



Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association
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Council Meeting Minutes

Date: July 22, 2013

Place: Web conference

Time: 7:00pm MT

Attendance:

Amanda Nielsen, President
Phil Ferguson, VP Operations & Finance
Julia Radke, VP External
Sheri Oberman, VP Academic
Kurt Spady, Faculty of Business Representative
Caitlin Cumming, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative
Lynde McKinley, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative
Louis Watson, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative
Nicole Hill, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences Representative
Cynthia Gordon, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences Representative
Steve Harris, Faculty of Science & Technology Representative
Gerry McDonald, Faculty of Science & Technology Representative
Slade Sekulich, Centre for Distance Education Representative
Adam Snider, Operations Coordinator
Eric Snow, Speaker of Council

Absent:

Corina Hollingworth, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences Representative
Sofia Nteliopoulou, Centre for Distance Education Representative
Maria Greaves, Faculty of Business Representative

INDEX	MINUTES	ACTION
1.0 – Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 7:12pm MT.	
2.0 – Approval of Agenda	MOTION: That the agenda be approved as presented. (Cummins / VP External) Unanimously carried.	
3.0 – Approval of Previous	MOTION: That the previous meeting's minutes be approved. (Cummins / McKinley) Unanimously	

Meeting's Minutes	carried.	
4.0 – Declaration of Conflicts of Interest	No conflicts of interest were declared.	
5.0 – Governance Overview	The Speaker of Council provided Council with an overview of Robert's Rules of Order and parliamentary procedure. There were no questions from the Council.	
6.0 – Reports		
6.1 – Financial Report	The VPOF provided an overview of AUGSA's financials, noting that revenue can appear volatile from month-to-month due to AU's open enrolments, but is generally stable over the course of the year. The VPOF also noted that AU remits our fees monthly, but we usually receive them cheques for fees about 1 – 2 months after they were collected.	
6.2 – Presentation & Update on ASEC	The VP External gave the attached presentation on ASEC.	
6.3 – Presentation on CASA	The President gave the attached presentation on CASA.	
7.0 – New Business		
7.1 – Edmonton Meet & Greet	MOTION: To host a Meet and Greet at the Matrix Hotel within the next 6 months to avoid losing our investment in that venue incurred from the change of venue for the AU Graduate Conference Opening Reception. This event will cost no more than \$3,500. (President / VP External) Unanimously carried.	
7.2 – Internal Policy – E-Texts	The attached briefing note regarding e-texts was discussed.	
7.3 – Resolution Regarding E-Texts at AU	The following resolution was moved by the President and seconded by the VP External. It was unanimously carried. AUGSA Council Motion Re: Academic Materials WHEREAS graduate students at Athabasca University have indicated that they prefer to have a choice in how their learning resources are delivered while retaining	

	<p>the university's current learning resource fee structure, and</p> <p>WHEREAS research has shown that students prefer printed materials for academic reading¹, and</p> <p>WHEREAS it is unclear what impact the use of e-texts has on learning outcomes and access to texts for students, and</p> <p>WHEREAS it is unclear how Athabasca University plans to mitigate potential challenges that e-texts may cause for students with disabilities,</p> <p>BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association not support a straight, automatic rollout of e-texts because these texts do not necessarily offer the best learning opportunities for Athabasca University graduate students, can cause challenges for students with disabilities, and are not the delivery method of choice for most students.</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association is in favour of providing graduate students at Athabasca University with a choice as to how their learning resources be delivered while maintaining the university's current fee structure relating to textbooks and mandatory non-instructional fees (e.g., learning resource fees), and</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any e-texts offered by Athabasca University include the option for students to receive a hard-copy text instead of an e-text, allow use on multiple devices, allow early access to course reading, allow long-term access to course materials, and include appropriate support and strategies to include students with disabilities.</p> <p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any new or increased mandatory non-instructional fees should either be linked to the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) or require approval from the Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association Council.</p> <p>¹ "Students Prefer Print for Serious Academic Reading." http://chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/students-prefer-print-but-not-</p>	
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	books-for-serious-academic-reading . Accessed on July 19, 2013.	
8.0 – Other Business		
8.1 – AU Ingenuity Conference	Mr. Spady asked that Council contact him for information regarding the AU Ingenuity Conference and to post information about it on any program or faculty specific forums of which they are members.	
9.0 – Adjournment	MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned. (McKinley / Sekulich) Unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:04pm MT.	

Amanda Nielsen, President

Adam Snider, Coordinator

Date of Approval