

Council Meeting – October 17, 2023 – 6:00pm MT

Microsoft Teams

Present:

Russell Rupok	Chair	Voting Member
Brittany Hollett	Vice-Chair	Voting Member
Kyra Johnston	Council Member	Voting Member
Rayees Kahan	Council Member	Voting Member
Jason Kauenhofen	Council Member	Voting Member
Lindsay McNena	Council Member	Voting Member
Skyler Todd	Council Member	Voting Member
Kelly DeCoste	Council Member	Voting Member
Deborah Exelby	Council Member	Voting Member
Meaghan Sullivan	Executive Director	Non-Voting

Regrets:

Agenda Item

1.0 Call to Order:

R. Rupok called the meeting to order at 6:01 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.

**J. Kauenhofen/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 September 19, 2023.

Motion:

To approve the minutes as circulated.

J. Kauenhofen/R. Khan



**7-0-0
Motion Carries**

The motion was approved by general consent.

7.3 Governance Process

Moving Agenda Item 7.3 to the start of the meeting, the Council conducted a by-election with one candidate for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Council Member seat. The candidate is Deborah Exelby. A ballot was then cast.

Motion:

To approve the elected appointment of Deborah Exelby to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Council Member seat on AUGSA Council.

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

The motion was approved by general consent.

6.0 Required Approvals:

In accordance with AUGSA Bylaw, the annual budget is prepared by the Executive Director and shall be approved by Council each year. As per the Budget Development policy, the budget for the upcoming fiscal year shall be presented by November 1st of the current fiscal year. The fiscal year of the Association ends on December 31st of each year.

Council reviewed the 2024 draft operating budget for the Association as presented. The Council determined that in addition to the detailed budget presented, more information is required to make an informed approval. M. Sullivan will send last year's budget for comparison along with additional supporting information. Council plans to review the additional information and aims to return to the budget approval at next month's Council meeting.

7.0 Items for Discussion:

7.1 Ends

The Council reviewed A. Bergen's feedback on the draft Ends policies. L. McNena noted the tone of the Ends should reflect the tone the Association wishes to set. J. Kauenhofen volunteered to take on the Ends work and bring updated work back to Council, noting the Ends will be revised to be more assertive and take into account the feedback provided by A. Bergen from My Governance Coach.

The Council decided to review the revisions to the Ends policies at a later date.

7.2 Executive Limitations

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

7.4 Board-Executive Director Relationship

No business was conducted in the current meeting.



7.5 Board Means

Motion:

To move the meeting in-camera.

L. McNena/ J. Kauenhofen
8-0-0
Motion Carries

The meeting was moved in-camera by general consent.

Motion:

To move the meeting out-of-camera.

L. McNena/S. Todd
8-0-0
Motion Carries

The meeting was moved out-of-camera by general consent.

8.0

Ownership Linkage:

8.1 Council Member Reports

No further discussion on monthly reports.

8.2 Ownership Surveys and Direction

L. McNena proposed that in response to the concerns expressed by ~600 graduate students regarding funding in the recent surveys, the Association should reconsider joining the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) again to advocate on behalf of AU graduate students at the federal level where there is a strong impact to federal funding such as The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

L. McNena noted the last time she represented AUGSA at CASA, when AUGSA was a member, there was a graduate advisory board established that was formed for the sole intention of advocating specifically for graduate students. L. McNena gave an overview of the CASA conference cycle, staff structure, and policy work. L. McNena noted federal advocacy is a gap in AUGSAs current advocacy portfolio.

AUGSA has the opportunity to join as an observer organization for approximately \$100.00 per delegate per conference. AUGSA would normally intend to send two delegates per conference in an ideal situation. If AUGSA were to join as a full member, the fee is \$6170/year (\$3.91/FTL).

L. McNena inquired if joining CASA and the travel costs associated would be a barrier. M. Sullivan explained travel to CASA conferences can be prioritized in terms of expenditures, considering advocacy is AUGSAs first priority as an organization overall. Funds would be identified in the budget to enable participation in advocacy efforts federally.



S. Todd expressed the goal to identify actionable goals to achieve while having observer status to ensure we can measure the benefits and success, considering AUGSA left CASA in recent years.

Motion:

To apply for observer status with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA).

B. Hollett/R. Rupok
8-0-0
Motion Carries

The motion was approved by general consent.

9.0 Monitoring Executive Director Performance:

9.1 Treatment of Staff Monitoring Report

M. Sullivan shared the Monitoring Report 1.03 – Treatment of Staff. M. Sullivan provided an overview of the report, noting the non-compliance to the Council Policy Manual due to the fact that AUGSA does not have a Human Resources Policy Manual given the shift in governance structure earlier this year, making this monitoring report a priority. M. Sullivan explained that work towards achieving compliance is already underway with support from Salopek & Associates. The goal is to achieve full compliance in under a year if all goes well.

10.0 Self-Evaluation & Governance Process

The Council reviewed the first quarter of coaching feedback provided by A. Bergen from My Governance Coach.

R. Rupok expressed the feedback is promising with opportunity for improvement. L. McNena agreed and noted the Council is doing a good job learning this new governance process and it may also just be allowing time for the Association to adjust and new Council Members to onboard.

11.0 Information Requested by the Board

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

12.0 In-Camera Session

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

13.0 Questions/Adjournment

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting.

S. Todd/R. Rupok
8-0-0
Motion Carries

The meeting was adjourned by general consent.

