



**Athabasca University Graduate Students'
Association**

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AUGSA August Meeting Minutes

Date: December 10, 2019 6:00 pm

Place: Web conference

Attendance :

Executive Committee: Heather DeBoer (VP Operations & Finance), David Thomson (VP Academic),
Meaghan Sullivan (President), Mary-Anne Parker (VP External)

Faculty of Business Representatives: Judd Asoyuf, Margaret Clappison, David Newman

Faculty of Health Disciplines Representatives: Nicole Klix, Christopher Rudan, Lindsay McNena

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative: David Cloutier, Linda Perschonke, Ashley Ravenscroft,

Faculty of Science and Technology: Liliana Quyen Tang, Philip Kirkbride

Staff:

Kallista Chayil (Speaker), Ross Tyson (Executive Director)

Regrets:

Absent: Kelli Buckreus.

		Presenter	ACTION	TIME
1.0	Call to Order	Speaker	The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm MST.	6:04

2.0	Approval of Agenda		<p>Motion2.0 To approve the agenda as distributed. Moved: Margaret Clappison Seconded: David Cloutier Motion carried without opposition.</p>	6:04
3.0	Approval of Previous Minutes		<p>Motion 3.0: To approve the minutes of November 12 Council meeting. Moved: Liliana Tang Seconded: Nicole Klix Carried without opposition</p>	
4.0	Reports and Presentations			6:09
	4.1 Executive Reports		Reports are attached.	6:35
	4.2 Financial Report			
5.0	Student Consultation & Tuition Increase		<p>Meaghan reported that GOA had quite a few significant changes including a maximum 7% increase per year to a total of 21% after three years. We have expressed significant concerns over this increase. A follow-up meeting with Neil Fassina was attended by both Grad and Undergrad student reps. Process and result are both disappointing. Brandon and Natasha from AUSU are meeting with us to lay everything on the table at the AU Board meeting. Meaghan asked for Council's opinion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U of A are helping out current students • U of C are planning protests • David N: What is Athabasca's reasoning in jumping to the full 7%. President Neil said it would be irresponsible to not ask for the additional revenue. We said that was a business insight, not a student-based decision. • Cost go up 4% per year and we thought it would be a 5% increase. • Who else is sharing these costs? 	6:10

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philip: They are telling us they want to be lean, and a virtual presence should be more efficient. Now on top of that we must pay more than others. • The MBA program is more expensive than Royal Rhodes and less expensive than Queen's. • Philip: The University's goal should be student driven. • David N: Why should an online university be more expensive than a bricks and mortar U. • Some comparison data on AU versus a University in Australia. • Margaret: they are getting one piece of the puzzle- people will just drop out. • Liliana: I have been looking at drop out rates and International Students will be dropping out. • David N: There is a very important offset to have more graduate student job positions and increasing our awards. • Margaret: A lot of people are not eligible for Alberta grants and bursaries. • Meaghan wrapped up with a frustration that the students were not consulted. 	
6.0	Communications Coordinator		<p>Mary-Anne described the process of interviewing candidates for the position. We will determine the successful applicant by early January.</p> <p>Motion 6.0: To approve the ability of the Communications Coordinator to also hold a position as Faculty Representative on Council.</p> <p>Moved: Margaret Clappison Seconded: David Cloutier Voted by email to Speaker@augsa.com Motion was lost.</p>	
7.0	New Business			
8.0	Committee Updates			
	8.1 Governance Committee		Meaghan will try to have a meeting next week to get things moving.	

