



**Athabasca University Graduate Students'
Association**

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AUGSA January Meeting Minutes

Date: January 14, 2020 6:00 pm

Place: Web conference

Attendance :

Executive Committee: Heather DeBoer (VP Operations & Finance), David Thomson (VP Academic),
Meaghan Sullivan (President), Mary-Anne Parker (VP External)

Faculty of Business Representatives: Judd Asoyuf, Margaret Clappison, David Newman

Faculty of Health Disciplines Representatives: Nicole Klix, Lindsay McNena Ashley Ravenscroft

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative: David Cloutier, Linda Perschonke, Kelli
Buckreus.

Faculty of Science and Technology: Liliana Quyen Tang, Philip Kirkbride

Staff:

Kallista Chayil (Speaker), Ross Tyson (Executive Director)

Regrets: Christopher Rudan

		Presenter	ACTION	TIME
1.0	Call to Order	Speaker	The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm MST.	6:04

			<p>Lindsay: I'm not sure it's worth risking our non-partisanship, given that we have students in different provinces under different types of government.</p> <p>Mary-Anne: In this case honesty is the best policy. We need to tell abGPAC and the U of C that this is a poorly organized protest and we represent students all over the country.</p> <p>Meaghan: We are creating a position paper together with AbGPAC on the quality of the consultation process this year.</p> <p>David T: I feel it is important that we respond with something. Our opinions expressed as above.</p> <p>Heather: When we say that not all our students live in Alberta, we need to focus more on consulting with our students.</p> <p>We can have a communication presented in our February newsletter.</p>	
8.0	Committee Updates			
	8.1 Governance Committee		<p>David will be the new chair. We are meeting at the end of the month and are reviewing changes to the current policies and the Faculty Rep alignments. Three of the four items are attached on the Governance invite.</p>	
	8.2 Awards Committee		<p>Wrapped up 2019 awards. Presented 10 items for Governance Committee regarding changes to Awards Committee policy. The committee is looking at allocating awards dollars and is looking for feedback.</p> <p>David will send out information via email.</p>	
	8.3 Engagement Committee		<p>Our biggest thing is to work with Bob Cole and give him our priorities. Elections also. Awards can be in on the meeting with their portfolio as well.</p>	
	8.5 Labour Relations Committee		<p>Ashley updated that we have been able to engage one more of the Executive and will have a final report soon.</p>	7:00
	8.6 Elections Committee		<p>See above</p>	

2.0	Approval of Agenda		<p>Motion 2.0 To approve the agenda as amended. Moved: Nicole Klix Seconded: Mary-Anne Parker Motion carried without opposition.</p>	6:04
3.0	Approval of Previous Minutes		<p>Motion 3.0: To approve the minutes of December 10 Council meeting. Moved: David Cloutier Seconded: David Newman Carried without opposition</p>	
4.0	Reports and Presentations			6:09
	4.1 Executive Reports		<p>Reports are attached. David reminded us that the 3MT is being planned for March 17 and MBA students are being allowed to be part of it.</p>	6:35
	4.2 Financial Report		<p>Heather was asked how the \$5000 deficit compared to last year. We believe that we were +\$30,000 last year, but we made a huge commitment to Awards.</p>	
5.0	Welcome Bob Cole, Communications Coordinator		<p>Bob introduced himself to council. Spent time on Council in 2016-17. He is excited to join our team.</p>	6:30
6.0	Elections & CRO Contract		<p>Two members to join the Elections and Referenda Committee. Lindsay McNena volunteered. Watch for Feb 17 email to all students.</p>	
7.0	Provincial Student Protest Inquiry		<p>U of C is having a student protest in Calgary Feb 3 -7 in Calgary. They were wondering if there is any interest in having our students attend. It looks like in principle we agree with the protest. The feedback that we have is that there is not a lot of planning being put into this. We are concerned about managing risks to students and to AUGSA. The question is, "Do we want to participate in the protest?" Mary-Anne is not comfortable with the lack of planning. Meaghan is also not comfortable either with the image that is presented on behalf of students. David C. presented an idea to have a protest is very difficult with our physical barriers.</p>	

	8.7 FGS Update		The Faculty of Graduate Studies will be having an open forum covering all kinds of topics on Feb 26th and 28th. They have asked AUGSA if we could provide members to serve on a panel. We are looking for four members. Shauna Zenteno will facilitate the panel. David asked for clarification: Feb 26 from 10:45 to 11:55 am is the time for the forum. Philip is a potential student. Kelli and Lindsay also confirmed. Meaghan will attend as well. Travel and expenses will be covered.	
9.0	Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (abGPAC) Report		abGPAC- Meaghan, Lindsay and Ross met with them today. We had advocacy week in December. We have switched the chair role. AUGSA fees will be based on all students. We stated that out-of-province students are not benefitting. Meaghan will spear-head a change in the billing.	
10.0	Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Report		CASA: we are looking towards attending advocacy week and AGM Feb 15-23 in Ottawa.	
11.0	Upcoming Events		Open forum at FGS, CASA advocacy week and AGM, abGPAC AGM on Feb 8 , elections, Executive working retreat March 21, 22.	7:15
12.0	Old Business			
13.0	Other Business			
14.0	Adjournment		Motion 14.0: To adjourn the meeting. Moved : Lindsay McNena Seconded : Margaret Clappison Carried without opposition.	7:20 pm
15.0	In-Camera			

