



Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association

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AUGSA Council Minutes

Date: March 9th, 2021 6:00pm MDT

Place: Web conference

Attendance:

Executive Committee: Mary-Anne Parker (President), Judd Asoyuf (VP Academic), Crys Vincent (VP External), Ashley Ravenscroft (VP Operations & Finance)

Faculty of Business Representatives: David Newman, Margaret Clappison,

Faculty of Health Disciplines Representatives: Julia Cornester, Nicole Klix, Lindsay McNena,

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative: Kelli Buckreus, David Cloutier, Heather McGilvary

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

Staff: Meaghan Sullivan (Executive Director), Derek Balay (Speaker)

Absent: Bernard Kikechi

		PRESENTER	NOTES AND ACTIONS
1.0	Call to Order		The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm MST.
2.0	Approval of Agenda		Motion 2.0 To approve the agenda as distributed. Moved: David Cloutier Seconded: Ashley Ravenscroft Motion carried without opposition.

<p>3.0</p>	<p>Approval of Previous Minutes</p>		<p>Motion 3.0 To approve the minutes of February 9, 2021 Council meeting.</p> <p>Moved: Crys Vincent Seconded: Liliana Quyen Tang Motion carried without opposition.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Reports & Presentations</p>		<p>Reports presented as distributed.</p>
	<p>4.1 VP Academic</p>	<p>Judd Asoyuf</p>	<p>February consisted of scheduled meetings for GFC and subcommittees.</p> <p>Judd Asoyuf met with Vivianna Botticelli, AU's Internal Auditor, to provide feedback on the program regulation change process. This included several key issues including the MBA e-text decision, the NP program changes and the tuition increase. The inconsistencies from faculty to faculty were addressed as well as how a single AUGSA member is treated as the student consultation. The ongoing issues with student financial aid were also a subject of discussion.</p>
	<p>4.2 VP External</p>	<p>Crys Vincent</p>	<p>The Alberta Provincial budget was announced this past month with cuts to post-secondary education. AUGSA issued a press release as well as a joint statement was issued collaboratively by abGPAC, CAUS, and ASEC. We are disappointed in the cuts; however, upon looking at the budget some advocacy wins did make it into the budget. Specifically a three year commitment to mental health funding, and funding for digital infrastructure. A communication from abGPAC will be forthcoming outlining a summary on the Alberta Budget 2021.</p> <p>Crys Vincent is working with CASA in planning the AGM. The GSAs have been meeting with CASA on reviewing the Graduate Student Advisory group within CASA, as well as laying out clear expectations for CASA on what the GASs expect moving forward for improved advocacy and representation.</p>

			<p>Crys Vincent is working on advocacy within AU on gaps students are experiencing. Examples include 3-credit course extensions and students losing their student status with Alberta Student Aid while still enrolled in their programs.</p> <p>Crys Vincent is involved with the Dean search committee for FHD.</p>
	4.3 President	Mary-Anne Parker	<p>Mary-Anne Parker has been included in hiring committees at AU for senior roles at the University.</p> <p>The COVID-19 bursary emergency fund at AU has had a lot of advertising and recognition of the stakeholders who contributed to the fund, including AUGSA.</p> <p>Mary-Anne Parker is working on preparing abGPAC for future endeavors including a more thorough, visible feedback system that demonstrates the value of the GSA coalition.</p> <p>Mary-Anne Parker is working on her work plan transition document for the incoming President.</p> <p>Lastly, Mary-Anne Parker has been independantly working on a Memorandum of Understanding for an International Students Group with Open UK and AUSU.</p>
	4.4 VP Operations & Finance	Ashley Ravenscroft	<p>We hired a conference coordinator.</p> <p>The audit was dropped off to the auditor yesterday with the intentions of the audit being completed before May 1st.</p> <p>A finance meeting will be called for the second last week of March. Reports will be brought to the April meeting. Ashley Ravenscroft noted the efforts and work done this year by Meaghan Sullivan, Maria Swan, and herself, have created an efficient work environment that will lend a positive light to the association.</p>

			<p>Ashley Ravenscroft is chairing the sponsorship committee for the Graduate Student Research Conference and is working on the beginning stages of building the sponsorship plan and package.</p> <p>The Governance Committee is finalizing cleaning up the bylaws and meeting later this week in preparation for SGM.</p> <p>The Human Resource Committee will be also meeting next week to conduct a resource review.</p>
5.0	Financial Reports	Ashley Ravenscroft	
6.0	Council Reports		
	6.1 Faculty of Science and Technology	Philip Kirkbride, Liliana Quyen Tang	No report at this time.
	6.2 Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education	Kelli Buckreus, David Cloutier, Bernard Kikechi, Heather McGilvary	<p>Heather McGilvary attended a student session for a program review in respect to structure as part of a program improvement initiative and it was well attended by students.</p> <p>Mary-Anne Parker is planning to facilitate a session in April for students to meet with the Faculty.</p>
	6.3 Faculty of Health	Julia Cornester, Nicole Klix, Lindsay McNena	No report at this time.
	6.4 Faculty of Business	Margaret Clappison, David Newman	Margaret Clappison noted a new Dean is in the Faculty's future.
7.0	Rebranding Update	Meaghan Sullivan	
8.0	Committees		
	8.1 Governance Committee	VP Operations & Finance	<p>Motion 8.1: To approve the Code of Conduct (Code of Ethics & Professional Responsibility) as amended.</p> <p>Moved: Margaret Clappison Seconded: Judd Asoyuf</p>

			Motion carried without opposition.
	8.2 Awards Committee	Vice President Academic	The Awards Committee will be setting a meeting for next week to review all the recieved busary applications.
	8.3 Engagement Committee	Vice President External	<p>The Welcome Package: We are still awaiting the Information Sharing Agreement from the University.</p> <p>Swag with new logo design: Crys Vincent is looking for new AUGSA swag to order.</p> <p>Elections: We have seen a lot of engagement surrounding the Executive Committee elections. Crys Vincent encouraged all of Council and Executive to vote and reminded Council to spread the word to their respective cohorts. Crys Vincent thanked those who put the effort in to enhance our elections leaps and bounds this year.</p>
	8.4 Finance Committee	Vice President Financial	No further report at this time.
	8.5 Strategic Planning Committee	President	No report at this time.
	8.6 Elections and Referenda	Executive Director	
	8.7 Adhoc Committees		<p>Mary-Anne Parker presented a Memorandum of Understanding that she has worked on with AUSU and Open University in the UK.</p> <p>Motion 8.7: To approve the adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding between OU Students Association, AUSU, and AUGSA.</p> <p>Moved: Margaret Clappison Seconded: Julia Cornester Motion carried without opposition.</p>
9.0	Other Working Groups (ILE/IT)		The ILE working group has not met in the last month.
10.0	Old Business		
11.0	New Business		Motion 11.0: To approve an ammendment to the budget that allows a \$10,000 donation to be

			<p>made to the University for the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund for Graduate Students effective March 2021.</p> <p>Moved: Julia Cornester Seconded: Margaret Clappison Motion carried without opposition.</p>
12.0	Adjournment		<p>Motion 12.0: To adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm.</p> <p>Moved: Mary-Anne Parker Seconded: Judd Asoyuf Motion carried without opposition.</p>

Mary-Anne Parker, President

Meaghan Sullivan, Executive Director

Date of Approval