

**AUGSA Council Meeting Minutes**  
September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – 6:00pm MST  
Microsoft Teams

**Attendance**

**Executive Committee:** Chris Edwards (President), Sarah Reid (VP Academic), Dana Montgomery (VP External)

**Faculty of Business Representatives:** Gordon Chandler,

**Faculty of Health Disciplines Representatives:** Jillian Nickel, Sabrina Martin, Charlie Salter, Kelly DeCoste, Sarah Atkinson

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative:** Heather McGilvary, Angelo Delli Santi

**Faculty of Science and Technology:** Rayees Khan, Russell Rupok

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

**Regrets:** Dennis Delgado (VP Operations & Finance), Margaret Clappison, Kangendra Bhandari, Ian Chitwood

		PRESENTER	ACTION
1.0	Call to Order	President	The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm MT.
2.0	Approval of Agenda	President	<b>Motion 2.0 To approve the agenda as presented.</b> Moved: Sabrina Martin Seconded: Angelo Delli Santi Motion carried without opposition.
3.0	Approval of Previous Minutes	President	<b>Motion 3.0 To approve the minutes of August 16, 2022 as presented.</b> Moved: Jillian Nickel Seconded: Sarah Atkinson Motion carried without opposition.
4.0	Reports and Presentations		Reports presented as distributed.
	4.1 President		The AU Crisis regarding the provincial government forcing the move of 500 staff to



			<p>Athabasca was a time consuming item in the month of August. Chris Edwards attended a number of meetings on the matter representing graduate students. Chris Edwards also had the opportunity to met with the Minister in person and the Minister informed him there was nothing to worry about. Currently it is a wait and see on what the next developments will be.</p>
	<b>4.2 VP External</b>		<p>Dana Montgomery expanded on her involvement on representing graduate students regarding the AU crisis. She stated that the current situation with the Minister and Athabasca University seems to be backing off a bit but feels that the situation is still not out of the clear. In terms of advocacy preparation, the abGPAC group has been following this closely and will be ready to support if and when need be.</p> <p>The Engagement Committee has an upcoming meeting to discuss the fall events schedule including trivia night, grad lounge, and any upcoming news releases.</p>
	<b>4.3 VP Academic</b>		<p>August was a slower month for attendance at Athabasca University meetings, but as of September 1st things have picked back up with the University back in session.</p> <p>The Awards Committee did not meet in August but the next bursaries deadline is September 15th and the next awards deadline is October 15th. The committee will be meeting after each new deadline to review applicants.</p>
	<b>4.4 VP Operations &amp; Finance</b>		<p>No report at this time.</p>



5.0	<b>Financial Reports</b>		Reports presented as distributed. Revenue is lower than anticipated but we confirmed with the University that the dip in revenue is due to a dip in enrollment this past spring. We will continue to monitor this in the coming months.
6.0	<b>Updated Awards Policy</b>		<b>Motion 6.0: to approve the policy binder with updated awards policies as presented.</b> Moved: Sabrina Martin Seconded: Angelo Delli Santi Motion carried without opposition.
7.0	<b>Committee Updates</b>		
	<b>Strategic Planning</b>		The Strategic Planning Committee is currently reviewing the annual membership satisfaction survey results. The results have been compiled into a report for the committee. The report will be shared with Council next month.
	<b>Governance Committee</b>		The Governance Committee is reviewing a new governance model that was presented at the AMICCUS-C Conference earlier this year. Chris Edwards provided a presentation that overviewed the issues and challenges, discussion and analysis, and common problems of the existing governance model AUGSA employs, as well as proposed a new governance model that is currently being adopted by some student association across Canada. Chris Edwards gave an overview of the proposed new model for AUGSA, which included a high level overview of the pay structure, positions, and term lengths.  Chris Edwards noted that some additional steps would need to be taken including bylaw development, policy updates, and a legal review.



			<p>Gordon Chandler noted he felt this was a good path forward for AUGSA and mentioned in his experience he believes the issues and trends are common across many student unions. He noted some operations roles should be a student, such as speaking to the media. Ideas such as once a year meetings with an auditor and HR professional would provide for good oversight.</p> <p>Sabrina Martin inquired on the timeline for implementation. Chris Edwards explained that the ideal timeline would include an authorized change for January 1st. The considerations to this timeline include AUGSA’s budget year and elections in order to be prepared for May 1st.</p> <p>Jillian Nickel expressed her gratitude for Chris Edwards approach to the governance structure and consideration towards human resources.</p>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Upcoming Events</b>		<p>Graduate Student Research Conference</p> <p>There are 50 abstracts submitted, \$17,000 recieved in sponsorship, and abstracts reviews concluded today. The project is on time and within budget. The University has agreed in principle to financially support the conference moving forward so we do not have to seek out sponsorship year over year.</p>
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Old Business</b>		
<b>10.0</b>	<b>New Business</b>		
<b>11.0</b>	<b>Other Business</b>		
<b>12.0</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>		<b>Motion 11.0: To adjourn the meeting at 6:41 pm.</b>





Direct: 780.257.5394  
Toll free: 1.866.625.5943

135-2525 36th St NE  
PO Box 57202, Calgary, AB T1Y 6R4

			Moved: Heather McGilvray Seconded: Jillian Nickel Motion carried without opposition.
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Chris Edwards, President

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Meaghan Sullivan, Executive Director

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Date of Approval



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