



**Athabasca University Graduate Students'  
Association**

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**AUGSA Council/2021 AGM Minutes**

**Date:** September 14<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, Sabrina Martin, 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

|            |                           | <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 MT.  |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Approval of Agenda</b> | President        | <b>Motion 2.0 To approve the agenda as distributed.</b><br>Moved: Russell Rupok<br>Seconded: Sabrina Martin<br>Motion carried without opposition. |

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| 3.0 | Approval of Previous Minutes | President | <p><b>Motion 3.0 To approve the minutes of August 10th, 2021 as ammended.</b></p> <p>Moved: Chris Edwards<br/> Seconded: Russell Rupok<br/> Motion carried without opposition.</p>   |
| 4.0 | Reports and Presentations    |           |  |
|     | 4.1 President                |           | <p>Report presented as distributed.</p> <p>The primary driver in September is working on the Graduate Student Research Conference.</p> <p>The abGPAC conference took place in August in-person in Calgary.</p>   |
|     | 4.2 VP Academic              |           | <p>The busiest part of August was preparing for collective bargaining, including researching the existing agreement, what other Universities are offering, reviewing Bill C32, and meeting with a potential unionized partner. We also met with labour representatives at Athabasca University regarding the bargaining process and the monthly employee report.</p> <p>There is a near virtual working group being formed to represent all of the AU community in transitioning AU from a semi-virtual to near virtual organization. The University is reaching out to all stakeholders for feedback as part of this review.</p> <p>The AUGSA Awards Committee reviewed five applications in August.</p> <p>Kareena attended several GFC meetings and sub-meetings, including the academic appeals committee.</p> |
|     | 4.3 VP External              |           | <p>The abGPAC board retreat took place in-person on August 6th and 7th. The group worked on strategic planning and preparations for the upcoming work this year. The group also discussed working on an awareness campaign among membership to raise awareness of abGPAC.</p>  |

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|            |  |  | <p>The abGPAC group had preliminary discussions regarding potential pathways for federal advocacy. Kelli Buckreus has also been research additional pathways pending the vote regarding CASA membership.</p> <p>Kelli Buckreus is working on a priorities document for abGPAC on behalf of AUGSA.</p> <p>AUGSA has been participating in the Get Out The Vote campaign via our social media and newsletter.</p> <p>Kelli Buckreus has been involved on-going in the partnership with OpenUK.</p>  |
|            | <b>4.4 VP Operations &amp; Finance</b> |  | <p>The Finance Committee reviewed the organizations last quarter finances as per bylaw and everything looks good.</p>   |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Financial Reports</b>               |  |   |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>CASA Membership Review</b>          |  | <p>As a follow up to last months Council meeting, AUGSA plans to vote on leaving CASA membership. Kelli indicated this process began last November, where a letter was sent CASA. CASA indicated they would work on improving communications issues as well as issues with the Graduate Advisory Group.</p> <p>Kelli noted that these concerns were put off and not dealt with. After attendance at the Strategy &amp; Policy Conference in July, it was clear these issues were not dealt with. Kelli Buckreus noted that CASA is clearly not non-partisan, and this is a new issues coming up.</p> <p>Questions were asked about fees, back-up advocacy plans, risks of no representation, how many other GSAs they represent, and whether this was a COVID-19 phenomenon given prior experiences with CASA have been very positive.</p> <p><b>Motion 6.0: Be it resolved that (BIRT) AUGSA withdraw from CASA membership effective December 31st, 2021.</b></p> <p>Moved: Margaret Clappison</p> |

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|             |  |  | <p>Seconded: Ajibade Shodunke<br/>         Motion carried without opposition.</p>   |
| <b>7.0</b>  | <b>GSRC Update</b>                                     |  | <p>The research conference is well underway. The project team is down to meeting multiple times a week, focusing currently on technology, the program, and training sessions for presenters, the panel, and facilitators. Revenue is coming in with registration now open. Currently, this looks to be potentially the largest GSRC event we have hosted to date.</p> |
| <b>8.0</b>  | <b>Faculty of Science &amp; Technology Orientation</b> |  | <p>An FST orientation happens annually, where a faculty of science and technology representative provides an AUGSA orientation at. The date is November 5th, from 9:35am to 9:55am.</p> <p>Meaghan will send the materials to Ajibade Shodunke and Russell Rupok to facilitate the orientation session.</p>   |
| <b>9.0</b>  | <b>Trivia Nights</b>                                   |  | <p>There is an upcoming Welcome Back to School Trivia Night on September 17th 6:00 – 7:30pm MST. Please attend and encourage your fellow students to attend for a networking opportunity.</p>   |
| <b>10.0</b> | <b>Get Out the Vote (GOTV)</b>                         |  | <p>AUGSA has been participating in the CASA GOTV campaign by sending posts out on social media, in the newsletter. We will be promoting this until September 20th, the day of the vote. Please share this information with your constituents.</p>   |
| <b>11.0</b> | <b>Awards Funding Proposal</b>                         |  | <p>There is additional funding potentially available for AUGSA to secure. Julia Cornester indicated this is pending proposal.</p>   |
| <b>12.0</b> | <b>Committee Updates</b>                               |  |   |
|             | <b>12.1 Governance Committee</b>                       |  | <p>No update at this time.</p>  |
|             | <b>12.2 Awards Committee</b>                           |  | <p>No further update at this time.</p>  |
|             | <b>12.3 Engagement Committee</b>                       |  | <p>The Engagement Committee met at the end of July to discuss the GOTV campaign as well as content generation for social media. The committee put together a spreadsheet for potential content for social media posts. This will be shared by Kelli Buckreus with all of Council to contribute to if they</p>   |

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|             |  |  | <p>wish. Additionally, the committee would like to launch something in the Newsletter to profile members each month.</p> <p>The committee discussed re-launching the Grad Lounge with a professional development focus, discussions could include the Integrated Learning Environment (ILE), and other hot topics taking place at our university right now.</p> <p>The committee discussed the overall mandate for the committee and identified that there is an overall gap at AUGSA in terms of policy development. The committee plans to move ahead to expand the scope of the committee.</p>   |
|             | <b>12.4 Finance Committee</b>            |  | Budget planning is underway, and the committee can expect some upcoming planning sessions.  |
|             | <b>12.5 Strategic Planning Committee</b> |  | The committee plans to meet to review the survey results and put forth any recommendations for budget planning.   |
|             | <b>12.6 Other Committees</b>             |  | <p>David Newman discussed the Mental Health Committee, which met on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The committee previously with student unions. They discussed mental health standards for post-secondary learners (Mental Health Commission of Canada).</p> <p>Heather McGilvary discussed the Reimagining Assessment working group she is on. A link to the full discussion can be found here:</p> <p><a href="https://www.athabascau.ca/provost-vice-president-academic/learning-assessment-preview/re-imagining-assessment-seminar-and-design-lab.html">https://www.athabascau.ca/provost-vice-president-academic/learning-assessment-preview/re-imagining-assessment-seminar-and-design-lab.html</a></p> |
| <b>13.0</b> | <b>Upcoming Events</b>                   |  |   |
| <b>14.0</b> | <b>New Business</b>                      |  |   |
| <b>15.0</b> | <b>Old Business</b>                      |  |   |

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| <b>16.0</b> | <b>Other Business</b> |  |  |
| <b>17.0</b> | <b>Adjournment</b>    |  | <b>Motion 17.0: To adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm.</b><br><br>Moved: Sarah Reid<br>Seconded: Alice Kang<br>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