

Council Meeting – February 13, 2024 – 6:00pm MST

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	Staff Member
Kenechukwu Onwundinjo	Graduate Student	Non-Voting General Member

Regrets:

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.

J. Kauenhofen /B. Hollett
8-0-0
Motion Carries

The motion was approved by general consent.

- 5.0 Adotion of Previous Minutes:**
 - 5.1 Regular Minutes of the Council from January 16, 2024.**

Motion:



To approve the minutes as circulated.

J. Kauenhofen/S. Todd
8-0-0
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

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

7.2 Executive Limitations

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

7.3 Governance Process

M. Sullivan provided an update regarding AUGSA Council Elections, encouraging Council Members to assist in spreading the word once the next communication goes out. A newsletter will go out to the general membership on Thursday or Friday with a notification that the nomination period is open effective February 16th, 2024.

R. Rupok shared that minor updates were made to the Council Policy manual as part of the Council governance objectives set this term. Of note, the bulleted lists were switched from alpha to numerical, as well as the term 'Faculty Representative' was updated to 'Council Member' in approximately 20 spots throughout the document. D. Exelby inquired if the changes were purely housekeeping. R. Rupok and M. Sullivan confirmed that the changes were housekeeping items only.

Motion:

To approve the revised Council Policy Manual as presented.

J. Kauenhofen/B. Hollett
8-0-0

The motion was approved by general consent.

7.4 Board-Executive Director Relationship

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

8.0 Ownership Linkage:

8.1 Council Member Reports

R. Rupok provided an update on the collective agreement bargaining process. R. Rupok explained that the University has now provided the contact information of all academically employed graduate research assistants (RA), meaning that the next steps in the collective agreement bargaining process is to ratify a vote amongst this group of individuals rather than the membership as a whole during the elections process. R.



Rupok is currently drafting a communications to this group of RAs and is offering several scheduled information sessions that RAs can attend as an opportunity to review and discuss the proposed agreement with the bargaining team.

B. Hollett explained concerns brought forth from an NP student regarding their practicum placement. The student would like to meet with the Dean of FGS to discuss changes to the policies for future groups given the placement concerns affect multiple programs across faculties. The date is not set but B. Hollett expressed that more than one representative from AUGSA would be of value at this meeting to support any advocacy efforts on the topic. L. McNena, S. Todd, K. DeCoste, and J. Kauenhofen volunteered to support the meeting. Next steps would include booking a pre-meeting with the AUGSA representatives and the student to discuss the concerns and what could collectively be proposed. The Council agreed to begin with the larger group and then move forward with a smaller group to advocate on the practicum placement subject.

8.2 Update on CASA Exploration

Regarding seeking observer status with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), L. McNena is waiting on a draft letter being returned to her. L. McNena included follow up questions in the draft letter to CASA on the amount of, and quality of, graduate student advocacy to confirm the value of AUGSA re-joining as a member.

8.3 Update on abGPAC Exploration

The Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (abGPAC) has not made any progress in terms of booking graduate advocacy meetings with provincial representatives in the 2023-2024 period. The AUGSA advocacy representatives have been working diligently and advocating for improved representation at abGPAC on behalf of graduate students.

9.0 Monitoring Executive Director Performance

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

10.0 Self-Evaluation & Governance Process

K. Onwudinjo expressed their surprise in being the first observer at a Council Meeting this term and expressed to the Council there may be an opportunity to close a student engagement gap by making Council Meetings more inviting to all graduate students. K. Onwudinjo also shared with the Council that there are acronyms in previous minutes that were not readily understandable to a general member. The Council agreed to address this concern by ensuring acronyms are spelled out and explained in detail in Council meeting minutes.

11.0 Information Requested by the Board

No further business.

12.0 In-Camera Session

Motion:

To move the meeting in-camera.

J. Kauenhofen/R. Khan



8-0-0

Motion Carries

The motion was approved by general consent.

Motion:

To move the meeting out-of-camera.

**J. Kauenhofen/L. McNena
8-0-0**

Motion Carries

The motion was approved by general consent.

13.0 Questions/Adjournment

S. Todd stated that with having general members attend Council meetings, it could be an opportunity to better explain our meetings, and have them participate at the end of the meeting as an engagement opportunity. The Council agreed.

M. Sullivan explained that while Council meetings are open to general members, it is to observe. They do not typically partake or speak during the meeting when business is being conducted unless they are a guest presenter, but there can be opportunity for engagement at the conclusion of the Council meeting given it is a great opportunity to be able to speak with as many graduate students as possible. Another suggestion was made that AUGSA could host townhalls or open houses throughout the year for general members to interact with Council, rather than during a Council Meeting. B. Hollett noted that the Council can collectively ensure to note this at the beginning of the meeting by explaining, even if in the chat, that we have an opportunity for student engagement at the end of the meeting.

K. DeCoste inquired if general members are aware that when they attend a Council Meeting it is with observer status. M. Sullivan will update the Council event on the website to clarify.

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting.

**J. Kauenhofen/K. DeCoste
8-0-0
Motion Carries**

The meeting was adjourned by general consent.

