

Council Meeting – December 19, 2023 – 6:00pm MST
Microsoft Teams

Present:

Russell Rupok	Chair	Voting Member
Brittany Hollett	Vice-Chair	Voting Member
Kyra Johnston	Council Member	Voting Member
Rayees Kahan	Council Member	Voting Member
Jason Kauenhofen	Council Member	Voting Member
Lindsay McNena	Council Member	Voting Member
Skyler Todd	Council Member	Voting Member
Kelly DeCoste	Council Member	Voting Member
Deborah Exelby	Council Member	Voting Member
Meaghan Sullivan	Executive Director	Non-Voting

Regrets:

Agenda Item

1.0 Call to Order:

R. Rupok called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2.0 Acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territories:

R. Rupok gave the Acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territories.

3.0 Conflict of Interest Check:

R. Rupok inquired if any Council Members had any real or perceived conflict of interest. No conflicts were declared.

4.0 Approval of the Agenda:

Motion:

To approve the agenda as presented.

**J. Kauenhofen/R. Rupok
8-0-0
Motion Carries**

The motion was approved by general consent.

5.0 Adotion of Previous Minutes:

5.1 Regular Minutes of the Council from November 21, 2023.

Motion:

To approve the minutes as circulated.

K. DeCoste/L. McNena



**8-0-0
Motion Carries**

The motion was approved by general consent.

6.0 Required Approvals:

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

7.0 Items for Discussion:

7.1 Ends

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

7.2 Executive Limitations

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

7.3 Governance Process

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

7.4 Board-Executive Director Relationship

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

8.0 Ownership Linkage:

8.1 Council Member Reports

No further discussion on monthly reports.

J. Kauenhofen discussed abGPAC, the provincial advocacy group for graduate students, and expressed concern regarding a lack of progress representing graduate students. There is an abGPAC meeting scheduled in January, at which point they plan to discuss withdrawing contributions of effort. The cost benefit of abGPAC membership this year has proven not valuable. J. Kauenhofen informed the group he will provide an update in three weeks. J. Kauenhofen explained to the group the consideration of withdrawing from abGPAC is a part of the current discussions.

B. Hollett explained a student reached out for support from the MN program regarding the clinical placement process. The group discussed how they could advocate for students regarding clinical/practicum placements and the existing supports in place at the University. L. McNena explained the process for clinical placements and agreed it can be tough to find a practicum, but the process is known and must be followed. S. Todd agreed with L. McNena's feedback. Overall the group is looking for ideas around any areas of improvement to share with the Faculty of Health Disciplines as a broader advocacy discussion on behalf of graduate students to improve the graduate student experience regarding clinical placements. The annual membership satisfaction survey had feedback from several students on the difficulties experienced in the clinical placement process. M. Sullivan will send B. Hollett the specific student feedback related to this topic.



R. Rupok gave an update on the collective bargaining process stating that the University proposed the minimum wage increase requirement that was set by the provincial government. R. Rupok plans to meet with Council on Friday to discuss potential next steps. AUGSA requested the University move towards a payment solution that is closer to \$30 per hour for students, which could be a wage and stipend model similar to other Comprehensive Academic Research Universities (CARU) in Alberta. The University responded with an approximately 55 cent raise to ~\$19.00 an hour.

8.2 Update on CASA Exploration

L. McNena drafted a letter requesting observer status, which will be ready to present at the January meeting. If the Council approves, then there is time to submit it prior to potential attendance at the CASA Foundations Conference in May. J. Kauenhofen inquired if there would be risk associated to the timeline for AUGSA. L. McNena noted it shouldn't be a concern and the schedule is standardized to CASAs normal conference schedule, whereby they plan for students from across Canada to be onboarding at this time who may have little to no background or experience in student advocacy. D. Exelby inquired on how many attendees would go and where does it take place. L. McNena explained CASA Foundations is in Ottawa and AUGSA could send two or three representatives, with a fee for each representative being sent.

9.0 Monitoring Executive Director Performance:

9.1 Monitoring Report

M. Sullivan shared the Monitoring Report 1.12 – Elections. M. Sullivan explained that we are not in compliance with the report merely due to the governance changeover and this is in respect to how we appoint members to the Elections & Referenda Committee. We are still in compliance with standards as set forth for a safe and fair elections. Minor updates to the Elections and Referenda operations policy will be made in the new year prior to elections commencing to address the policy conflict regarding the approval of the Elections and Referenda Committee members.

M. Sullivan also explained that the work that was underway with Salopek & Associates has been completed on the Organizational Culture and the Treatment of Staff Monitoring Reports in respect to policy developments. The new HR policies are in place and located on the website.

10.0 Self-Evaluation & Governance Process

K. DeCoste explained she has observed at the past two Council meetings that the Council is operating in a semi-siloed fashion. Upon reviewing A. Bergens feedback, K. DeCoste explained the importance of working towards improving communication and student representation efforts that is inclusive of the entire Council. In respect to working towards achieving the intentions of Board Holism, she noted the need to ensure when we represent students we should be making sure we are representing the full student voice and not our individual perspectives when representing graduate students at meetings and events. K. DeCoste explained it would be a great opportunity to meet with A. Bergen for a governance advisor check-in focused on discussing the benefits of the policy governance model, which would serve as a brief reminder as well as provide opportunity to discuss feedback and opportunities for improvement. M. Sullivan



explained that if the Council wants to schedule a check-in, the Council would be wise to send questions in advance to A. Bergen to maximize the time with him, allowing him to be prepared to discuss policy governance in a way that addresses any challenges the Council may be struggling with. The Council agreed to have something scheduled for January.

11.0 Information Requested by the Board

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

12.0 In-Camera Session

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

13.0 Questions/Adjournment

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting.

J. Kauenhofen/L. McNena

8-0-0

Motion Carries

The meeting was adjourned by general consent.

