



Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association
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Council Meeting Minutes

Date: February 26, 2014

Place: Web conference

Time: 6:00pm

Attendance:

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

Regrets:

Gerry McDonald, Faculty of Science & Technology Representative

Absent:

Sofia Nteliopoulou, Centre for Distance Education Representative
Caitlin Cummins, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative

INDEX	MINUTES	ACTION
1.0 – Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 6:00pm MT.	
2.0 – Approval of Agenda	MOTION: To amend the agenda to add item 5.2 “Resolution Regarding AUFA” and to move “Collective Agreement” to the first item of new business and approve the agenda as amended. (President / VP External) Unanimously carried.	
3.0 – Approval of Previous	MOTION: That the previous meeting’s minutes be	

Meeting's Minutes	approved. (Hill / Watson) Unanimously carried.	
4.0 – Declaration of Conflicts of Interest	Ms. Hill declared a conflict of interest with items 5.4 and 5.5.	
5.0 – New Business		
5.1 – Collective Agreement	MOTION: That the AUGSA Council accept the collective agreement as presented on behalf of AUGSA's members. (President / McKinley) Unanimously carried.	
5.2 – Resolution Regarding AUFA	RESOLUTION: Whereas faculty and professionals do not share a sufficient community of interest to bargain collectively, Whereas the lack of community of interest creates difficulty in dealing with the needs of academics, Whereas the current structure confers benefits normally bestowed on academics to non-academics (such as instant statutory certification, professional development funds, annual leaves and sabbaticals), Whereas faculty and professionals do not normally bargain as a single unit in Canada, Be it resolved that the AUFA should only bargain on behalf of those traditionally defined in Canada as academics. (Sekulich / McKinley) The resolution was carried unanimously, with three abstentions. Mr. Harris requested that his abstention be noted on the record.	
5.3 – Audit Update	The VPOF noted that the auditor has received all necessary files from AUGSA and that the 2013 audit should be complete by March 7, barring any additional questions from the auditor.	
5.4 – Conference Coordinator	MOTION: That AUGSA hire Nicole Hill as the 2014 AU Graduate Student Conference Coordinator. (President / Harris) Unanimously carried.	
5.5 – Chief Returning Officer	MOTION: That AUGSA appoint Nels Ekelund as the 2014 Chief Returning Officer. (President / VP External) Unanimously carried, with two abstentions. Ms. Hill and Ms. McKinley requested that their	

	abstentions be noted on the record.	
5.6 – Provincial Advocacy MOU Update	MOTION: That AUGSA approve the Memorandum of Understanding as presented to begin the formation of a new provincial graduate advocacy group in Alberta. (VP External / Harris) Unanimously carried.	
5.7 – Attracting Qualified Election Candidates	The President encouraged council members to consider running for roles on AUGSA and to encourage their classmates and peers to run for roles as well, to encourage a competitive election.	
5.8 – Motion to Leave ASEC	MOTION: That AUGSA begin the process of leaving ASEC. (VP External / McKinley) Unanimously carried.	
5.9 – Executive Director: Update on Hiring and Approval of Interview Questions	MOTION: To move in camera. (President / McKinley) Unanimously carried. An in camera discussion occurred. MOTION: To move ex camera. (VP External / McKinley) Unanimously carried.	
5.10 – AUFA Letter (Information Item)	The President opened the floor to questions regarding a letter sent to AUGSA by AUFA. There were no questions.	
6.0 – Other Business		
6.1 – CASA AGM	The President noted that AUGSA’s original second delegate is now unable to attend the CASA AGM and, because she is Chair, she cannot vote on AUGSA’s behalf. As a result, a new second delegate is needed. MOTION: To allow the President to find a secondary delegate to attend the CASA AGM on behalf of AUGSA. (President / Hill) Unanimously carried.	
6.2 – VPOF Resignation	The VPOF resigned, effective February 28, as per a letter of resignation he sent to Council earlier in the day, but he will continue to assist with the 2013 audit, do month end financials and process payroll for the remainder of the term in order to ensure AUGSA is able to continue operating until the new executive is elected.	

7.0 – Adjournment	MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned. (VPOF / McKinley) Unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.	
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Amanda Nielsen, President

Adam Snider, Coordinator

Date of Approval

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