



**Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association**  
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## Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** January 26, 2012

**Place:** Web conference

**Time:** 6:00pm MST

**Attendance:**

Amanda Nielsen, President  
Greta Kirstein, VP External  
Rob Janzen, VP Academic  
Nathaniel Ostashewski, VP Operations & Finance (exited at 7:36pm)  
Adam Chisholm, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) Rep  
Margot Van Sluytman, FHSS Rep  
Moiz Bhamani, Faculty of Business Rep  
Wilson Ho, Faculty of Business Rep  
Ric Wheeler, Faculty of Business Rep  
Meg Andronowska, Faculty of Health Disciplines Rep  
Steve Harris, Faculty of Science and Technology Rep  
Sarah Gauvreau, Centre for Distance Education Rep  
Lorna Howieson, Speaker of Council  
Adam Snider, Coordinator

**Absent:**

Eric Lavoie, Faculty of Health Disciplines Rep  
Jade Clarke, Centre for Distance Education Rep

INDEX	MINUTES	ACTION
<b>1.0 – Call to Order</b>	Meeting called to order at 6:00pm MST.	
<b>2.0 – Approval of Agenda</b>	<b>MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.</b> (Ostashewski / Wheeler) Unanimously carried.	
<b>3.0 – Approval of Previous Minutes</b>	<b>MOTION: That the previous meeting's minutes be approved as presented.</b> (Chisholm / Kirstein) Unanimously carried.	
<b>4.0 – Unfinished Business</b>		

<p><b>4.1 – Audit Report</b></p>	<p>The VPOF will be delivering the 2011 financial documents, QuickBooks files, and VPOF laptop to the auditor on February 6<sup>th</sup> (plus or minus a day).</p> <p>The VPOF reminded the Executive Committee and staff that they are to draft a report on the previous year to include in the final published audit documents. The report should be approximately one to two pages, though the President’s report will likely be longer.</p> <p>It was decided that Faculty/Centre Representatives should also draft a brief, one to two paragraph report for inclusion in the final audit. The VPOF will start a thread on the Landing to help determine what these reports should include.</p> <p>The VPOF requested that reports be submitted to him by February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012.</p>	<p>All – reports to VPOF by Feb 15/12.</p>
<p><b>5.0 – New Business</b></p>		
<p><b>5.1 – Selection of Elections &amp; Referenda Committee Students-at-Large (in camera)</b></p>	<p><b>MOTION: That the meeting be moved <i>in camera</i>.</b> (Nielsen / Janzen) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>A discussion of the Elections &amp; Referenda Committee candidates occurred.</p> <p><b>MOTION: That the meeting be moved <i>ex camera</i>.</b> (Nielsen / Chisholm) Unanimously carried.</p> <p><b>MOTION: That the GSA Council appoint Claudius Soodeen, Frank Pietrobono, Glen Cochrane, and Mick Beale to the Elections &amp; Referenda Committee for the 2011/2012 academic year.</b> (Nielsen / Kirstein) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>The Coordinator will inform the CRO and candidates of the decision.</p>	<p>Snider – Jan 31/12</p>
<p><b>5.2 – Adobe Acrobat Professional for AUGSA Office</b></p>	<p>The VP Academic noted that the Coordinator needs to be able to convert PDF documents into Word documents. As a result the AUGSA office requires Adobe Acrobat. The VP Academic has contacted Adobe and confirmed that AUGSA is eligible for the educational institution price of approximately \$130 USD plus shipping and handling.</p>	<p>Coordinator / VP Academic – purchase the software – Jan 31/12</p>

	<p><b>MOTION: That \$200 be allotted to purchase a copy of Adobe Acrobat Professional X for the AUGSA Office.</b> (Janzen / Ostashewski) Unanimously carried.</p>	
<p><b>5.3 – AUGSA Landing Group</b></p>	<p><b>MOTION: That all official AUGSA activities, newsletters, or other information being released to the members (including information from the augsa.com website and Facebook group) also be posted to the AUGSA Landing group.</b> (Janzen / Kirstein) Unanimously carried.</p>	
<p><b>5.4 – Information Item: Sponsorship of AUGSA Events</b></p>	<p>The VP Academic has looked into potential sponsors for AUGSA events. Big Rock Brewery has indicated a willingness to sponsor some AUGSA events. They are able to provide beer and potentially cash. They have a strong preference of venues where Big Rock beer can be served and where they are able to put up advertising for their brand.</p>	
<p><b>5.5 – Sending Coordinator to Convocation</b></p>	<p>After discussion, Council decided that it is important to have an AUGSA presence at AU Convocation. The President attends in her role as a member of the Board of Governors and, thus, is unable to represent AUGSA at the same time. The idea of sending the Coordinator was raised.</p> <p><b>MOTION: That the AUGSA spend up to \$700 to send the AUGSA Coordinator to AU Convocation to set up a booth during luncheons, congratulate our members, and enhance GSA visibility.</b> (Nielsen / Janzen) Unanimously carried.</p>	
<p><b>5.6 – Health Plan Referendum Question</b></p>	<p><b>MOTION: That Council recommend the following question to the AUGSA Elections &amp; Referenda Committee for the Health and Dental Plan referendum:</b></p> <p><i>"Many Canadian colleges and universities offer a Student Health and Dental plan to their members. The proposed mandatory extended health and dental plan for graduate students at Athabasca University would provide most full-time Athabasca University program-based graduate students in Canada with extended health benefits at a cost payable by</i></p>	

	<p><i>the student.</i></p> <p><i>To cover premium and administrative cost adjustments, this fee may adjusted by up to 3% per annum. The fee would be assessed to all eligible students at the time of registration. Students with comparable coverage may opt-out from the plan by providing proof of coverage for a set period, of at least one month, at the start of every year. You can learn more about the Health and Dental plan by clicking <a href="#">here</a>.</i></p> <p><i>Are you in favor of the Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association (AUGSA) implementing such a fee?"</i></p> <p>(Nielsen / Janzen) Unanimously carried.</p> <p><b>ACTION ITEM: President to follow up with Drew at C&amp;C Insurance to re-confirm that the proposed rates are annual rates, as the information web page does not specifically say so.</b></p>	
<b>5.7 – Pull-up Banner Purchase</b>	<p><b>MOTION: That the AUGSA invest in a professional, pull-up banner for no more than \$1,100 to help further establish GSA-brand identity.</b> (Nielsen / Andronowska) Unanimously carried.</p>	
<b>6.0 – Other Business</b>		
<b>6.1 – Information Item: AGC Conference</b>	<p>The President noted that AUGSA is responsible for providing a Sponsorship Coordinator for the upcoming AGC Conference. There is an honorarium associated with this position. Anyone interested in this role should email the President at <a href="mailto:president@augsa.com">president@augsa.com</a>.</p>	
<b>7.0 - Adjournment</b>	<p><b>MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.</b> (Nielsen / Andronowska) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm MST.</p>	

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Amanda Nielsen, President

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Adam Snider, Coordinator

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Date of Approval