

AUGSA Council Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2025 – 6:00 pm MST

Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Faculty of Business Representatives: Brittany Hollett, Yi Wang

Faculty of Health Disciplines Representatives: Pamela Ferguson, Sarrah Ahmed

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative: Dave Roy, Emily Grady

Faculty of Science and Technology: Gagan Jhajj, Paul Ackah

Staff: Meaghan Sullivan (Executive Director), Kelly DeCoste (Manager, Governance & Administration)

General Members: Judy Parnell

		PRESENTER	ACTION
1.0	Call to Order	D. Roy	The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm MT.
2.0	Welcome Observers	D. Roy	Welcome general member J. Parnell to the Council Meeting.
3.0	Approval of Agenda	D. Roy	Motion 2.0: to approve the agenda as presented. Moved: E. Grady Seconded: P. Ferguson Motion carried without opposition.
4.0	Approval of Previous Minutes	D. Roy	Motion 3.0: to approve the minutes of January 21, 2025, as presented. Moved: Y. Wang Seconded: P. Ackah Motion carried without opposition.
5.0	Reports and Presentations	Council	Reports were presented as distributed. All Council members provided an opportunity for questions and clarifications of reports. E. Grady inquired about the limited activity within the EDI and Mental Health Committees. S. Ahmed will follow up with AU. There have been



			<p>changes in the approach to EDI within post-secondary systems. This is a priority for graduate students at AU and will be monitored.</p> <p>P. Ferguson stated that her and S. Ahmed are coordinating more meetings with the Dean of the FHD and will review program changes within the Master of Counselling program.</p> <p>P. Ferguson provided an overview of progress on the Budget Cuts Campaign.</p> <p>E. Grady and M. Sullivan noted that the dates of the GSRC may be changing. More information to follow meetings with AU.</p>
6.0	Financial Reports	M. Sullivan	<p>Financial reports presented as distributed. P. Ackah had questions regarding investments which were answered by M. Sullivan. Investment decisions will be an important objective for the incoming Finance Committee.</p>
7.0	Committee Updates	M. Sullivan	<p>No committee updates presented at this meeting.</p>
8.0	Convocation Planning Discussion	D.Roy	<p>Convocation will occur in June at the multiplex in Athabasca; 400 students and their families are expected over the two days. AUGSAs contribution to convocation and the presence of AUGSA Student Leaders at convocation were discussed.</p> <p>B. Hollett discussed the potential to sponsor the use of Prompty, an app developed by a graduating AU student as part of AUGSAs contribution to convocation. Council agreed that this in-person social networking app was a great opportunity, and it was noted to be a more</p>



			<p>affordable option in comparison to other ideas. The use of Prompty will be discussed with University Relations at AU before a final decision can be made.</p> <p>Motion 8.0: To consult AU with a proposal to sponsor the use of Prompty for in-person attendees at the June 2025 Convocation. Moved: B. Hollett Seconded: D. Roy Motion carried without opposition.</p> <p>P. Ferguson will look for an artwork contribution for the Convocation boxes. This will be presented to M. Sullivan by the end of February. AUSU will be contacted, as this has typically been a collaborative initiative.</p>
9.0	Council Transition Planning (Strategic Planning)	D. Roy	<p>D. Roy and M. Sullivan have initiated the planning for Council onboarding. A draft has been completed and will be circulated for council input. D. Roy will circulate a survey to collect information from each council member on what they view as important priorities for the upcoming academic year.</p> <p>M. Sullivan also reminded Council that she sent a survey regarding transition planning and reminded Council members to complete.</p>
10.0	IEE Foundation Scholarships	P. Ackah	<p>P. Ackah provided an overview of the IEE Foundation Scholarships and his meeting with M. Sullivan and H. Purchase.</p>
11.0	Provincial Advocacy Update	P. Ferguson	<p>P. Ferguson reiterated the unique priorities of graduate students at AU and the impact of budget cuts on online education. These cuts are</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joint Media Release - -abGPAC update 		<p>being felt heavily in Alberta and across the country.</p> <p>M. Sullivan provided an update on abGPAC. The plan is to revive, and then properly dissolve the association.</p>
12.0	<p>Upcoming Events</p> <p>Elections</p> <p>-Executive Transition</p> <p>- FGS Open Forum</p>	M. Sullivan/ Council	<p>M. Sullivan shared that elections and voting are underway. It was noted that all students can vote for AUGSA Executive, regardless of their faculty and that all elections questions must go to the CRO.</p> <p>Planning is underway for the FGS Open Forum.</p>
13.0	Old Business	Council	No old business discussed at this meeting.
14.0	New Business	Council	No new business discussed at this meeting.
15.0	Other Business	Council	The GSRC Coordinator has been hired and will begin on February 24 th , 2025.
16.0	Adjournment	Council	<p>Motion 16.0: to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 pm.</p> <p>Moved: P. Ferguson</p> <p>Seconded: B. Hollett</p> <p>Motion carried without opposition.</p>

Dave Roy, Chair

Meaghan Sullivan, Executive Director

Date of Approval

