

**Council Meeting** – July 16, 2024 – 6:00pm MST  
Microsoft Teams

**Present:**

Sunny Bhasin	Chair	Voting Member
Brittany Hollett	Vice-Chair	Voting Member
David Roy	Council Member	Voting Member
Gagan Jgajj	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

- S.Bhasin left meeting at 7:00 pm.
- G.Jgajj left meeting at 7:20 pm.

**Regrets:** Kenechukwu Onwundinjo

**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.

**S. Ahmed/ D. Roy**  
**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 May 7, 2024**



**Motion:**

To approve the minutes as circulated.

**B. Hollett/ D. Roy**  
**7-0-0**  
**Motion Carries**

*The motion was approved by general consent.*

**5.2 Minutes of the AGM from June 18, 2024.**

**Motion:**

To approve the minutes as circulated.

**B. Hollett/ P. Ferguson**  
**7-0-0**  
**Motion Carries**

*The motion was approved by general consent.*

**6.0 Required Approvals:**

**Labour Relations Representative**

M. Sullivan provided an overview of the operational requirements and policy work requiring completion prior to onboarding a Labor Relations Representative and creating a Labor Relations Committee. It was also explained that this is an elected position which will be added to the elections process. M. Sullivan explained that completing the operational tasks would align closely with the 2025-2026 AUGSA elections and asked whether Council would prefer an election for the Labor Relations Representative at the end of the summer or within the usual election timeline. M. Sullivan noted that Council could reach out to R. Rupok for assistance navigating some of the required collective bargaining items on an interim basis until the election can occur.

Council had a discussion on the pros and cons of waiting until the 2025-2026 AUGSA election to elect a Labor Relations Representative. P. Ferguson clarified that an interim appointed Labor Relations Representative would be a compensated position. S. Bhasin asked whether this was a previously budgeted expense. M. Sullivan explained that it is not, and adjustments could be made in the budget to factor in this additional cost. P. Ferguson asked if this would be paid for with union dues. M. Sullivan explained that this will be the case in the future, once union dues are being collected.

**Motion:**

To have the first Labour Relations Representative election take place as part of the 2024-2025 AUGSA elections.

**S. Bhasin/ P. Ackah**  
**7-0-0**  
**Motion Carries**

*The motion was approved by general consent.*



## **7.0 Items for Discussion:**

### **7.1 Ends**

S. Bhasin asked Council if there were any priorities they would like to discuss today. D. Roy discussed the need for more research opportunities, including research assistantships. P. Ferguson discussed this as a federal advocacy priority and wants to see more transparent and equitable hiring processes and accountability. Council agreed that this was an area where additional advocacy would be beneficial and additional advocacy priorities would be discussed moving forward.

### **7.2 Executive Limitations**

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

### **7.3 Governance Process**

B. Hollett brought forth concerns with using the Policy Governance Model as the governance model for AUGSA Council. Concerns included inefficiencies in the policy governance processes and the financial cost related to onboarding and monthly coaching. B. Hollett felt that Council should discuss the possibility of moving back to the former governance model.

M. Sullivan noted that AUGSA has been under the Policy Governance system for a little more than a year and feels it is not working well for AUGSA and not sustainable from a staff perspective. M. Sullivan provided an overview of the previous governance model at AUGSA and some of the challenges being presented operationally under the Policy Governance model. M. Sullivan shared that under Policy Governance, annual onboarding costs are approximately \$3000-\$4000 in addition to the annual monthly coaching fee of \$8000.

P. Ferguson shared that Council members with advocacy portfolios under Policy Governance are spending more than the allotted hourly commitment. M. Sullivan confirmed that this is representative of the previous VP External role.

#### **Motion:**

To discontinue the Governance Coaching contract.

**P. Ferguson/ B. Hollett**  
**6-1-0**  
**Motion Carries**

*The motion was approved by general consent.*



M. Sullivan shared that all Council travel needs to be approved by Council as per the Travel Policy, and recommended approving all planned CASA travel for the term at this time to allow for better planning financially.

**Motion:**

To approve CASA travel for the November and April CASA Conference, for up to two AUGSA council members.

**B. Hollett/ D. Roy**  
**7-0-0**  
**Motion Carries**

*The motion was approved by general consent.*

S. Bhasin left the meeting.

**7.4 Board-Executive Director Delegation**

No business was conducted in the current meeting.

**8.0 Ownership Linkage:**

**8.1 Council Member Monthly Reports**

P. Ferguson stated that she will use the monthly reports to gather information for the AUGSA Newsletter. P. Ferguson requested that Council members send a brief summary of work over the last month to help compile the AUGSA Newsletter monthly update.

**9.0 Monitoring Executive Director Performance**

**9.1 Executive Director Report  
Financial Statements and Health & Dental Plan**

M. Sullivan provided an overview of the financial statements and indicated the current budget is in a deficit, which is normal at this time of year; however, it is larger than usual. This is due to unbudgeted CASA travel, which has been generally accepted as being the case this year given involvement with CASA was determined after the 2024 budget was developed. We have also had unexpected expenditures over the past month or so. Staff will work towards balancing the statements for year end.

M. Sullivan asked if there were any questions regarding the e-mail circulated in relation to the Health and Dental plan cancellation. M. Sullivan noted that after the 9-month trial for the plan, the insurance provider has been operating at a loss totalling approximately \$40,000 and that a minimum number of graduate students were enrolled in the Health and Dental plan. A communication will go out to those students from StudentVIP with the cancellation notice as well as an option to switch to another plan.

**10.0 Self-Evaluation & Governance Process**



M. Sullivan stated that cancellation of the Governance Coaching contract was a fiscally responsible decision but noted that the decision to revert to the traditional governance model requires approval at a Special General Meeting prior to December in order to run the 2025 elections. A motion today from Council is requested before staff dedicate time to drafting the bylaws and policies for Council and the SGM.

B. Hollett asked if Council would like to make a motion to discontinue Policy Governance and M. Sullivan begin drafting the proposed bylaws for Council, with the understanding that the switch to the traditional governance model must be approved by membership.

**Motion:**

To discontinue Policy Governance for the 2025-2026 academic year and revert to the traditional governance model.

**P. Ferguson/ P. Ackah**  
**5-0-0**  
**Motion Carries**

*The motion was approved by general consent.*

**11.0 Information Requested by the Board**

M. Sullivan noted that the AU/AUGSA meeting schedule was provided to AUGSA Council and the University will send out meeting invites. M. Sullivan noted that Council can use these as opportunities for advocacy within the University, and the expectation is that Council brings their related advocacy priorities to these meetings. Council can plan before meetings to decide on who attends, and who will address each topic.

**12.0 In-Camera Session**

**13.0 Questions/Adjournment.**

**Motion:**

To adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm.

**P. Ackah/ P. Ferguson**  
**5-0-0**  
**Motion Carries**

*The meeting was adjourned by general consent.*

