



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

**Date:** February 14, 2013

**Place:** Web conference

**Time:** 7:30pm MST

**Attendance:**

Amanda Nielsen, President  
Olivia Meyia, VP Academic  
Wilson Ho, VP Operations & Finance  
Margaret Clappison, Faculty of Business Representative  
Moiz Bhamani, Faculty of Business Representative  
Maria Greaves, Faculty of Business Representative  
Adam Chisholm, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative  
Mandy Nielsen, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative  
Caitlin Cummins, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative  
Eric Lavoie, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative  
Julia Radke, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative  
Rob Janzen, Faculty of Science and Technology Representative  
Jade Clarke, Centre for Distance Education Representative  
Eric Snow, Speaker of Council  
Adam Snider, Operations Coordinator

**Guests:**

Dietmar Kennepohl, Associate VP Academic (AU)

**Regrets:**

Steve Harris, Faculty of Science and Technology Representative  
Sean Sommerfeld, Centre for Distance Education Representative

INDEX	MINUTES	ACTION
1.0 – Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 7:32pm MST.	
2.0 – Approval of Agenda	<b>MOTION: To amend the agenda to add “Online Convocation Process” as item 7.1.</b> (President / Greaves) Unanimously carried.  <b>MOTION: To approve the agenda as amended.</b> (Greaves / Bhamani) Unanimously carried.	

<p><b>3.0 – Approval of Previous Meeting’s Minutes</b></p>	<p><b>MOTION: That the previous meeting’s minutes be revised so that the meeting date is listed as January 23, 2013 instead of December 17, 2013 and be approved as amended.</b> (Radke / Clarke) Unanimously carried.</p>	
<p><b>4.0 – Declarations of Conflicts of Interest</b></p>	<p>None declared.</p>	
<p><b>5.0 – Guest Presentation – Q&amp;A on eTexts</b></p>	<p>Dr. Kennepohl provided an overview of the eTexts Initiative at AU, noting that the aims are to facilitate conversation around eTexts and introducing them into the teaching environment.</p> <p>Dr. Kennepohl indicated that an advisory group will be formed and he would like graduate student representation on the group.</p> <p>A discussion on eTexts ensued and the following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The need to determine what eTexts will include: can be as simple as a PDF version of a traditional book or a fully interactive, multimedia environment.</li> <li>- The importance of recognizing and supporting different learning types and giving students the flexibility to choose between eTexts and hardcopies.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, several questions were raised for further exploration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will eTexts have an expiration date, after which the student will no longer be able to access them?</li> <li>- Do eTexts improve or hinder retention of information (Dr. Kennepohl noted that the research on this is currently mixed)?</li> <li>- Will students get their texts in advance, just as they do with traditional books?</li> </ul>	

	<p>- Will students be able to see in advance if a course is using eTexts or traditional books?</p> <p>Adam Chisholm was selected to sit on the Advisory Group, via Election Buddy.</p> <p><b>MOTION: That AUGSA appoint Adam Chisholm to the AU Advisory Group on eTexts. (Radke / Cummins) Unanimously carried.</b></p>	
<b>6.0 – Reports</b>		
<b>6.1 – Executive Reports</b>	The Executive team presented their written reports.	
<b>6.2 – Financial Reports</b>	The VPOF presented the monthly financial reports.	
<b>7.0 – New Business</b>		
<b>7.1 – Online Convocation Process</b>	<b>MOTION: That AUGSA recommend that AU pursue an online convocation process for AU students, while also keeping an in-person event. (President / Greaves) Unanimously carried.</b>	
<b>7.2 – Approval of Amendments to Election Bylaws</b>	<b>MOTION: That “Athabasca University Graduate Students’ Association Bylaw 2 (Election Bylaw)” be amended as presented, in order to allow for greater flexibility in AUGSA election dates. (President / Nielsen) Unanimously carried.</b>	
<b>7.3 – Approval of Revised Financial Policies</b>	<p><b>MOTION: That the updated financial policies be approved as presented. (VPOF / Cummins) Unanimously carried.</b></p> <p>It was requested that future changes leave “track changes” on until they are approved, so that Council Members can more easily see what changes have been made.</p>	
<b>7.4 – Governance Training for Executives</b>	<b>MOTION: That AUGSA approve spending \$5650 in course and \$1000 in travel cost to send the President and VP Operations and Finance to the Institute of Corporate Director's Governance Essentials Program for non-profit organizations, which will take place March 10 to 12, 2013 in Edmonton. (VP Academic / Greaves) Unanimously carried.</b>	

<p><b>7.5 – Appointment of CRO</b></p>	<p><b>MOTION: That the council go <i>in camera</i>.</b> (President / VPOF) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>The council went into an <i>in camera</i> session at this point.</p> <p><b>MOTION: That the council go <i>ex camera</i>.</b> (Cummins / Clappison)</p> <p>The council left the <i>in camera</i> session at this point.</p> <p><b>MOTION: That Kevin Flynn be appointed as the AUGSA Chief Returning Officer for the 2013 Elections.</b> (Nielsen / Greaves) Unanimously carried with one abstention (Radke).</p>	
<p><b>7.6 – Division of VP External Salary</b></p>	<p><b>MOTION: That AUGSA defer the discussion of how to divide VP External salary until next month.</b> (Cummins / Radke) Motion defeated unanimously, with three abstentions (President, VP Academic, and VPOF).</p> <p><b>MOTION: That 100% of the salary of the VP External be allocated to the President for the externally related work completed in the January 2013.</b> (Radke / Clarke) Unanimously carried with two abstentions (President and VPOF).</p> <p>It was decided that, in the future, the Executives will include on their report the number of hours they completed on external work and council will use these numbers as a reference for determining how the VP External pay will be divided.</p> <p>It was also decided that the Executives will leave the call for this discussion in future meetings.</p>	
<p><b>8.0 – Other Business</b></p>		
<p><b>8.1 – Door Prizes</b></p>	<p>The idea of offering a door prize to encourage students to vote in the upcoming AUGSA Elections was proposed. Council was generally in favour of the idea but no formal decision was made.</p>	
<p><b>9.0 - Adjournment</b></p>	<p><b>MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.</b> (Nielsen / Greaves) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 9:48pm MST.</p>	

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Amanda Nielsen, President

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Adam Snider, Coordinator

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Date of Approval