at 6:23pm. | |
| 2.0 – Approval of the Agenda | Agenda approved at 6:23pm. | |
| 3.0 – Old Business | No old business. | |
| 4.0 – New Business | | |
| 4.1 – Updates: AUSU & AUGSA | Amanda presented the AUGSA update. The following points were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Negotiating an information sharing agreement with AU; AUGSA is not willing to sign the agreement until AU includes a clause ensuring that an AUGSA rep will be present if AU | |

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| | <p>performs a security audit of AUGSA's records.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working on a webinar/seminar to present to AU staff & faculty about the GSA's role.• Will be meeting students in person when their programs have in-person components.• New bylaws almost finalized and in place.• New website should be ready by the end of June; all other branding work is done.• Looking into library to see if it is adequate for graduate research (in response to student emails); this may be a good issue to collaborate on with AUSU. <i>(Denise entered at 6:28pm.)</i>• Denise is now the Alberta Graduate Council (AGC) Chair; AGC is looking for a new graduate student to replace Chris Skappak as Government Relations Officer (GRO).• Amanda, Ric and Denise will be attending to Wildrose Alliance AGM in Red Deer.• Off-campus Cost Recovery Program issue is being looked into by the Minister of Advanced Education and Technology (MAET).<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Amanda may be meeting with Lisa Fox, from MAET to discuss this further.• Recently created awards for students, faculty, and non-academic staff.• AUGSA now seats on a wide range of AU committees (AUAC, AUGC, Ad Hoc Governance Committee, etc.). <i>(David entered at 6:31pm.)</i>• AUGSA is working on increasing our social media engagement; would like to discuss AUSU's use of Second Life.• Will be contacting Nancy Parker regarding AU Institutional Studies to attempt to get information | |
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| | <p>about AU Graduate Students.</p> <p>Tamra presented the AUSU update. The following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Convocation occurred recently. Currently collecting feedback from students about the proceedings; differing opinions among students about the quality and process of the ceremonies.• VOICE Magazine editor recently resigned; looking to hire a new editor.• Will need to start working on the latest edition of the AUSU Student Handbook.• Newsletter goes out to approximately 25,000 people; the next issue will be sent out in 4 weeks.• A professionally printed lobby package was sent to the provincial government. The previous package was successful, with some ideas being included in revisions to the Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA).• AUSU has a Student Issues Database where all problems/issues raised by students (by phone, email, online forums, etc.) are logged. Have been gathering stats for over a year and are now able to generate relevant statistics. The biggest issue is a very slow response time from tutors; there is also a very small group of tutors who are not giving any feedback when they return papers/assignments.• Created a 20-page booklet listing AUSU services and sent it out to tutors so that tutors can refer students to AUSU when/if needed.• Added new awards – Return of Student Award; Music and Arts Student Award in memory of Christine Pannekoek.• Getting online store setup to sell AUSU merch.• Will be switching to OrgSync social media | |
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| | software to run student groups. This should launch in 6-8 weeks. | |
| 4.2 – Collaboration Ideas | <p>Lack of Career Services at AU – Tamra noted that there is a lack of career services at AU. Michael noted that AUGSA has discussed this idea before; the idea of possibly setting something up (or working collaboratively with AUSU on it) has been discussed, but it was decided that it is premature at this time for AUGSA to take on this type of project.</p> <p>AUSU has a job board, but there hasn't been much uptake.</p> <p>It was noted that most schools provide this services themselves, not via the SU or GSA. AUSU is lobbying the university to set up career services.</p> <p>Student Email Addresses – Barb noted that undergraduate students want @athabascau.ca email addresses. AUSU has been pushing to get these for students. Amanda agreed that this is an issue worth collaborating, but wants stats on how many students want these addresses; Barb noted that AUSU has stats indicating that students have been requesting this for at least a year.</p> | |
| 4.3 – Convocation | After discussion, it was noted that some students feel that the convocation ceremonies are overly long and somewhat awkward for the students who are convocating. This information is mostly anecdotal, so it student feedback should be collected before approaching AU about the possibility of changing the ceremonies. | |
| 4.4 – Handbooks | <p>Ric discussed AUGSA's handbook proposal for AUSU. Requested that AUGSA be able to get involved with AUSU's handbook, putting some of our information into the book.</p> <p>Tamra noted that AUSU actually put a similar offer forward to the previous AUGSA council and was refused; if the current council is interested, then so is AUSU. She will have Karyna send copies to Adam to ship out to all AUGSA council so they can review them.</p> <p>Tamra also noted that AUGSA can have a page in the</p> | |

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| | <p>VOICE Magazine (for free for now, and probably paid in the future).</p> <p>Financial arrangements with regard to the handbook were discussed. AUSU will determine how many grad students request handbooks, generate an invoice based on this number and then write the cost off as a donation to AUGSA. The next year, we can consider doing it is a real billing, using this invoice as a cost estimate if AUGSA wishes to order handbook “for real.”</p> | |
| 5.0 – Other Business | <p>Month meetings between AUSU and AUGSA agreed to in principle. The exact form that this meetings will take is to be discussed later.</p> <p>Next meeting planned for July 14, 2010.</p> | |
| 6.0 – Adjournment | <p>Meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.</p> | |

Amanda Nielsen, President

Adam Snider, Coordinator

Date of Approval