



Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association
10818 Jasper Avenue
PO Box 35092
Edmonton, AB T5J 0B7

Phone: 1-866-625-5943

Fax: 780-497-7003

Web: <http://www.augsa.com>

Council Meeting Minutes

Date: November 08, 2010

Place: Web conference

Time: 5:00pm

Attendance: Amanda Nielsen, President
Michael Balaski, VP Academic
Nathaniel Ostashewski, VP Operations & Finance
Ric Wheeler, VP Student Life
Greta Kirstein, GDHERM Rep
Lorna Howieson, MBA Rep
David Keene, Arts Rep
Eric von Stackelberg, MSIS Rep
Adam Snider, Coordinators

Regrets: Denise Ferris, VP External

Absent: Melissa Seaborg, GCAP Rep

INDEX	MINUTES	ACTION
1.0 – Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 5:05pm.	
2.0 – Approval of the Agenda	MOTION: Ric moved to approve the agenda as presented and Nathaniel seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously.	
3.0 – Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting	MOTION: Michael moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as presented and Amanda seconded; motion carried unanimously.	
4.0 – Reports		
4.1 – Executive Reports	The members of the executive presented their reports (see attached).	

	The VP External was absent, but her report was presented as attached.	
4.2 – Council Reports	The council representative presented their reports (see attached). The GCAP representative was absent, but her report was presented as attached.	
4.3 – Staff Reports	The Coordinator presented his report (see attached).	
4.4 – PC AGM Report	Amanda & Michael both attended this event, along with other members of the AGC, and presented an oral report. The following points were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There seemed to be a generally positive attitude toward post-secondary education (PSE). • The premier in particular seemed quite open to listening to student ideas. • A resolution was passed stating that the party now explicitly supports international students attending Alberta PSE institutions. 	
4.5 – NDP AGM Report	Amanda & Michael both attended this event and presented an oral report. The following points were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resolution was proposed to support providing subsidizing housing to students living on campus; this resolution was revised to include support for subsidized housing for off-campus students as well (specific references to AU students were a large part of the conversation that resulted in this revision to the resolution). 	
4.6 – Course Evaluation Focus Group Report	Amanda noted that the focus group was a success and that a report has been sent out to those who attended. If you attended, please review the report and make sure that it accurately represents the views that you expressed.	
4.7 – Council Evaluation & Review System Process Overview	It was noted that we have now been using the current system for 3 months, which means that a review of the system is due. MOTION: Nathaniel moved that this discussion be moved to the AUGSA Council Landing group rather than having a meeting on GoToMeeting; Amanda seconded the motion and it	

	was carried unanimously.	
5.0 – Old Business		
5.1 – Speaker of Council	<p>Adam noted that only one application has been received for this position and recommended that the deadline be extended until the end of the month.</p> <p>MOTION: Ric moved that the deadline to apply for the Speaker of Council position be extended until the end of November, 2010; David seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.</p> <p>Adam will inform the current applicant that the deadline has been extended.</p>	Adam – Nov 09/10
5.2 – Student Emails	<p>In response to AUGSA’s letter requesting institutional email address for AU students, we received a letter from Dr. Haughey outlining the reasons why the university feels that this is unnecessary and will not provide them (see attached).</p> <p>Lorna noted that many of the reasons outlined are good reasons and some of our concerns were addressed in the letter. With this in mind, she proposed that we send a letter stating that we would still like to see AU email addresses provided to students, but only on an as-requested basis. She has drafted a letter with this request (see attached).</p> <p>MOTION: Nathaniel moved to approve the letter created by Lorna for requesting emails from AU and Ric seconded on the condition that the letter also be posted on the AUGSA website. The motioned carried by a vote of 7-0 with one abstention.</p>	
6.0 – New Business		
6.1 – Committee Autonomy	<p>Adam raised the question of committee autonomy: what decisions can committees make without consulting the Council as a whole?</p> <p>This discussion will occur on the Landing.</p>	
6.2 – Alberta Party AGM	No Alberta-based members of Council are available to attend this event. We will send our regrets and attempt to attend next year.	
6.3 – Liberal Party	MOTION: Amanda moved to send up to two members of Council to this event and Ric seconded the motion. Motion	

AGM	<p>carried unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: Amanda moved to send her and Ric to the Liberal Party AGM on November 27, 2010 and Ric seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.</p>	
6.4 – Conference Calling Information	<p>Amanda looked into a separate conference calling line, at Denise’s request. See presented a report of her findings (see attached).</p> <p>MOTION: Nathaniel moved that for financial reasons, lack of control, and the fact that we have GoToMeeting, that we do not get a Telus conference line; Ric seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.</p>	
6.5 – Hotel Policy	<p>The issue of whether or not members travelling to conferences lasting longer than 3 days will be required to share a hotel room (if both members are of the same sex) will be discussed on the AUGSA Council Landing group.</p>	
6.6 – Federal Advocacy Priorities	<p>After discussion, AUGSA’s main federal advocacy priorities were reiterated as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student loans (we want to access to student loans for part-time students); • Copyright issues; • Accreditation issues; and • Funding for distance education – typically AU gets far less funding than traditional institutions. 	
6.7 – AU Government Reception	<p>Amanda has been invited to attend the AU Government Reception but cannot make it. After discussion, it was decided that Ric would go in her place.</p>	
6.8 – AUGSA Budget Development	<p>Nathaniel noted that an operating budget cannot be developed until we have an idea of our cash flow and has the \$65,000 owed to us by the Faculty of Business. He is working with the university to resolve these issues.</p>	
6.9 – Project Brainstorming	<p>A number of future project ideas were brainstormed. These ideas will be listed on the AUGSA Council group on the AU Landing for further discussion and development.</p>	

7.0 – Other Business		
7.1 – Reboot Alberta	<p>Ric attended Reboot Alberta; the event followed an “un-conference” format, where small groups were given a topic to discuss.</p> <p>Ric was in a panel discussing the oil sands, with a focus on the question: Should Albertans own the oil sands, rather than foreign interests?</p> <p>Reboot Alberta is a non-partisan, non-traditional group that does not want to form a new political party.</p> <p>Ric noted that he handed out approximately 50 business cards at this event.</p>	
7.2 – Chief Returning Officer Job Description	<p>After discussion, a clause was added to state that the CRO will also complete “other duties that may be assigned” and “2-10 hours” was revised to read “2-5 hours.”</p> <p>MOTION: Michael moved to approve the Chief Returning Officer job description as revised and Ric seconded. Motion carried unanimously.</p>	
8.0 – Adjournment	<p>MOTION: Nathaniel moved to adjourn the meeting and David seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 7:01pm.</p>	

Amanda Nielsen, President

Adam Snider, Coordinator

Date of Approval