



**Athabasca University Graduate Students'
Association**

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AUGSA Council/2021 AGM Minutes

Date: June 15th, 2021 - 6:00pm MDT

Place: Web conference

Attendance :

Executive Committee: Julia Cornester (President), Chris Edwards (VP Operations & Finance), Kareena Hart (VP Academic), Kelli Buckreus (VP External)

Faculty of Business Representatives: David Newman, Ian Chitwood, Margaret Clappison

Faculty of Health Disciplines Representatives: Sarah Reid, Sabrina Martin, Kayleigh Dodge, Paul Valenti

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative: Heather McGilvary, Sarah James, Alice Kang

Faculty of Science and Technology: Ajibade Shodunke, Russell Rupok

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

		PRESENTER	ACTION
1.0	Call to Order	President	The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm MDT.
2.0	Approval of Agenda	President	Motion 2.0 To approve the agenda as distributed. Moved: Sabrina Martin Seconded: Sarah Reid Motion carried without opposition.
3.0	Approval of Previous Minutes	President	Motion 3.0 To approve the minutes of May 11th, 2021. Moved: Kelli Buckreus Seconded: Chris Edwards Motion carried without opposition.

			<p>Motion 3.1 To approve the minutes of the 2020 AGM (August 2020). Moved: David Newman Seconded: Margaret Clappison Motion carried without opposition.</p>
4.0	Review of 2020 Financial Audit	VP Operations & Finance	<p>Motion 4.0 To approve the audited financial statements for 2020 as presented. Moved: David Newman Seconded: Margaret Clappison Motion carried without opposition.</p>
5.0	Audit Contract 2021	Executive Director	<p>Motion 5.0 To approve the auditor JR&Co for the 2021 audit as presented. Moved: David Newman Seconded: Margaret Clappison Motion carried without opposition.</p>
6.0	Governance Committee	Chair, Governance	<p>The bylaws have been revised with many changes made including implementing performance management procedures for the Executive Committee positions. This work was done primarily by the prior Governance Committee (2020-2021), with the majority of work drafted by a lawyer on behalf of the Association to ensure that our bylaws and elected official terms are up to standard.</p> <p>Motion 6.0 to approve the ammendments to the bylaws as presented. Moved: Kelli Buckreus Seconded: Sabrina Martin Motion carried without opposition.</p>
7.0	Reports and Presentations		
	7.1 President	President	<p>Julia Cornester presented her report as distributed. The month of May was heavily focused on advocacy and onboarding with our lobby groups. Julia Cornester attended a range of Athabasca University meetings such as student consultations, Dean searches, candidate presentations, and collaboration meetings with AUSU.</p> <p>The annual membership satisfaction survey was reviewed and modified by the Strategic Planning</p>

			<p>Committee in May. The survey was released via newsletter on June 4th and is scheduled to be open until July 5th.</p>
	7.2 VP Operations & Finance	VP Operations & Finance	<p>Chris Edwards presented his report as distributed.</p> <p>The Governance Committee was busy with reviewing the bylaws in preparation for AGM.</p> <p>Chris Edwards has been involved in the preparations and sessions for the Faculty of Business Dean Search Committee.</p> <p>Chris Edwards is co-chair of the GSRC sponsorship committee. The committee completed the sponsorship package and presented it to the steering committee today for review and approval.</p>
	7.2 VP External	VP External	<p>Kelli Buckreus spent the month onboarding with CASA and abGPAC via their transition and training sessions.</p> <p>Kelli Buckreus shared that Paul Valenti has been appointed as Treasurer for abGPAC.</p> <p>Kelli Buckreus sits on the FHSS Dean search and has participated in the first round of interviews.</p> <p>Kelli Buckreus noted that the AUGSA Engagement Committee has not met yet, but she has plans for the committee to meet in the near future.</p>
	7.3 VP Academic	VP Academic	<p>Kareena Hart spent the first month in the VPA role as a part of the recruitment process for the new AU President. This took up most of her time for the month of May. Additionally, Kareena Hart has attended other meetings at AU including ILE meetings, and academic committee meetings.</p> <p>The AUGSA Awards Committee has met and awarded two bursaries.</p>

	7.4 Financial Reports	VP Operations & Finance	Chris Edwards shared the financial reports and indicated AUGSA is in a good position trending as expected.
8.0	New Business		
	8.1 Membership Satisfaction Survey	President	<p>This survey is open from June 4th to July 5th. This is an important survey, and we rely on and encourage our representatives to reach out to at least three other students to increase the respondent rate and cast a wider net on the AU Graduate Student voice.</p> <p>Meaghan Sullivan will send a standard communication for representatives to disseminate via their online classroom common areas, social media, and/or email.</p>
	8.2 Graduate Student Research Conference (GSRC)	Executive Director	<p>The GSRC is planned for October 1st and 2nd. The Steering Committee has decided to move forward with a new platform called HopIn. This decision was based upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The feedback received during and after last years research conference. • The focus this year on championing technology. • The U of C GSA also used HopIn for their conference. • This platform was also used for AU's 3MT, making it familiar to some of our key players in planning this conference. <p>We have received a quote from Invert720 for the technical support we are seeking for managing HopIn. The quote is \$11,392.50.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invert720 was the company AU used for the 3MT Competition this past month, which was an outstanding event.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invert720 was the lowest quote by several thousand dollars when the University received quotes for the 3MT. • Graduate student attendees will be familiar with it, increasing the likelihood of a positive experience this year. <p>This event is co-planned with the University, and they had received multiple quotes for the 3MT. We are not reaching out for quotes again, given their cost was so much lower to deliver the 3MT event, and the higher likelihood of delivering on quality this year with technology given our familiarity with the vendor. It is recommended we approve this invoice as a sole-source quote given the background of the technical support required and the need to deliver a high-performance IT solution, reflecting on our feedback in the post-conference survey from last year.</p> <p>Motion 8.0 To approve the Invert720 technical support quote of \$11,392.50 for the GSRC 2021 as presented.</p> <p>Moved: Sarah James Seconded: Sarah Reid Motion carried without opposition.</p>
9.0	Committee Updates		
	9.1 Mental Health Advisory Group	David Newman	<p>The committee met on May 28th and David Newman attended on behalf of AUGSA.</p> <p>A document for student of concern protocol was discussed and modification made.</p> <p>An AU email was changed from mental health to healthandwellness@athabascau.ca</p>
	9.2 Essential Skills & Professional Development	David Newman	<p>The committee met on May 21st and David Newman attended on behalf of AUGSA.</p>

			The committee discussed micro credentials, which is essentially credentials you can pick up during your graduate studies, but they are non-credit recognition.
10.0	Upcoming Events		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graduate Student Research Conference• Annual Membership Satisfaction Survey
11.0	Old Business		
12.0	Other Business		
13.0	Adjournment		Motion 13.0: To adjourn the meeting at 6:46 pm. Moved: Chris Edwards Seconded: Alice Kang Carried without opposition.

Julia Cornester, President

Meaghan Sullivan, Executive Director

Date of Approval