



**Athabasca University Graduate Students'  
Association**

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**AUGSA Council/2021 AGM Minutes**

**Date:** August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - 6:00pm MDT

**Place:** Web conference

**Attendance :**

**Executive Committee:** Julia Cornester (President), Kareena Hart (VP Academic), Chris Edwards (VP Operations & Finance), Kelli Buckreus (VP External)

**Faculty of Business Representatives:** David Newman, Ian Chitwood, Margaret Clappison

**Faculty of Health Disciplines Representatives:** Sarah Reid, Kayleigh Dodge

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative:** Heather McGilvary, Sarah James, Alice Kang

**Faculty of Science and Technology:** Ajibade Shodunke, Russell Rupok

**Staff:** Meaghan Sullivan (Executive Director)

**Regrets:** Paul Valenti, Sabrina Martin

		<b>PRESENTER</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Call to Order</b>	President	The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm MDT.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	President	<b>Motion 2.0 To approve the agenda as distributed.</b> Moved: Margaret Clappison Seconded: Kayleigh Dodge Motion carried without opposition.

3.0	Approval of Previous Minutes	President	<p><b>Motion 3.0 To approve the minutes of July 13th, 2021 as ammended.</b></p> <p>Moved: Chris Edwards          Seconded: Sarah James          Motion carried without opposition.</p>
4.0	Reports and Presentations		
	4.1 President		<p>Julia Cornester shared with council that the main focus for July was advocacy as well as securing additional funds in the amount of \$90,000 from the University for graduate students in the form of bursaries.</p>
	4.2 VP Academic		<p>The month of July was quiet at Athabasca University but there were academic appeals committee meetings as well as professional development sessions provided by PowerEd. Part of Kareena’s role with the professional development sessions was providing feedback on the platform and its course content.</p> <p>Kareena Hart spent a portion of the month researching and learning in preparation for collective bargaining next year. She will go into further on agenda item 6.0.</p>
	4.3 VP External		<p>Kelli Buckreus indicated that July was heavily focused on advoacy with the CASA Policy &amp; Strategy Conference, sessions on media training, an update on the political climate, and beginning a Get Out The Vote campaign.</p> <p>This past weekend was dedicated to abGPAC with a review of the strategies and advocacy priorities as well as planning work for advocacy week later this fall/winter.</p>
	4.4 VP Operations & Finance		<p>Chris Edwards is working on re-formatting the policy binder.</p>

5.0	<b>Financial Reports</b>	VP Operations & Finance	Chris Edwards reviewed the financial reports.
6.0	<b>Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC)</b>		<p>Kareena Hart and Meaghan Sullivan met with PSAC, at their request, to consider their services as a resource. PSAC offers a service agreement that would give AUGSA access to their expertise, resources, and support.</p> <p>Kareena Hart noted that no agreements will be signed without approval from Council but that this is something that is in the early stage of discussions. An update for council on the potential service agreement could be expected in October or November.</p> <p>Kareena Hart has been collaborating with Dr. Tobias Wiggins for the development of a Trans Research bursary. This bursary will be proposed in the planning for the 2022 budget.</p>
7.0	<b>GSRC Update</b>		<p>Meaghan Sullivan gave an update on the research conference indicating the project is on time and budget. Additionally, with the abstract submission deadline postponed to August 15th, the GSRC has exceeded the number of abstracts ever received in the past. Currently, we are at mid-50's, with 7 being undergraduate abstracts. Only 3 undergraduate abstracts will be selected to present at the conference.</p>
8.0	<b>Awards Proposal to AU</b>		<p>Julia Cornester explained that the funding proposal submitted to the registrar by AUGSA was approved for graduate student awards. The funds total \$90,000. This expands our ability to get bursaries out to the student population and help our membership financially. This could include bursaries in perpetuity, such as in the form of an endowment.</p>
9.0	<b>OpenUK Collaboration Update</b>		<p>Kelli Buckreus explained that the relationship with OpenUK was established last year by our former executive team. Currently the group, which includes AUGSA, AUSU, and OpenUK, is focused on creating a Terms of Reference. The group is also discussing reaching out to other open universities from around the world.</p>