<p>8.2 Awards Committee</p>	<p>David spoke about the process to bring forward information on Outstanding distinction awards and AUGSA bursaries.</p> <p>We had the money left over to carry over to another Emergency Bursary. We received five applications for four awards and elected to use the leftover money for AUGSA bursaries.</p> <p>We have been going through a ten-item list to advance our policies and procedures. We have four more key dates. In January council will see the suggestions and take the feedback into February. We will have some new policies and procedures around awards.</p> <p>We have the potential of the new budget to increase the amount being put forward for awards: We are recommending an increase in the amount of \$24,000.</p>	
<p>8.3 Engagement Committee</p>	<p>Mary-Anne reported three ideas to bring forward to Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describing the face of Graduate students today along the idea of “Humans of New York” • Hold a forum for students • Roles of AUGSA 	
<p>8.4 Budget Committee</p>	<p>We reviewed the budget: Motion 6.5: To approve the budget for 2020 as discussed. Moved: Heather DeBoer Seconded: Margaret Clappison Carried without opposition.</p>	
<p>8.5 Labour Relations Committee</p>	<p>Ashley: reported that the one-on-one interviews to gather data. Over the break we will bring a final report. David added that the conversation was much bigger than anyone thought. We thank people who have given us advice and assistance.</p>	

			It is important that this work bring to light the work loads of our Exec team and resources available to them.	
9.0	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (abGPAC) Report		<p>Mary-Anne stated that last week we were in Edmonton for three days taking some GOA advocacy training. We had five meetings with Ministers and MLA's. We went in with our dissatisfaction in terms of funding. GOA does not want to be asked for money.</p> <p>Advocacy priorities: Expand the ability for International Students have their work in Grad Studies be part of their application for status; professional development; and funding consistency. (full and part time program students)</p>	
10.0	Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Report		<p>Meaghan attended the Policy and Strategy Conference for CASA in Vancouver. The three priorities we will put forward: Truth and Reconciliation; International Students; Financial support.</p> <p>Student loan repayment: not until children are five years of age.</p> <p>David and Meaghan spoke in glowing terms about Lindsay's advocacy abilities.</p>	
11.0	Upcoming Events		Advocacy week for CASA end of February.	
12.0	Old Business			
13.0	Other Business		<p>David wanted to thank people for using the chat area.</p> <p>Philip announced an IEEE conference hosted by AU June 22-26. This is a big deal. Articles by Feb 15.</p> <p>Liliana stated that there is a possibility of another contest. Ross will put in communication.</p>	
14.0	Adjournment		<p>Motion 14.0: To adjourn the meeting. Moved: Mary-Anne Parker Seconded: Chris Rudan Carried without opposition.</p>	7:50

15.0	In-Camera			
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Meaghan Sullivan, President

Ross Tyson, Executive Director

Date of Approval



ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

President's Report

November 2019

AUGSA Meetings

- November 5: Executive Meeting
- November 21: External Delegates Debrief and Prep for CASA Policy & Strategy
- November 22: Update Meeting with Executive Director
- November 28: Graduate Student Research Conference Survey Review and Prep for 2020

Athabasca University

- November 1: Meeting with Pamela Hawranik to discuss Graduate Student Research
- November 5: Meeting with VP Provost on Hiring of Dean, FGS
- November 19: Tuition Steering Committee
- November 22: AU Human Resources inquiry on graduate student hiring
- November 29: Tuition Increase Student Consultation

abGPAC and CASA

- November 22: abGPAC Governance Preparation meeting
- November 24-28: CASA Policy and Strategy Conference in Vancouver
- November 29: abGPAC Governance Meeting

General/Other

- Overseeing AUGSA activities and responding to inquiries and support
- Review of agendas and supporting documentation
- Presidents Message/Newsletter/Creation of AUGSA Agendas
- Approval of Expenses
- Student Inquiries
- Monitoring and Responding to Email/Text/Phone Communications
- Administrative/Miscellaneous

I took my allocated **two-weeks planned vacation during the month of November.*

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ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

VP External's Report

November 2019

AUGSA Executive/Council Meetings

- November 5th – Executive Meeting
- November 12th – Council Meeting
- November 19th – External Rep Casa (Lindsay)
- November 21st External reps meeting

Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (abGPAC)

- November 4th – Advanced Education Minister Budget communication – phone in.
- November 14th – ab-GPAC Governance meeting – canceled due to lack of quorum
- November 29th – Governance Committee Meeting
- Ongoing technical issues with google groups.
- Policy Development for Advocacy Week

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations

- November 14th: Member Relations Committee Meeting – Conference Planning
- Poly Strat Debriefs – pre, during, post

