

## **DRAFT Minutes**

### **AUGSA meeting - July 15, 2009**

Present: Cindy, Amanda, Robbie, Heather, David, Mike, Theresa, Vanessa

Regrets: Carmen, Rose-Mary.

Item 1: introductions were conducted.

Item 2: Approval of minutes: Discussion of lack of quorum for the AGM. This will likely be rescheduled for 2010, as the bylaws are still in development. Robbie will speak with Cameron Ross to see how best to coordinate an AGM meeting (quorum based on council, and meeting conducted through

Motion to approve: David approves, Cindy seconds. All in favour.

Item 3: President's Update

- Monday - Robbie was a test representative for the new GSA website. The site is not currently tailored for graduate studies. AU is moving towards a deaconal system, faculty-based (rather than unit based).
- Website is being reviewed and adjusted to reflect the changing face of GSA in AU.
- Also conducting research for student awards. Robbie is looking at external and internal awards for non-Alberta members and will be submitting some recommendations to the AU.
- Has been working w/ Dean of GSA to develop a collective agreement between GSA and AU - policies for research assistants, TA, etc.
- Also looking at intellectual property and copyright issues as they relate to grad students. Legislation is being developed at the federal level that may impact grad students significantly.
  - Seems that new IP and copyright info is being driven by industry demands to protect copyright an
- Worked on collective agreement w/ university - will be developing a standard policy for thesis-based programs.

Item 4: Enrolment review.

Enrolment numbers are increasing. AU gave a \$1000 loan to start the GSA. Quite a diverse group of registrants. Information disclosed to us by AU contains student ID numbers. Some councillors expressed concerns at this information being disclosed, but it does not

Question regarding charging of fees: Amanda asked about the GSA membership fee being levied without referendum. Robbie indicates that this was an exceptional case, as it was needed to get the GSA going. Membership fees required in order to fund GSA activities and scholarship development.

Question regarding increase of fees and how this would proceed. Do fee increases need AU approval? Answer: no - these would go forward based on referendum.

Amanda concerned that fees can be established without referendum. Robbie indicates that bylaws will be sent to students for review and approval.

Item 5: Logo Competition.

A logo design competition will be put forward. Info can be distributed to students via Moodle board, so that it shows up when students sign into their Moodle. Information might be included into inserts for grad student packages. Suggested prize of a three-credit course, and a blind review on website for students to vote. Members of AUGSA council not eligible to enter. Closing date of November 1.

- Should help to promote interest in the student body.
- Will also create some awareness of the GSA.
- Black and white or color submissions welcome.
- Contest begins August 1, closes on November 1. Robbie will work on getting an insert for course packs, as well as an announcement on myAU website (visible for students when they log in).

Item 6: Coordinator position.

The council moved *in camera*.

A discussion was conducted regarding the hiring of a coordinator for the GSA coordinator. After discussing the applicant pool, council decided to offer a six month contract to Robbie Chernish, with possibility of contract renewal or permanent position after a job posting and interview process (with the understanding that Robbie would be considered an internal candidate for the position, and that the posting would be open to outside applicants).

The council moved *ex camera*.

A six-month contract was offered to Robbie Chernish as GSA Coordinator. Salary and start date to be placed in the offer letter.

Robbie Chernish resigned his position as AU President.

Robbie has offered to take the starting salary, with start date of July 20, 2009. An offer letter will be drafted.

Next meeting: set for August, 12, 2009.