

**Council Meeting** – August 15, 2023 – 6:00pm MT

Microsoft Teams

**Present:**

Russell Rupok	Chair	Voting Member
Brittany Hollett	Vice-Chair	Voting Member
Kyra Johnston	Council Member	Voting Member
Khagendra Bhandari	Council Member	Voting Member
Rayees Kahan	Council Member	Voting Member
Jason Kauenhofen	Council Member	Voting Member
Lindsay McNena	Council Member	Voting Member
Meaghan Sullivan	Executive Director	Non-Voting

**Regrets:**

Skyler Todd	Council Member	Voting Member
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**Agenda Item**

**1.0 Call to Order:**

R. Rupok called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2.0 Acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territories:**

R. Rupok gave the Acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territories.

**3.0 Conflict of Interest Check:**

R. Rupok inquired if any Council Members had any real or perceived conflict of interest. No conflicts were declared.

**4.0 Approval of the Agenda:**

**Motion:**

To approve the agenda as presented.

**B. Hollett/L. McNena  
7-0-0  
Motion Carries**

*The motion was approved by general consent.*

**5.0 Adotion of Previous Minutes:**

**5.1 Regular Minutes of the Council from July 18, 2023.**

**Motion:**

To approve the minutes as circulated.

**B. Hollett/J. Kauenhofen  
7-0-0**



**Motion Carries**

*The motion was approved by general consent.*

**6.0 Required Approvals:**

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

**7.0 Items for Discussion:**

**7.1 Ends**

The Council plans to meet on August 29th regarding defining Global Ends. J. Kauenhofen expressed that in the work completed to date, there are themes that have formed. J. Kauenhofen explained that, on behalf of Council, he will collate the comments and feedback from Council Members in preparation for the August 29th meeting and noted that he foresees that three themes forming towards three Global Ends. J. Kauenhofen explained that the Council is not far from completing the draft of the Global Ends and anticipates the Council is well prepared to potentially have the draft Global Ends done within the next month or two for final review.

**7.2 Executive Limitations**

The Council reviewed the draft Financial Conditions policy presented at Council. J. Kauenhofen expressed that bullet point a.) should include the words 'forecasted to be received': "Expend more funds in any fiscal year than those that have been received or are forecasted to be received to date unless the Council's debt guideline (below) is met."

**Motion:**

To approve the Financial Conditions policy as amended.

**J. Kauenhofen/B. Hollett  
7-0-0  
Motion Carries**

*The motion was approved by general consent.*

**7.3 Governance Process**

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

**7.4 Board-Executive Director Relationship**

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

**8.0 Ownership Linkage:**

Council Members delivered their reports as presented.

L. McNena explained that within the external advocacy portfolio of the three assigned Council Members, Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (abGPAC) roles have been assigned. J. Kauenhofen is on the abGPAC Executive Committee, L. McNena is on the abGPAC Advocacy Committee, and K. Bhandari is on the abGPAC Governance Committee. L. McNena is the primary delegate for abGPAC on behalf of AUGSA.



abGPAC had scheduled a retreat for last week; however, it was cancelled shortly prior to the retreat. Advocacy priorities for the 2023-2024 term have not been identified yet, which L. McNena and J. Kauenhofen noted as a concern given it is already late in the cycle. J. Kauenhofen explained there is some concern this year about momentum and value for cost with the abGPAC membership. At this point in the year, advocacy priorities should already be identified, with priorities normally set by early July. L. McNena noted AUGSA could identify metrics for how our advocacy efforts are performing at abGPAC to gain a better assessment on value delivery. There are two other advocacy groups in Alberta, which include ASEC and CAUS and AUGSA could consider other avenues with these groups if there is a sense abGPAC is not assisting AUGSA in delivering strong advocacy to the Alberta government.

The Council discussed Athabasca University as a whole and the overall student experience and the opportunities available to graduate students. B. Hollett explained there is an opportunity for the University to adapt its awards and bursaries offering to meet the demographic needs of graduate students. One example provided included students who work full time, and perhaps have families, yet their employment income disqualifies them from the application process as it appears many bursaries are intended for fulltime students that don't work, and do not have family priorities. L. McNena noted that not all students are thesis students, many take course-based exits. There should be a focus on ensuring funding opportunities for these students as well.

#### **9.0 Monitoring Executive Director Performance:**

The Executive Director report was reviewed as presented. R. Rupok inquired on the progress of the student survey as it relates to supporting Council Members advocacy insights. M. Sullivan explained the current response rate is 451 responses out of around ~4000 students, or ~2100 FLE. This is in line with prior year response rates. The survey results will be analyzed and compiled into a report provided to Council for advocacy objectives and insight. Given the survey was delayed due to the IT downtime, the survey was extended by a month, which has pushed back the timeline for distribution of the report. Council Members can expect the report in the later part of 2023.

R. Rupok also inquired on the organizations pursuit of implementing a Health & Dental program for graduate students. M. Sullivan noted the service is anticipated to be in place by end of November and there will be multiple level offerings for graduate students to choose from that consider their individualized needs.

#### **10.0 Self-Evaluation & Governance Process**

R. Rupok explained this agenda item is to reflect on governance and how Council is doing as a group. J. Kauenhofen noted that Council can work on improving communications amongst Council Members.

#### **11.0 Information Requested by the Board**

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

#### **12.0 In-Camera Session**

With no required business the Council elected to not have an in-camera session.



### 13.0 Questions/Adjournment

K. Johnston expressed her gratitude for being on AUGSA and explained that this would be her last Council meeting. M. Sullivan expressed that AUGSA has appreciated her contribution to representing graduate students at Athabasca University and we wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

R. Rupok inquired with the Council if there would be a potential to change the AUGSA Council schedule. L. McNena expressed this would not work overall for Council as the Council plans their year in advance and are provided the schedule during onboarding. B. Hollet echoed L. McNena's statements. M. Sullivan explained AUGSA gives as much notice as possible for Council meetings at the beginning of the term to allow the team to plan up to 12 months in advance. M. Sullivan expressed if we change the schedule thAT The Council agreed to keep the schedule as is.

**Motion:**

To adjourn the meeting.

**J. Kauenhofen/L. McNena**  
**7-0-0**  
**Motion Carries**

The meeting was adjourned by general consent.

