



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

**Date:** December 8, 2015

**Place:** Web conference

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Attendance:**

Cynthia Gordon, President  
Kaitlyn Hillier, VP Operations & Finance  
Teagan Gahler, VP Academic  
Nicole Whale, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative  
Kathleen Kelava, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative  
Peter Chan, Faculty of Business Representative  
Steve Green, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences Representative  
Josh McKeown, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences Representative  
Ian-Michael Anthony, Centre for Distance Education Representative  
Ross Tyson, Executive Director  
Eric Snow, Speaker of Council  
Justin Litun, Faculty of Business Representative  
Margaret Clappison, Faculty of Business Representative  
Eric George, Faculty of Science & Technology Representative  
Julia Radke, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative  
Absent:  
Shanna Rowney, Centre for Distance Education Representative

Regrets: Mona Abou Taka, Faculty of Science & Technology Representative

The first part of the meeting was a Question and Answer time with President Peter MacKinnon.

INDEX	MINUTES	ACTION
<b>1.0 Conversation with Dr. Peter MacKinnon</b>		
<b>2.0– Call to Order</b>	Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm MT.	
<b>3.0 Approval of Agenda</b>	<b>Motion: (Radke, (VPOF))</b>	

	<p><b>To approve the agenda as distributed.</b></p> <p><b>(VPOF, Litun )</b></p> <p>Carried Unanimously</p>	
<p><b>4.0 Approval of Previous Minutes</b></p>	<p><b>Motion: (To accept the minutes of November 10 as distributed. ( VPOF, Ian-Michael)</b></p> <p>Carried Unanimously</p>	
<p><b>5.0 –Reports</b></p>		
<p><b>5.1 – Executive Reports</b></p>	<p>All executive members presented their reports as distributed.</p> <p><b>President:</b> Governance meeting in January.</p> <p><b>VPOF:</b> Was pleased to represent us at AbGPAC</p> <p><b>VPA:</b> Teagan will be doing Jan 10 at 6pm, Jan 12 at 12 pm</p> <p>Ways to integrate AUGSA in handbook. Eric was wondering if it could be more personalized. It is a standing document. Our general emails will transfer over.</p>	
<p><b>5.2- Financial Reports</b></p>	<p>VPOF gave a report on finance at this time and the organization is financially sound. Budget comparisons are done quarterly.</p>	
<p><b>5.3 Faculty Reports</b></p>		
<p><b>5.3.1- Faculty of Business</b></p>	<p>Business: Peter reported that following the November seasonal cheers we will have six in December: Toronto, Kitchener, London, Kelowna, Vancouver and Edmonton.</p> <p>Two information sessions in December- Saskatoon and online on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December.</p>	

<b>5.3.2- Faculty of Health Disciplines</b>	Kathleen reported that she has nothing to report this month. Kathleen won some prestigious awards- Future Alumni Award.	
<b>5.3.3- Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences</b>	<p>Steve: will prepare something for the newsletter re Canada Student Loan funding. That person informed me that because the courses last six months I would not qualify. That was new to me. We discovered that this information is available on AU pages but is not readily available. One group or two individualized courses are applicable.</p> <p>Cynthia suggested this might be specific to the MAIS program.</p>	
<b>5.3.4-Centre for Distance Education</b>	Ian-Michael will be working with Shanna on the app to get a group for Centre for Distance Education	
<b>5.3.5 –Faculty of Science and Technology</b>	Eric George: Wanted to mention that in past interactions with fellow students most are paying out of pocket for tuition. We need to make the awards more noticeable.	
<b>6.0 – New Business</b>		
<b>6.1-Advocacy Update</b>	<p>President Cynthia met with AbGPAC developed a five year strategic plan. Four areas: Relationships; reputation; operational and advocacy.</p> <p>Quality measure: data about different programs that are available, how they compare,</p> <p>Labor relations: looking for input regarding the right to strike. Previously not covered under labor code. Presented a document to Government and we had three seats at the table. Binding arbitration is also necessary to prevent lock-out. Final legislation will be coming out this spring.</p> <p>Other members of AbGPAC interested in AU staying open for business. International students looking at fair and predictable fee increases comparable to domestic students.</p>	

	<p>CASA: areas include 1) Equity seeking groups. 2) Youth Unemployment seems to be where the feds are interested. 3) Research as grad students. Looking at tri-council funding grants. 4 Financial aid and repayment</p> <p>Policy development we are looking at graduate engagement and quality of programs. Look at program completion times being different for the different schools. Applications for funding and mature students are key areas (mortgage, family, etc.).</p> <p>Quality of graduate program consistency across Canada.</p> <p>Daycare allowance is very low with student loans.</p> <p>OGSA: pretty quiet this year. Have a plan for a January meeting, but it seems that program quality is an issue in Ontario.</p>	
<p><b>6.2- Code of Conduct</b></p>	<p><b>Motion: To adopt the Code of Conduct Policy as presented. (Green, VPA) Carried Unanimously</b></p> <p>This will become part of our Policy and Procedure binder on website.</p>	
<p><b>7.0 Old Business</b></p>		
<p><b>8.0 – Other Business</b></p>		
<p><b>9.0 - Adjournment</b></p>	<p><b>Motion: To adjourn the meeting ( VPOF, Anthony )</b></p> <p>Carried unanimously</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.</p>	

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Cynthia Gordon, President

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Ross Tyson, Executive Director

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Date of Approval