



Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association
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Council Meeting Minutes

Date: September 15, 2015

Place: Web conference

Time: 7:00pm

Attendance:

Cynthia Gordon, President
Kaitlyn Hillier, VP Operations & Finance
Teagan Gahler, VP Academic
Ken McKinnon, VP External
Julia Radke, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative
Kathleen Kelava, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative
Nicole Whale, 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
Mona Abou Taka, Faculty of Science & Technology Representative
Ian-Michael Anthony, Centre for Distance Education Representative
Shanna Rowney, Centre for Distance Education Representative
Ross Tyson, Executive Director
Eric Snow, Speaker of Council

Absent:

Regrets: Justin Litun, Faculty of Business Representative
Margaret Clappison, Faculty of Business Representative
Eric George, Faculty of Science & Technology Representative

INDEX	MINUTES	ACTION
1.0 – Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm MT.	

2.0 Approval of Agenda	Motion: To approve the agenda as presented. (VPOF, Kelava) Carried Unanimously	
3.0 Approval of Previous Minutes	Motion: (To accept the minutes of August 18 as distributed.(Rowney, Chan) Carried Unanimously	
4.0 –Reports		
4.1 – Executive Reports	All executive members presented their reports as distributed. Cynthia: The launch of the app and the research conference were the big items.	
4.2- Financial Reports	VPOF gave a report on finance at this time and the organization is financially sound.	
4.2.1- Budget Update	Motion: To approve the variances in the 2015 budget. (Radke, VPOF). Approved Unanimously	
4.3 Faculty Reports	Cynthia gave us some background on the faculty reports. These are short verbal reports designed to generate discussion.	
4.3.1- Faculty of Business	Peter Chan: We have several information sessions in September. Sept 16- Calgary, Sept 17- Calgary, Sept 23-Ontario.	
4.3.2- Faculty of Health Disciplines	Kathleen Kelava: One of our students posted a forum asking about how to get hold of a representative. So I reached out. Julia added that she works with past students. The Conference was mentioned and it should be recognized that this is a conference for students and highlight the excellent research that will be presented. Cynthia discussed the problem of getting hold of students. Health Disciplines has a Moodle board. Not much discussion on it. All of the faculty can see it as well. Hoping that our app becomes this forum.	

	<p>In business, Lotus notes only allows email communication. Within a course you can post to the course participants.</p> <p>Julia talked about AU Landing, but it is seldom used.</p> <p>Peter mentioned an alumni club with the faculty of business. He will talk to the chair and see if he can join those meetings as well.</p>	
4.3.3- Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences	<p>Steve Green and Josh McKeown plan to network at the Research Conference. Common themes are around “how do I...?” Some students with a couple of courses under their belt still had difficulty accessing the library. Steve would like to comment on the data base regarding contacting other students.</p> <p>Kathleen stated that communication is a real gap in the system. Steve agreed with her comments and wondered if the faculty doesn’t want to have good communication....It is a barrier for me if I am unable to access fellow students.”</p> <p>Cynthia suggested that we need to have a goal to access new students and provide an ongoing forum.</p>	
4.3.4-Centre for Distance Education	<p>Shanna is hopeful about the app. We plan to send information to Serena (in Distance Ed) for dispersal to students. Ian-Michael suggested an incentive to reach out to students.</p>	
4.3.5 –Faculty of Science and Technology	<p>Mona does not know which route the students are going through- thesis or project. We have a course outline and homework. That is all.</p> <p>Cynthia asked how many have in person retreats or workshops. Nursing, GPAC do have contact. None for CDE, Business, MAIS or Science.</p>	
5.0 – New Business		
5.1- Committee Updates	<p>Awards Committee will be meeting in October.</p> <p>Governance Committee met in August. We are looking at a dispute resolution policy. Should be</p>	

	<p>presented to Council next month. Need to look at Bylaw structure and policies.</p> <p>The Engagement Committee met in August. Steve and Ian –Michael will be updating the app during conference.</p>	
5.2- GOTV Prizes	<p>Motion: To approve awarding prizes for the GOTV campaign. (not to exceed \$ 200) (President, Green)</p> <p>Approved unanimously</p> <p>Suggested denominations: 1 at \$100, 2 at \$25, and 10 at \$5.</p>	
6.0 Old Business		
6.1		
7.0 – Other Business		
7.1-		
8.0 - Adjournment	<p>Motion: To adjourn the meeting (VPOF, Kelava)</p> <p>Carried unanimously</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.</p>	

Cynthia Gordon, President

Ross Tyson, Executive Director

Date of Approval