Meaghan Sullivan, President

Ross Tyson, Executive Director

Date of Approval



ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

President's Report

January 2020

AUGSA Meetings

- January 2: Executive Retreat Planning
- January 7: Executive Meeting
- January 8: GSRC Steering Committee
- January 10: Ross/Dave
- January 14: Council Meeting
- January 15: Onboarding Bob Cole, Conference Coordinator
- January 20: Awards Committee Planning
- January 23: Awards Committee Meeting
- January 24: External Delegates Regroup
- January 28: Governance Committee
- January 29: Labor Relations
- January 31: Consult with VPA on 3 new requests for student representation:
 - Ethical Use of Student Information Committee (President)
 - Request for Union Representative for two consults

Athabasca University

- January 9: FGS Faculty Council
- January 20: FGS e-Portfolio
- January 24: Meeting with FHSS Dean (planning quarterly)
- January 28: GFC Student Awards Committee
- January 31: AU Research Committee

abGPAC and CASA

- January 1: abGPAC
- January 14: abGPAC Fee Assessment
- January 15: abGPAC Board Meeting
- January 24: National Advocacy Committee (cancelled)
- January 28: abGPAC Governance Committee

General/Other

- Numerous ad-hoc phone call meetings this month collaborating on AUGSA business.

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ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

VP External's Report

January 2020

AUGSA Executive/Council Meetings

- January 7th – Executive Meeting
- January 14th - Council Meeting
- January 29th – Engagement Committee Meeting
- January 27th – Communications Coordinator Debrief

Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (abGPAC)

- January 4th – Governance Chair/ED catch up
- January 21st – Governance Committee Meeting – rescheduled
Worked on internal HR Hiring policy
- January 28th – Governance Committee meeting

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations

- Tried to schedule Communications Committee meeting – now scheduled for Feb.
- Prepping for Advocacy Week in two weeks.

Other Meetings/Events

- January 21st-23rd - Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Research Symposium
Research Sharing
Academic Integrity/Advocacy
- January 24th – Meeting with Dr. Thompson FHSS

General/Other

- Develop of plans for executive retreat/election/transition (representative to CAGS conference)
- Graduate Coalition research – National.
- Town Hall Planning – President and Past President
- Approval of Expenses
- Responding to Email/Text/Phone Communications
- Administrative/Miscellaneous

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ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

- Working with Executive Director on transition planning, and Executive Director job description/hiring process and planning
- Overseeing AUGSA activities and responding to inquiries and support
- Review of agendas and supporting documentation
- Presidents Message/Newsletter/Creation of AUGSA Agendas
- Approval of Expenses
- Student Inquiries
- Monitoring and Responding to Email/Text/Phone Communications
- Administrative/Miscellaneous

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ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Vice President Academic

January 2020

Meetings

- AUGSA Executive Retreat Planning with Meaghan (2)
- AUGSA monthly Executive Committee (7)
- AU FGS Council (9)
- AUGSA Governance Committee (10)
- AUGSA Introduction to Communication Officer Bob Cole (11)
- AUGSA monthly Council Meeting (14)
- AU Working Group – White paper on Research Groups/Centres/Institutes (17)
- AU Faculty of health Disciplines Faculty Council (23)
- AUGSA Awards Committee (23)
- AU Introduction with Dr. Veronica Thompson, Dean of Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education (24)
- AU FGS Graduate Course Evaluation Redesign Working Group (27)
- AUGSA Governance Committee (28)
- AUGSA Labour Relations Committee – VPA Role review (29)
- AUGSA Engagement Committee presentation (29)
- AUGSA Meeting Ross/Meaghan – Committee consultation (Designation as Academic Policy) (31)
- AU Working Group – White paper on Research Groups/Centres/Institutes (31) - **MISSED**

Actions and Highlights from Meetings

- **AUGSA Awards Committee (J23)**
 - Added "President's List" items Policies and submitted to Governance Committee (J28)
 - Reviewed and approved one travel bursary application
 - Worked with Bob to communicate all Bursaries and Awards now open
 - Met with Engagement Committee to ask help in soliciting feedback from student body around new awards
 - **Final meeting Date:** March 24
 - **ACTION:** Still accepting idea for new award/bursary fund distribution

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- **AUGSA Governance Committee (J10, J28)**
 - Reviewed changes/additions to general policies
 - Approved changes/additions to Awards and Bursary policies
 - Discussed "Code of Conduct Policy" (2015)
 - Approved CRO 2019 Report recommendations on faculty representation on council
 - Discussed Elections Handbook Timeline 2020

- **AU FGS Course Evaluation Redesign (J27)**
 - Undergrad survey questions to be circulated with feedback provided
 - Idea is to have a set of core questions and then add unique questions to each course
 - Where does the feedback go? Accountability of faculty to actually do something with the feedback. Don't ask questions you can't do anything about. Suggested a more 'virtual' process that allows others to chime into questions and to see where they are at any given time (Domino's pizza app)
 - Accessibility an issue?
 - Meeting monthly

- **AU Meeting with Dr. Veronica Thompson (J24)**
 - Faculty name change – Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education (FHSSE)
 - AUGSA Executive invited to attend annual strategic planning session
 - Process is appreciated – should be repeated with each faculty at least twice a year

- **AU Dean FGS 2019 Advisory Committee**
 - Next set of dates for application review pushed back from February to March with interviews scheduled for May thru June

- **AU Faculty of Health Disciplines Faculty Council (J23)**
 - Dr. Gwen Rempel a big fan of AUGSA (was at GSRC this year)
 - Presented AUGSA push for Student Services as well as increase in Awards & Bursaries, introduced Bob Cole
 - Announced Alberta Blue Cross Award recipient specific to Faculty

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