

Council Meeting – May 7, 2024 – 6:00pm MST
Microsoft Teams

Present:

Sunny Bhasin	Chair	Voting Member
David Roy	Council Member	Voting Member
Gagan Jgajj	Council Member	Voting Member
Kenechukwu Onwundinjo	Council Member	Voting Member
Pamela Ferguson	Council Member	Voting Member
Paul Ackah	Council Member	Voting Member
Sarrah Ahmed	Council Member	Voting Member
Meaghan Sullivan	Executive Director	Staff Member
Kelly DeCoste	Manager	Staff Member

Regrets: Brittany Hollett (Vice-Chair)

Agenda Item

1.0 Call to Order:

S. Bhasin called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2.0 Acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territories:

S. Bhasin gave the Acknowledgement of Traditional Indigenous Territories.

3.0 Conflict of Interest Check:

S. Bhasin 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.

**D. Roy/P. Ackah
7-0-0
Motion Carries**

The motion was approved by general consent.

5.0 Adoption of Previous Minutes:

5.1 Regular Minutes of the Council from April 23, 2024.

Motion:

To approve the minutes as circulated.

**S. Ahmed/D. Roy
7-0-0**



Motion Carries

The motion was approved by general consent.

5.2 Minutes of the Council Onboarding from April 23, 2024.

Motion:

To approve the minutes as circulated.

K. Onwudinjo/D. Roy
7-0-0
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:

S. Bhasin requested that M. Sullivan provide Council with an overview regarding the flow of the agenda. M. Sullivan explained to Council that the agenda aligns with the Policy Governance Model and that they will become more familiar with this model and its required processes during their Onboarding Governance Training this month.

7.1 Ends

M. Sullivan explained the Ends as the three overarching objectives for AUGSA. These include:

- 4.01. Support Services
- 4.02. Student Representation
- 4.03. Avenue to Further Graduate Students

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

7.2 Executive Limitations

M. Sullivan explained that the Executive Limitations policies provided in the Council Policy Manual outline the boundaries and ethics for the Executive Director, ensuring that they uphold the expectations of Council on behalf of membership and stakeholders.

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

7.3 Governance Process

M. Sullivan explained that the Governance Process and the Board-Executive Director Delegation policy align with Councils accountability to the membership and how they are represented.

7.4 Board-Executive Director Delegation

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

8.0 Ownership Linkage:



M. Sullivan mentioned that Council contributions to the monthly AUGSA newsletter would be a way to increase Ownership Linkage.

8.1 Council Member Reports

No formal reports were submitted for this meeting.

M. Sullivan explained the process for the submission of Council Member Reports. Reports are submitted a minimum of one week in advance of Council meetings to K. DeCoste at administration@augsa.com.

The Council begins the 9-module online Governance Training in May, beginning with the Introductory session this evening with the Governance Coach, Andrew Bergen. S. Bhasin explained that he intends to begin drafting the Council's annual workplan once Council completes Governance Training in May. The draft will be shared with Council for further contributions and the goal is to approve the workplan during the month of June.

P. Ferguson inquired on the student representation committees that were removed from Council Member portfolios. M. Sullivan explained that the committees within the University no longer exist and therefore, they were removed from the portfolios; however, the individuals affected still have an appropriate workload.

8.2 Update on CASA Exploration

P. Ackah gave an update on the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), noting that AUGSA has joined under observer status. P. Ackah and M. Sullivan coordinated an introduction meeting with the CASA Executive Director, Wasiimah Joomun, on May 1st and discussed preparation details for the Foundations Conference.

P. Ackah attended a follow-up meeting on May 6th for the Foundations Conference that included CASA membership from all across Canada. The Foundations Conference will run from May 12-18th, 2024 and will be attended by P. Ackah and P. Ferguson. Accommodations and flights are booked for the event to ensure that AUGSA has a voice at the federal level.

P. Ferguson and P. Ackah have both joined BaseCamp and Slack, the two primary tools used by CASA for productivity on federal advocacy objectives. There is a sense of excitement on these platforms coming from the networking of students from across Canada.

The CASA Conference scheduled for the year has been provided to AUGSA and is as follows:

- Foundations: May 13th - 17th (Ottawa, Ontario)
- Policy & Strategy: July 15th – 19th in (Scarborough, Ontario)
- Advocacy Week: November 25th – 29th in (Ottawa, Ontario)
- Annual General Meeting: April 2nd – 4th in (Winnipeg, Manitoba)



8.3 Update on abGPAC Exploration

On behalf of the students, the University of Alberta Executive Director, Lewie Moodley has been tasked with hiring legal council to facilitate re-activating the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (abGPAC) in accordance with the Societies Act to properly wind the association down to dissolve it. This direction was provided by the former abGPAC board. The abGPAC Executive Director resigned effective April 30th, 2024. It is understood that abGPAC has been dissolved as an association through legal means; however, M. Sullivan plans to meet with the other associations Executive Directors to confirm this status in order to follow up on the operational components, such as the distribution of membership funds back to AUGSA upon the closure of abGPACs bank account.

S. Bhasin, and K. Onwudinjo plan to meet later in May to begin strategic planning sessions on how to proceed with AUGSAs provincial advocacy given that abGPAC is no longer a viable lobby group to represent the graduate student voice at the provincial level.

9.0 Monitoring Executive Director Performance

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

10.0 Self-Evaluation & Governance Process

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

11.0 Information Requested by the Board

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

12.0 Questions/Adjournment

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM MT.

P. Ferguson/P. Ackah
7-0-0
Motion Carries

The meeting was adjourned by general consent.

