

**Council Meeting** – March 19, 2024 – 6:00pm MST  
Microsoft Teams

**Present:**

Russell Rupok	Chair	Voting Member
Brittany Hollett	Vice-Chair	Voting Member
Rayees Kahan	Council Member	Voting Member
Jason Kauenhofen	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:** Lindsay McNena (Council Member)

**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/B. Hollett**  
**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 February 13, 2024.**

**Motion:**  
To approve the minutes as circulated.

**J. Kauenhofen/R. Khan**



**7-0-0  
Motion Carries**

*The motion was approved by general consent.*

**6.0**

**Required Approvals:**

M. Sullivan presented the 2024-2025 election results as follows:

**Faculty of Business**

1. Britt Hollett
2. Sunny Bhasin

**Faculty of Health Disciplines**

3. Pamela Ferguson
4. Sarrah Ahmed

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

5. David Roy
6. Kenekchukwu Onwudinjo

**Faculty of Science and Technology**

7. Gagan Jhajj
8. Paul Ackah

**Motion:**

To approve the election results of the Council Members to the 2024-2025 AUGSA Council as presented.

**J. Kauenhofen/K. DeCoste  
7-0-0  
Motion Carries**

*The motion was approved by general consent.*

**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 and R. Rupok reminded the Council to work on their Council Report packages in preparation for the Council transition in April, both individually and as a Council together. There will be a transition on April 23rd, along with one-on-one's with new Council Members scheduled in April. It will be important for outgoing Council Members to connect with the incoming Council Members and communicate about potential job shadowing opportunities.

#### **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 gave an update on the collective agreement process. The bargaining team is waiting on the Athabasca University Board of Governors to ratify the agreement. R. Rupok explained the next steps in the process would be to schedule a Special General Meeting (SGM) for sometime in April to approve the implementation of union dues.

#### **8.2 Update on CASA Exploration**

There were no updates provided on the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) membership inquiry.

#### **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**

In compliance to the Asset Protection and Financial Conditions Executive Limitation policies set by Council, M. Sullivan presented the annual audited financial statements to Council. The statements are prepared for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be formally approved by AUGSA membership.

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

J. Kauenhofen expressed that certain programs may be disadvantaged based on how votes are split across programs and faculties. When it comes to doctoral programs, there are significantly less students enrolled in these programs (i.e. DBA vs. MBA) and it could make it difficult for candidates from these programs to campaign against other larger programs. B. Hollett explained if there was a massive disparity, there wouldn't be a successful DBA on Council almost each year, for example. K. DeCoste explained this concept could apply to other programs as well, such as thesis-based versus course-based students. K. Onwudinjio stated it can also have an additional difficulty level due to the remote environment. Council members acknowledged that when elected to Council, the responsibilities is to advocate for all graduate students, not just students from their own programs, which ensures representation for all, no matter how big or small a program is.



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**11.0 Information Requested by the Board**

M. Sullivan presented the February 2024 financial reports.

**12.0 Questions/Adjournment**

**Motion:**

To adjourn the meeting at 6:41pm MT.

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

*The meeting was adjourned by general consent.*

