



Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association

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AUGSA Council

Date: November 9th, 2021 - 6:00pm MDT

Place: Web conference

Attendance :

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

Faculty of Business Representatives: Ian Chitwood, Margaret Clappison

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

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)

Regrets:

		PRESENTER	ACTION
1.0	Call to Order	President	The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm MT.
2.0	Approval of Agenda	President	Motion 2.0 To approve the agenda as distributed. Moved: Margaret Clappison Seconded: Sabrina Martin Motion carried without opposition.

3.0	Approval of Previous Minutes	President	<p>Motion 3.0 To approve the minutes of September 14th, 2021 as ammended.</p> <p>Moved: Heather McGilvary Seconded: Russell Rupok Motion carried without opposition.</p>
4.0	Reports and Presentations		
	4.1 President		<p>The workload has increased on the Graduate Student Resrarch Fund (GSRF) Committee at Athabasca University, which supports students in research.</p> <p>The focus right now is on abGPAC and ramping up for advocacy week, which takes place later this month.</p>
	4.2 VP Academic		<p>Kareena thanked the Awards Committee for their dedication to reviewing the awards and bursary applications this past month. The Outstanding Distinction Award has many high quality nominations.</p> <p>Kareena has been working with the faculty at Athabasca University this past month on ensuring there is supports in place for students. This includes how they are onboarding, supporting students throughout their academic journey, tools available, and more. If students are struggling, is needing support, or falling behind, please let her know so we can put them in contact with the faculty contacts.</p>
	4.3 VP External		<p>During the month of October, Kelli Buckreus had the opportunity to attend the COPPOA fall forum, which includes a number of post-secondary institutions across Alberta. Julia Cornester and Kelli Buckreus also both attended the fall forum with the Government of Alberta including the Minister of Advanced Education. Many of the issues discussed at both these meetings were similar, including mirco-credentialing, transferability of credits, prior-learning</p>

			<p>assessments (PLAR), open educational resources, Alberta 2030, and account security.</p> <p>Most of the work this past month was policy work for abGPAC in preparation for the upcoming advocacy week. This included an emphasis on the childcare advocacy work and encouraging the government to buy into the \$10/day daycare as well as supporting flexible approaches to care giving in terms of from the provincial perspective.</p> <p>Kelli Buckreus continues to work on the abGPAC strategic plan for 2022-2023.</p>
	4.4 VP Operations & Finance		<p>The budget has been developed and will be presented today. Chris Edwards thanks the Finance Committee for their work on this.</p> <p>Additional policy work is taking place in terms of financial policies but this continues to be ongoing with the hopes to have something to Council in the near future.</p>
5.0	Financial Reports		
	5.1 Financial Reports		No reports presented at this time.
	5.2 Draft 2022 Budget		<p>Motion 5.2: to approve the draft 2022 operational budget as recommended by the Finance Committee.</p> <p>Moved: Margaret Clappison Secinded: Ian Chitwood Motion carried without opposition.</p>
6.0	Committee Updates		
	6.1 Governance Committee		No report presented at this time.
	6.2 Awards Committee		<p>The Awards Committee has reviewed all Outstanding Distinction Award applications. The policy and budget includes 5 awards for disbursement. The committee has determined with the abundant number of nominations that there were 6 applicants who demonstrated the qualities of the award. The Awards Committee is requesting Council to approve the addition of</p>

			<p>one additional award to recognize and reward the 6 candidates. Chris Edwards noted that the budget does have room for the additional funds to be disbursed to more students.</p> <p>Motion 6.2: to approve an additional award to be disbursed in the amount of \$1,125 for the Outstanding Distinction Award.</p> <p>Moved: Russell Rupok Seconded: Margaret Clappison Motion carried without opposition.</p>
	6.3 Engagement Committee		<p>The Engagement Committee has been working on the Welcome Package, which has been delayed primarily because the University has still not provided the updated information as per the Information Sharing Agreement.</p> <p>The committee has been discussing changing the nature of the welcome package to a video that is sent out to new members electronically as an environmentally friendly solution.</p>
	6.4 Finance Committee		
	6.5 Strategic Planning Committee		
	6.6 Other Committees		<p>Russell Rupok noted from the faculty meeting he attended that AU is giving undergraduate and graduate learners the option for a flexible grading option for any one course per academic year. The learner must have passed the course with a grade of B-.</p> <p>Russell Rupok noted that there is a new course in the MSI program. It's a 600-level elective course coming into effect in January 2022.</p>
7.0	Upcoming Events		<p>A session of Holiday Trivia will take place sometime in December. A notice will go out in the newsletter with the exact date.</p> <p>Election's planning begins next month. Meaghan Sullivan encouraged Council members to please</p>

			keep this in mind for anyone who would like to represent the Elections Committee, which will be formally appointed at the December Council meeting.
8.0	New Business		
	8.1 Faculty of Health Dicipline Representative Vacancies		<p>Ruby Tano and Charlie Salter have both submitted applications for a seat on Council as Faculty of Health Diciplines Representatives.</p> <p>Motion 8.1: To appoint Ruby Tano and Charlie Salter to the vacant positions of Faculty of Health Disciplines Represenative seats.</p> <p>Moved: Julia Cornester Seconded: Kayleigh Dodge Carried without opposition.</p>
	8.2 Mental Health Committee		<p>Sabrina Martin put her name forward for the Mental Health Committee as well as noted that if any of the new representatives are willing or wanting to sit on the Faculty of Health Disciplines Council at Athabasca University that she is open to switching committee positions.</p> <p>Heather McGilvary also noted she would be open to any gaps in representation that need to be filled.</p>
9.0	Old Business		
10.0	Other Business		
	10.1 Faculty of Science Orientation Session		<p>Russell Rupok and Ajibade Shodunke discussed the Faculty of Science orientation. Russell noted the presentation was perfect but would expect some notes in the PowerPoint. Russell and Ajibade had about 20 minutes to present but the presentation took about 12 minutes and there were no questions.</p>
	10.2 Promotional Materials		<p>Motion 10.2: to approve the promotional quote from MORAD of approximately \$5100.</p> <p>Moved: Margaret Clappison Seconded: Sarah James Motion approved without opposition.</p>

11.0	Adjournment		Motion 11.0: To adjourn the meeting at 6:41 pm. Moved: Chris Edwards Seconded: Russell Rupok Carried without opposition.
12.0	In-camera		Motion 12.0: To move in-camera at 6:42 pm. Moved: Margaret Clappison Seconded: Kayleigh Dodge Carried without opposition. Motion 12.1: To move out-of-camera at 6:48 pm. Moved: Kelli Buckreus Seconded: Julia Cornester Carried without opposition.

Julia Cornester, President

Meaghan Sullivan, Executive Director

Date of Approval