



Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association

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AUGSA Council Minutes

Date: January 12th, 2021 6:00pm MDT

Place: Web conference

Attendance:

Executive Committee: Mary-Anne Parker (President), Judd Asoyuf (VP Academic), Crys Vincent (VP External)

Faculty of Business Representatives: David Newman, Margaret Clappison,

Faculty of Health Disciplines Representatives: Julia Cornester, Lindsay McNena, Nicole Klix

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative: Kelli Buckreus, David Cloutier, Bernard Kikechi, Heather McGilvary

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

Staff: Meaghan Sullivan (Executive Director), Derek Balay (Speaker)

Absent: Scott Howell, Ashley Ravenscroft (VP Operations & Finance)

		PRESENTER	NOTES AND ACTIONS
1.0	Call to Order		The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm MST.
2.0	Approval of Agenda		Motion 2.0 To approve the agenda as distributed. Moved: Julia Cornester Seconded: Nicole Klix Motion carried without opposition.

3.0	Approval of Previous Minutes		<p>Motion 3.0 To approve the minutes of December 8, 2020 Council meeting. Moved: Liliana Quyen Tang Seconded: David Cloutier Motion carried without opposition.</p>
4.0	Reports & Presentations		<p>Reports presented as distributed.</p>
	4.1 VP Academic	Judd Asoyuf	<p>December was a quiet month with AU closing for the holidays. Judd completed work on the GFC Academic appeals committee, held an asynchronous vote for the AUGSA awards on bursary and awards applications before year-end, and is continuing to work with a student on an individual academic appeal, which has resulted in some positive dialogue with faculty.</p>
	4.2 VP External	Crys Vincent	<p>December was quiet with a few highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student consultations with Dr. Prineus and AU staff on tuition rates continued in December. - abGPAC: Currently on the provincial advocacy front is the Ministry of Advanced Education is starting to share some of the first part of the sector review taking place right now. Currently there is not a lot to report on but further insights and details are hopefully to come soon.
	4.3 President	Mary-Anne Parker	<p>The focus in December was dedicated to the Grad Lounge as well as planning a new schedule and structure for the New Year. Attendance has been quite low and hopefully the changes will improve turnout and engagement. The lounge will now take place Friday's at 5:00 PM MST.</p> <p>The Open UK partnership is working on a memorandum of understanding with AUSU, and Open UK as well as other online associations.</p>

			Re-imagining assessments as AU has been an ongoing collaborative project with AU, involving students, and it has wrapped up its meetings. Mary-Anne Parker noted they met to discuss synthesizing the findings for dissemination.
	4.4 VP Operations & Finance	Ashley Ravenscroft	No report at this time.
5.0	Financial Reports	Ashley Ravenscroft	No report at this time.
6.0	Council Reports		
	6.1 Faculty of Science and Technology	Philip Kirkbride, Liliana Quyen Tang	No report at this time.
	6.2 Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education	Kelli Buckreus, David Cloutier, Scott Howell, Bernard Kikechi, Heather McGilvary	Bernard Kikechi will be on the hiring committee for the new Dean, FHSS. Heather McGilvary noted that work was done trying to get the Health and Dental survey out in December as a last push.
	6.3 Faculty of Health	Julia Cornester, Nicole Klix, Lindsay McNena	Nicole Klix noted she has been brushing up on the details of the academic appeals process at AU in an effort to support a fellow student.
	6.4 Faculty of Business	Margaret Clappison, David Newman	No report at this time.
7.0	AUGSA Logo Rebrand		Meaghan Sullivan presented the rebranding work down to date, seeking feedback before we move to stage two of the design phase. Some Council members found the shield looks more like a V than a U in the logo design. Meaghan Sullivan will send the branding document out to the Council for any further feedback.
8.0	Other Working Groups		
9.0	Committees		

	9.1 Governance Committee	VP Operations & Finance	No report at the time.
	9.2 Awards Committee	Vice President Academic	The awards committee reviewed a number of applications in December.
	9.3 Engagement Committee	Vice President External	<p>The Engagement Committee did not meet in December; however, Crys Vincent and Mary-Anne Parker met to discuss the Engagement Committee's last quarter targets. The website and social media is up and online for advertising the Elections, which is the focus of the Engagement Committee.</p> <p>The Welcome Package is on track. We are awaiting the Information Sharing Agreement to be signed and sent to us from AU.</p>
	9.4 Finance Committee	Vice President Financial	No report at the time.
	9.5 Strategic Planning Committee	President	The Strategic Planning Committee is working on a priorities list in February.
	9.6 Elections and Referenda	Executive Director	<p>The Elections policy needs to be updated in respect to timelines to allow the Executive and Council elections to be completed before end of March. Meaghan Sullivan showed a visual diagram of the timeline and Mary-Anne Parker shared a revised policy draft of what the policy would be once updated.</p> <p>Motion 9.6: To accept the changes to the Elections policy as presented. Moved: Julia Cornester Seconded: Margaret Clappison Motion carried without opposition.</p>
	9.7 Adhoc Committees		
10.0	Old Business - Health and Dental		Meaghan Sullivan presented the Health & Dental survey results. The overall results outlined that 80% of our membership already has coverage, not a lot of interests was shown into the Health &

			Dental initiative and there was concluding evidence that Health & Dental is not something AUGSA will pursue at this point in time. Margaret Clappison noted a similar survey was done in the past with the same results, showing consistency in membership needs.
11.0	New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grad Lounge - UTIL/Student Housing 		<p>The Grad Lounge is being changed to 5:00 PM MST on Friday's effective mid-January. Every 3rd Friday will be trivia night. Swag and prizes will be given away.</p> <p>Crys Vincent spoke to Council on UTILE, which is a student-led non-profit organization that does research and advocacy that focuses on student housing. They are doing a large scale survey on student housing in January through March of this year. They presented at abGPAC seeking if student associations would be interested in supporting their survey. The only responsibility on our end would be to share the survey for 3 weeks. In return, we get all of our own data with the option to purchase a more in-depth report. Seeking to gauge AUGSA Councils interest in supporting the survey, there was a sentiment of support to seek more information, continuing to consider involvement, with the aim of gathering data to help understand and support our students. AUSU has not been involved at this point in time, but there are plans to reach out to them.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UTILE: www.utile.org</p>
12.0	Adjournment		<p>Motion 12.0: To adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm. Moved: Heather McGilvary Seconded: David Cloutier Motion carried without opposition.</p>

Mary-Anne Parker, President

Meaghan Sullivan, Executive Director

Date of Approval