

Council Meeting #2 – Onboarding Session – April 23, 2024 – 6:00pm MST

Microsoft Teams

Present:

Sunny Bhasin	Council Member	Voting Member
Brittany Hollett	Council Member	Voting Member
Sarrah Ahmed	Council Member	Voting Member
Pamela Ferguson	Council Member	Voting Member
David Roy	Council Member	Voting Member
Kenechukwu Onwundinjo	Council Member	Voting Member
Gagan Jgajj	Council Member	Voting Member
Paul Ackah	Council Member	Voting Member
Meaghan Sullivan	Executive Director	Staff Member
Chris Fukushima	Chief Returning Officer	Staff Member

Regrets:

Agenda Item

1.0 Call to Order:
M. Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2.0 Acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territories:

3.0 Conflict of Interest Check:

4.0 Approval of the Agenda:

Motion:
To approve the agenda as presented.

**B. Hollett/P. Ackah
8-0-0
Motion Carries**

The motion was approved by general consent.

5.0 Round Table Introductions:

6.0 Welcome to AUGSA Council:
M. Sullivan welcomed the 2024-2025 Council to AUGSA.

7.0 Welcome to the AU Community:



Dr. Alex Clark, President of Athabasca University (AU) joined the meeting to provide the Council Members a welcome to the AU community.

8.0 Council Member Responsibility Overview:

M. Sullivan provided a presentation on the role of Council, and the responsibilities of Council Members with a focus on two primary areas of focus: student representation and governance. The presentation included an overview on the history of AUGSA, including the transition to a governance model on May 1st, 2023 called Policy Governance, also known as the “Carver model”. The overarching focus is that Council will govern with an emphasis on outward vision committed to obtaining membership input, encouraging a diversity of viewpoints, and being proactive and future focused.

Accompanying the overview included the following objectives for the first 3-months of the Council’s term to get them ‘up and running’:

Student Representation

- Selection and assignment of portfolios and attending representation meetings;
- Review of current advocacy priorities of the membership;
- Addressing the concerns regarding the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (abGPAC) and determining next steps;
- Attendance at the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) conference in Ottawa (May 13 – 17); and
- Attendance at the Athabasca University Convocation (June 18 – 19).

Governance

- Complete the online 9-module governance training provided by The Governance Coach, which includes the following coaching session checkpoints with AUGSA’s Coach, Andrew Bergen: May 7, May 21, June 4;
- Conduct monthly Council meetings including submission of progress reports;
- Revisions to bylaws required prior to the Annual General Meeting (reviews completed by June 18 Council Meeting); and
- Schedule the Annual General Meeting for July 16th. The audit and any bylaw changes are approved at this meeting. 21 days notice is required of the meeting, and 14 days notice to send out meeting materials.

9.0 Bylaws and Council Policy Manual Review

M. Sullivan provided an overview of the bylaws and council policy manual.

10.0 Introduction to abGPAC and CASA

M. Sullivan provided an overview of the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (abGPAC) and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA).

11.0 Appointment of AUGSA Chair and Vice-Chair



C. Fukushima conducted the election of Chair and Vice Chair to AUGSA Council. The position of Chair was acclaimed. The position of Vice-Chair had two candidates: Kenechukwu Onwudinjo. A vote was cast by secret ballot, concluding a 5-4 vote count in favour of Brittany Hollett.

11.1 Appointment of the Chair

Motion:

To approve the appointment of Sunny Bhasin as Chair, AUGSA Council.

P. Ackah/P. Ferguson
8-0-0
Motion Carries

The motion was approved by general consent.

11.2 Appointment of the Vice-Chair

Motion:

To approve the appointment of Brittany Hollett as Vice-Chair, AUGSA Council.

P. Ackah/P. Ferguson
8-0-0
Motion Carries

The motion was approved by general consent.

12.0 Assignment of Council Member Portfolios

Sunny Bhasin

- Chair, AUGSA Council
- Athabasca University Board of Governors
- Faculty Council – Faculty of Business (FB)
- Provincial Advocacy – Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (abGPAC)
- Meetings with Executives, Deans, and Consultations

Brittany Hollett

- Vice Chair, AUGSA Council
- General Faculty Council (GFC) and all GFC sub-committees
- Meetings with Executives, Deans, and Consultations

Sarrah Ahmed

- Faculty Council – Faculty of Health Disciplines (FHD)



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- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee
 - Student Mental Health Committee
 - Course Evaluation & Withdrawal Committee
 - Meetings with Executives, Deans, and Consultations

Pamela Ferguson

- Federal Advocacy - Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)
- Faculty Council – Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS)
- Meetings with Executives, Deans, and Consultations

David Roy

- Faculty Council – Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences (FHSS)
- Faculty of Graduate Studies – Awards Review Committee
- AU Research Planning Committee
- FHSS Strategic Planning Committee
- Meetings with Executives, Deans, and Consultations

Kenechukwu Onwudinjo

- Provincial Advocacy – Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (abGPAC)
- Faculty Council – Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS)
- Meetings with Executives, Deans, and Consultations

Gagan Jhajj

- Faculty Council – Faculty of Science & Technology (FST)
- Graduate Student Research Fund (GSRF) Committee
- Integrated Learning Environment (ILE) Steering Committee
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Working Group
- FST Graduate Program Council
- Meetings with Executives, Deans, and Consultations

Paul

- Federal Advocacy - Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)
- AU Awards Management System – Steering Committee
- Meetings with Executives, Deans, and Consultations

Motion:

To approve the student representation portfolio assignments as presented.

P. Ackah/P. Ferguson
8-0-0



Motion Carries

The motion was approved by general consent.

12.0 Review of Advocacy Priorities

The Council reviewed the 2023 Annual Membership Survey Results report.

13.0 Questions/Adjournment

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 9:05 MT.

S. Bhasin/D. Roy
8-0-0
Motion Carries

The meeting was adjourned by general consent.