Other Meetings/Events

- Nov 4th – Debrief with VP Academic – hiring of Dean of FGS
- Nov 4th – Hiring Committee consultation – hiring of Dean of FGS

General/Other

- Ongoing social media content and ensuring other stakeholders are advertising GRC and AUGSA services
- Development of next stages of Engagement plan
- Best practices research – LGBTQ training, Indigenous Ally Kit
- Review of communications coordinator resumes
- Approval of Expenses
- Responding to Email/Text/Phone Communications
- Administrative/Miscellaneous

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VPOF

November 2019

AUGSA Executive/Council Meetings

- Executive Meeting
- Council meeting

Committee Meetings

- Budget approval

General

- Graduate Student Conference
- Emails (Budget Edits)
- Bookkeeping
- Payrolls and Awards, Graduate Student Conference Catering
- Cheque Signing
- Expense reimbursements



ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Vice President Academic

November 2019

Meetings

- Dean FGS Hiring Advisory Committee (1,4,5,6)
- AUGSA Executive Committee (5)
- AUGSA Awards Committee (6)
- GFS Student Academic Appeals Committee (7)
- Students in Research (12)
- AUGSA Council Meeting (12)
- General Faculty Council (27)
- Student Consultation Meeting #4 (29)

Actions delegated from Meetings

- **Awards Committee**
 - Reviewed five (5) applications for AUGSA Bursary—elected to award all 5 applicants with a bursary since there was money leftover from the Outstanding Distinction Awards and all applicants showed a level of necessity.
 - No more money left to distribute in 2019 shared via social media and email
 - Discussions around amount available for funding in 2020 ongoing
 - Upcoming meetings and content
 - ✦ Dec 4—discuss final two “President List items”, distribution options for potential double of award amount for 2020
 - ✦ Jan 21—finalize ten (1) recommendations going to Council for approval, review any bursary applications received
 - ✦ Feb 11—present to council
 - ✦ Feb 18—Discuss feedback from council, review any bursary applications received
 - ✦ Mar 24—finalize motions for AGM, review any bursary applications received
 - ✦ April 24—wrap up and proposed action list for incoming VPA and their assigned committee
- **MSCHE Criteria IV**
 - Final edits for my Criteria (#3) were rolled out December 2

General/Other

- **Student Assistance**—working on an interesting curriculum/delivery issue with a group of students in first year of the MBA program. Value for most of tuition is weighing heavy.

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- **Assisted FGS in picking the individual representative from AU for the following three awards**
Included reviewing all applications, selecting a top candidate, and then providing feedback direct to candidate before final application is submitted.
 - **Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (4 applicants)**- \$50K/year x 3 years
 - **Canadian Graduate Scholarship Doctoral Award (3 applicants)**- \$35k/year x 3 years
 - **Senior Women's Academic Administrators of Canada (3 applicants)**- \$3500

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VP External's Report

October 2019

AUGSA Executive/Council Meetings

- October 1: Executive Meeting
- October 4: Engagement Committee Meeting
- October 8: Council Meeting
- October 22: Hiring Committee meeting – finalizing job description and work plan
- October 25th – Meeting with Dr. Thompson – canceled.

Graduate Student Research Conference

- October 15th: IT meeting
- October 16th : Steering Committee Meeting
- October 25th-27th – Conference – incl running the online meeting space.
- October 28th – Wrap up meeting

Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (abGPAC)

- October 17th – Board Meeting
- Press release collaboration, indigenous survey review.
- Ongoing technical issues with google groups.

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations

- October 3: Member Relations Committee Meeting
- October 18th: Member Relations Committee Meeting
- GoTV Assessment

Other Meetings/Events

- October 18th - FHSS FACutly meeting – 9:30-12:00
- October 24th – Advanced Education Minister budget announcement

General/Other

- Ongoing social media content and ensuring other stakeholders are advertising GRC and AUGSA services
- Finalized draft of Communications Coordinator job description and hiring plan
- Collaboration with ab-GPAC budget press release

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- Approval of Expenses
- Responding to Email/Text/Phone Communications
- Administrative/Miscellaneous

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