



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

**Date:** March 8, 2016

**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  
Julia Radke, 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  
Justin Litun, Faculty of Business Representative  
Margaret Clappison, Faculty of Business Representative  
Eric George, Faculty of Science & Technology Representative  
Mona Abou Taka, Faculty of Science & Technology Representative  
Ross Tyson, Executive Director  
Eric Snow, Speaker of Council  
Absent:

Regrets:

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

<b>2. Approval of Agenda</b>	<b>Motion: To approve the agenda as distributed.</b>  (VPOF, VPA )  Carried Unanimously	
<b>3. Approval of Previous Minutes</b>	<b>Motion: To accept the minutes of February 9 as distributed. (VPOF, Litun)</b>  Carried Unanimously	
<b>4. Reports</b>		

<p><b>4.1 Executive Reports</b></p>	<p>All executive members presented their reports as distributed. Highlights include:</p> <p><b>President:</b> Attended CASA, met the Prime Minister, policies related to Grad Students research and grants, funding, etc.</p> <p>ED hiring for CASA- chose a candidate.</p> <p>OGSA-Talked with chair regarding our future with them. We are wondering how much we get from this organization. We are an important part of that organization.</p> <p>Grant/Thornton Business process town hall: asking for input regarding spending efficiencies. Did not take a lot of time listening to us, and we gave that feedback to VP Alain May.</p> <p>There will be an article on Get Out the Vote Campaign published in AU Open Magazine by Heidi Staseson.</p> <p><b>VPOF:</b> Documents sent to auditor</p> <p>Attended the town hall meeting mentioned above. We share the pain on this meeting. Want to reconsider the strategic plan for next year to project more of a forceful front. Visibility is one of our key attributes.</p> <p>Eric George suggested we use our data from survey, etc. to put forward a forceful front.</p> <p>Attended regular meetings: AbGPAC, Governance</p> <p><b>VPA:</b> Shared thoughts on the town hall meeting.</p> <p>Attended regular meetings</p> <p>Student experience meeting: orientations for programs is very poor and AU agrees it needs to look at these.</p> <p>Steering committee service standards: concerns about complaints regarding calling students back in a</p>	
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	<p>timely manner. AU has committed to get back to students asap. Who do you call, with a road map beside it would help.</p> <p>GCAP finance policies: Teagan will write a letter regarding this situation with funded students.</p> <p>Steve agreed that the help you get from AU is not the same across the board and needs to be more consistent. Steve is happy with the MAIS program response, however.</p>	
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<b>4.2 Financial Reports</b>	VPOF Kat shared reports with the group.	
<b>4.3 Faculty Reports</b>		
<b>4.3.1 Faculty of Business</b>	<p>Peter Chan: Margaret Clappison:</p> <p>There are 2 undergrad info sessions and 2 MBA info session in this month.</p> <p>Three minute thesis is going on this month. See the newsletter for details.</p>	
<b>4.3.2 Faculty of Health Disciplines</b>	No report	
<b>4.3.3 Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences</b>	<p>Josh: Two upcoming webinars on software for research. May be getting an AU E-net in the faculty.</p> <p>Cynthia: Email system is ready to go. Looking at best time to launch. Probably within the next four or five months.</p>	
<b>4.3.4 Centre for Distance Education</b>	No Report	
<b>4.3.5 Faculty of Science and Technology</b>	<p>Eric George: after the three minute thesis, there will be an in person finals at UBC in Kelowna.</p> <p>Research conference 2016 is well under way.          September, 2016</p>	
<b>5. New Business</b>		
<b>5.1 Termination of Executive Policy</b>	<p><b>Motion: To accept the Termination of Executive policy as distributed. ( President, VPOF )</b></p> <p>Carried Unanimously</p>	
<b>5.2 Update to Privacy Policy</b>	<p><b>Motion: To accept the Privacy Policy update as suggested: ( President, Radke )</b></p>	

<b>6. Old Business</b>		
<b>7. Other Business</b>		
<b>8. Adjournment</b>	<b>Motion: To adjourn the meeting (VPOF, Litun )</b>  Carried unanimously  Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM. The next meeting is April 12	

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Cynthia Gordon, President

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Ross Tyson, Executive Director

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Date of Approval