<p><b>10.0</b></p>	<p><b>CASA Membership</b></p>		<p>Kelli Buckreus explained that last years Executive collaborated in a letter of concern that addressed communication pathways, communications not being consistent, not having an effective structure for the graduate student voice, among other concerns. This letter was signed by both AUGSA and U of C GSA.</p> <p>Upon transition in May 2021, the previous Executive recommended withdrawing membership from CASA to the incoming Executive. With time to assess the situation to date, Kelli has found the experience with CASA frustrating, disorganized, and not meaningful to graduate students. The lack of maturity experienced by the membership at CASA has raised cause for concern in terms of how this represents AUGSA at the federal level.</p> <p>Kelli Buckreus indicated that this decision to leave CASA should not leave AUGSA without federal representation. The team has been in discussions with abGPAC to expand their scope to include federal advocacy. They are also looking at other avenues such as U15 and CFS.</p> <p>Kelli Buckreus opened the floor to questions. Julia Cornester and Kelli Buckreus answered questions around alternative options. A general sense from the committee was to avoid CFS but rather seemed encouraged by the potential for abGPAC to expand their advocacy scope.</p> <p><b>Motion 10.0 To serve notice to CASA that AUGSA will hold a vote on September 14th on CASA membership resignation.</b>        Moved: Margaret Clappison        Seconded: Russell Rupok        Motion carried with one abstention, no opposed.</p>
<p><b>11.0</b></p>	<p><b>AMICCUS-C Conference</b></p>		<p>Meaghan Sullivan explained that AUGSA has the ability to co-host the regional AMICCUS-C conference in November with our undergraduate</p>

			<p>counterpart (AUSU). She indicated the impact on AUGSA would moreso be a resource requirement of her time only. The primary reason she has brought this forward is that the agreement to co-host indicates if a financial deficit is experienced in planning the event, it is the responsibility of the hosts to cover this. Meaghan Sullivan inquired with the AMICCUS-C Executive Director (ED) on what that deficit might look like and the ED said in the past many years if a deficit was experienced it was very low, such as \$47. Typically it's break even or a profit. Meaghan Sullivan indicated that despite this, considering COVID and the current state of post-secondary returning to new normals, this remains a financial risk that AUGSA would bear in the event a deficit is experienced.</p> <p>Meaghan Sullivan opened the floor to questions. There was a general sense that this is a great opportunity and it's good to see AUGSA stepping up at this time.</p> <p><b>Motion 11.0 To approve AUGSA co-hosting the AMICCUS-C regional conference.</b>        Moved: Kareena Hart        Seconded: Margaret Clappison        Motion carried without opposition.</p>
<b>12.0</b>	<b>Committee Updates</b>		
	<b>12.1 Governance Committee</b>		Chris Edwards is working on the policy binder. The committee will be meeting in a week or two.
	<b>12.2 Awards Committee</b>		No further updates.
	<b>12.3 Engagement Committee</b>		With the CASA Get Out the Vote campaign the engagement committee will be busy in the upcoming months.
	<b>12.4 Finance Committee</b>		No further updates.
	<b>12.5 Strategic Planning Committee</b>		The survey concluded with over 500 responses. The strategic planning committee will be meeting later this month to identify priorities for the upcoming

			year and provide any input for the budget planning process.
	<b>12.6 Other Committees</b>		
<b>13.0</b>	<b>Upcoming Events</b>		
<b>14.0</b>	<b>New Business</b>  - ILE		All students have been invited by the university to comment or critique on the Integrated Learning Environment (ILE). This is an opportunity for all students to not only critique but to also get a sneak peak at the ILE.
<b>15.0</b>	<b>Old Business</b>		
<b>16.0</b>	<b>Other Business</b>		
<b>17.0</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>		<b>Motion 17.0: To adjourn the meeting at 7:01 pm.</b>  Moved: Ajibade Shodunke Seconded: Kayleigh Dodge Carried without opposition.

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 Julia Cornester, President

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 Meaghan Sullivan, Executive Director

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 Date of Approval