



Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association
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Council Meeting Minutes

Date: December 7, 2016

Place: Web conference

Time: 6:00pm

Attendance:

Teagan Gahler, President

Jamie Czerwinski, Vice President External

Margaret Clappison, VP Operations & Finance

Shawn Ang, Faculty of Business Representative

Peter Chan, Faculty of Business Representative

Vanessa Colettas, Faculty of Business Representative

Patrick Corbett, Faculty of Science & Technology Representative

Shanna Rowney, Centre for Distance Education Representative

Mahsati Abdul, Centre for Distance Education Representative

Lindsay McNena, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative

Ross Tyson, Executive Director

Eric Snow, Speaker of Council

Komal Kumar, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative

Absent:

Robert Janzen, Faculty of Science & Technology Representative

Michelle Halle, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences Representative

Susanna Suchak, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences Representative

Regrets:

Steve Green, VP Academic

Lisa Gray, Faculty of Health Disciplines Representative

INDEX	MINUTES	ACTION
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1.0 Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm MDT.	
2. Approval of Agenda	<p>Motion: To approve the agenda as distributed.</p> <p>(President, Corbett)</p> <p>Carried Unanimously</p>	
3. Approval of Previous Minutes	<p>Motion: To accept the minutes of November 15 as distributed. (Corbett, Colettas)</p> <p>Carried Unanimously</p>	
4. Reports		
4.1 Executive Reports	<p>All executive members presented their reports as distributed. Highlights include:</p> <p>President: Board of Governors meetings (4) due to new President.</p> <p>Meeting at AU Edmonton with new President.</p> <p>Graduate Student Research Fund member. Had ten proposals and all will be funded. Encouraged members to apply for funds.</p> <p>VPOF: Margaret has been active in budgeting, working with CRA to amend last year's numbers.</p> <p>VPEX: abGPAC as well as CASA meetings. Had CASA advocacy week in Ottawa. Met with MP's in Ottawa and asked for about \$500 million in new spending over four years. Research grants, increased funding for grad students.</p> <p>abGPAC- held Annual General Meeting. Met with the Minister of Finance regarding Post-Secondary Finance. Big picture is that it is very unlikely that there will be extra funding for post-secondary.</p>	

	VPA: absent	
4.2 Financial Report	Margaret presented her financial reports for November 2016.	
5. Approval of 2017 budget	<p>VPOF: Margaret walked us through the budget that has been produced.</p> <p>5.1 Motion: To approve the 2017 AUGSA budget as presented on December 7th, 2016. (VPOF, Corbett)</p> <p>Carried Unanimously.</p>	
6. New Business		
6.1 Update on Advocacy activities	<p>VPEx Jamie: Mostly spoke to this in my report, but the meeting today with Minister Ceci (Finance), highlighted a tuition and funding review by the NDP Government. They want to review all facets of tuition and funding. Tuition should be capped at the Alberta CPI. Investing in education is the spearhead message.</p> <p>Government would like to see more access to tax credit programs. We also feel that access to disadvantaged students remains a priority along with more research funding. Other institutions get packages for acting as TA's and RA's but we have not had access to these dollars at AU.</p> <p>Funding Aboriginal Students had been capped on growth, but recently that cap (at the Federal level) has been removed so we asked for growth in this area.</p> <p>More internship programs is also on the advocacy agenda.</p>	
7. Old Business		

8. Other Business		
8.1 Update from Faculties	Science and Technology: Jamie attended the fall orientation session as the AUGSA representative.	
9. Adjournment	Motion: To adjourn the meeting (Colettas, Corbett) Carried unanimously Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm Next meeting: January 17, 2017	

Teagan Gahler, President

Ross Tyson, Executive Director

Date of Approval