



**Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association**  
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## Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** April 25, 2012

**Place:** Web conference

**Time:** 7:30pm MST

**Attendance:** Amanda Nielsen, President  
Greta Kirstein, VP External  
Rob Janzen, VP Academic  
Nathaniel Ostashevski, VP Operations & Finance  
Adam Chisholm, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) Rep  
Moiz Bhamani, Faculty of Business Rep  
Wilson Ho, Faculty of Business Rep  
Ric Wheeler, Faculty of Business Rep  
Steve Harris, Faculty of Science and Technology Rep  
Eric Lavoie, Faculty of Health Disciplines Rep  
Meg Andronowska, Faculty of Health Disciplines Rep  
Jade Clarke, Centre for Distance Education Rep  
Lorna Howieson, Speaker of Council  
Adam Snider, Coordinator

**Regrets:** Margot Van Sluytman, FHSS Rep

**Absent:** Sarah Gauvreau, Centre for Distance Education Rep

**Guest(s):** Margaret Clappison, Incoming Faculty of Business Representative

INDEX	MINUTES	ACTION
<b>1.0 – Call to Order</b>	Meeting called to order at 7:31pm MDT.	
<b>2.0 – Approval of Agenda</b>	<b>MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.</b> (Chisholm / Harris) Unanimously carried.	
<b>3.0 – Approval of Previous Minutes</b>	<b>MOTION: To approve the previous minutes as presented.</b> (Wheeler / Kirstein) Unanimously carried.	

<b>4.0 – Unfinished Business</b>		
<b>4.1 – Chief Returning Officer’s Recommendations &amp; Elections / Referenda Process</b>	<p>The council reviewed the Chief Returning Officer’s 2012 report.</p> <p><b>MOTION: That the AUGSA Council endorse and recommend that the 2012/2013 Elections and Referenda Committee review the 2012 CRO Report recommendations for consideration in improving the 2012/2013 AUGSA elections.</b>          (President / VP Academic) Unanimously carried.</p>	
<b>4.2 – ASEC Prospective Membership (Discussion Item)</b>	<p>The President gave a presentation about the Alberta Student Executive Council (ASEC) and on some of the possible benefits of AUGSA becoming a prospective member in the organization.</p> <p>After discussion, the council conducted an informal straw poll which unanimously recognized that the incoming council should consider membership in ASEC.</p>	
<b>5.0 – New Business</b>		
<b>5.1 – Appointment of Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative to Vacant Seat</b>	<p>A review of the applications for the position of Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative was conducted. After discussing the applicants, the follow motion was made:</p> <p><b>MOTION: To appoint Caitlin Cummins to the vacant Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative position.</b> (Ostashewski / Wheeler)          Unanimously carried.</p>	Adam to inform Caitlin – May 1
<b>5.2 – Motion regarding AMICCUS-C Conference</b>	<p><b>MOTION: That the AUGSA spend up to \$1725 to send the GSA Operations Coordinator to the AMICCUS-C National Conference.</b> (Nielsen / Lavoie) Unanimously carried.</p>	Adam to register and book flight and accommodations – May 1
<b>5.3 – Motion regarding retention of legal services</b>	<p><b>MOTION: That the AUGSA provide a retainer of \$3,000 to Fraser Milner Casgrain Law Offices for periodic consultations on tax and governance issues.</b> (Nielsen / Janzen)</p> <p><b>MOTION: That the meeting go <i>in camera</i>.</b> (Nielsen</p>	

	<p>/ Ostashewski) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>The meeting went <i>in camera</i> at this point and Margaret Clappison left the call.</p> <p><b>MOTION: That the meeting go <i>ex camera</i>.</b> (Janzen / Wheeler) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>The original motion was unanimously carried.</p> <p>Margaret Clappison returned to the call.</p>	
<p><b>5.4 – Resolution regarding mandatory non-instructional fees</b></p>	<p><b>RESOLUTION: The following resolution was brought to the floor and unanimously carried (Janzen / Chisholm):</b></p> <p><b>Whereas</b> the Athabasca University Graduate Students Association (AUGSA) maintains the goals of effectively representing graduate students interests to the university in order to ensure that the AU graduate student experience is affordable and of outstanding quality,</p> <p><b>Whereas</b> mandatory non-instructional fees may represent a threat to the affordability of the AU graduate student experience, and the current draft proposal does not ensure meaningful voice to elected AU graduate student representatives,</p> <p><b>Be it resolved that</b> the AUGSA Council reject the draft Athabasca University mandatory non-instructional fee policy, and accordingly submit a letter to the AU President, VP Academic, and Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.</p> <p><b>Be it further resolved that</b> the AUGSA Council outline the following reasons for rejecting the current draft policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The current policy does not ensure mandatory non-instructional fees will remain affordable over time;</li> <li>ii. The current policy does not ensure meaningful consultation of elected graduate student representatives and student input into</li> </ul>	

	<p>the decisions that will affect them;</p> <p>iii. The current policy does not ensure transparency of mandatory non-instructional fee details and accountability that the fees will be spent according to the university's plan set forward for the fees in meetings with student representatives.</p> <p><b>Be it further resolved that the AUGSA:</b></p> <p>i. Call on the Government of Alberta to regulate mandatory non-instructional fees to ensure that: the AU graduate student experience remains affordable, that elected graduate student leaders have meaningful input into the decisions that will affect their constituents, and that universities operate with full transparency and accountability with regards to student fees;</p> <p>ii. Request that Athabasca University amend its draft mandatory non-instructional fee policy to address the issues outlined above.</p>	
<p><b>6.0 – Other Business</b></p>		
<p><b>6.1 – Motions regarding change of signing authority</b></p>	<p><b>MOTION: That Nathaniel Ostashewski will retain signing authority through the month of May 2012.</b> (Ho / Clarke) Unanimously carried.</p> <p><b>MOTION: That Nathaniel Ostashewski earn his regularly monthly pay for May and be reimbursed for expenses as incurred.</b> (Wheeler / Clarke) Motion defeated (Wheeler and Ostashewski abstained).</p> <p><b>MOTION: That Ron Jagmohan and Lorna Howieson be removed from the AUGSA Bank signatory list as for April 30, 2012.</b> (Ostashewski / Wheeler) Unanimously carried.</p> <p><b>MOTION: That the AUGSA Council remove all existing signing authorities except for Amanda</b></p>	

	<b>Nielsen, for June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, and add Wilson Ho (incoming Vice President Operations and Finance) and Lisa Barrett (incoming Vice President External) as signing authorities to the AUGSA Bank Account for 2012/2013 academic year.</b> (Ostaszewski / Wheeler) Unanimously carried.	
<b>7.0 – Adjournment</b>	<b>MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.</b> (Chisholm / Janzen) Unanimously carried.  Meeting adjourned at 9:21pm MDT.	

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Amanda Nielsen, President

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Adam Snider, Coordinator

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Date of Approval