

AUGSA Council Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2025 – 6:00 pm MST

Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Faculty of Business Representatives: Brittany Hollett, Yi Wang

Faculty of Health Disciplines Representatives: Sarrah Ahmed

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

Faculty of Science and Technology: Gagan Jhajj, Paul Ackah

Staff: Kelly DeCoste (Manager, Governance & Administration)

General Members: Judy Parnell

Regrets: Meaghan Sullivan (Executive Director), Pamela Ferguson

		PRESENTER	ACTION
1.0	Call to Order	D. Roy	The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm MT. D. Roy provided a land acknowledgement.
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: S. Ahmed Motion carried without opposition.
4.0	Approval of Previous Minutes	D. Roy	Motion 3.0: to approve the minutes of February 18, 2025, as presented. Moved: P. Ackah Seconded: S. Ahmed Motion carried without opposition.
5.0	Reports and Presentations	Council	Reports were presented as distributed.
6.0	Financial Reports & Audited Financial Statements	M. Sullivan	This item has been deferred to the April 15 Council meeting.
7.0	Approval of Election Results	K. DeCoste	



			<p>AUGSA Elections for the 2025-2026 period have concluded. AUGSA Executive, AUGSA Council, and AUGSA Graduate Labor Union positions have been voted on and filled in accordance with AUGSA bylaws. The results are as follows:</p> <p>President Dave Roy</p> <p>Vice-President Academic Kia Buchanan</p> <p>Vice-President External Judy Parnell</p> <p>Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Emily Grady Hyeyung Park</p> <p>Faculty of Health Disciplines Erica Wong Aliya Karmali</p> <p>Faculty of Business Dennis Delgado Pawel Zygmunt</p> <p>Faculty of Science and Technology Paul Ackah Gagan Jhajj</p> <p>Graduate Labor Union Gelareh Keshavarz- Chair, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences David Newman-Faculty of Business Gagan Jhajj- Faculty of Science and Technology</p>
--	--	--	---



			Motion 7.0: to approve the election results as presented. Moved: P. Ackah Seconded: B. Hollett Motion carried without opposition.
8.0	Council Transition/Handover Document	D. Roy	D. Roy reminded Council that an e-mail was sent out seeking feedback on priority items for Council transition. K. DeCoste shared that the goal for Council is to prepare a 1–2-page high level overview on the status of advocacy priorities over the last year and goals for the incoming Council to consider. M. Sullivan and D. Roy are working on the full transition documents.
9.0	Canadian Alliance of Student Associations	D. Roy	D. Roy read the CASA Write-Up. Council to follow up with P. Ferguson for any additional questions. Motion 9.0: to approve the CASA Write-Up as presented. Moved: Y. Wang Seconded: P. Ackah Motion carried without opposition.
10.0	University Advocacy Initiative – Next Steps	J. Parnell	J. Parnell shared that she is working with AU, advocating for the infrastructure to support graduate students in the grant writing process, with the goal of enhanced graduate student funding. Logistical aspects are being worked on and further updates will be provided as available.
11.0	Upcoming/Recent Events	K. De-Coste/ Council	Convocation-K. DeCoste reminded Council that AUGSA has student representatives at the convocation ceremony. D. Roy and P. Ackah acknowledged interest in attending the 2025 Convocation ceremony. FGS Open Forum- this was a successful event. P. Ackah shared that it was an opportunity to



			<p>discuss challenges and strengths of the graduate student experience at AU. S. Ahmed and B. Hollett discussed the need for further learning and consistency regarding the use of AI. E. Grady spoke about the need for AU to take a clear position on EDI.</p> <p>Council discussed the distribution of a survey being conducted by Dr. Stella George on AI use by students.</p> <p>Motion 11.0: to distribute the survey being conducted by Dr. Stella George in the AUGSA newsletter.</p> <p>Moved: Y.Wang Seconded: E. Grady Motion carried without opposition.</p> <p>CASA-J. Parnell shared that she will be attending the next CASA conference. P.Ackah also shared that CASA is looking to have observers convert to full membership, and they have discussed the possibility of a hybrid conference to raise revenue and increase participation.</p>
12.0	Committee Updates	Council	<p>Governance & Finance-nothing to report. HR Committee-ED performance evaluation in progress.</p>
13.0	Old Business	Council	<p>No old business discussed at this meeting.</p>
14.0	New Business	Council	<p>E.Grady discussed the e-mail received regarding amendments to the post-secondary learning act. Council discussed potential impacts on graduate students at AU. Further follow up will occur.</p>



15.0	Other Business	Council	<p>E.Grady suggested a new format for Council reports that would increase standardization and accountability. Electronic tools for recording were discussed.</p> <p>Motion 15.0-to have E. Grady create a working group with P. Ackah and D. Roy to create a report template that will be shared with Council at the April 15, 2025 meeting.</p> <p>Moved: Y.Wang Seconded: D. Roy Motion carried without opposition.</p>
16.0	Adjournment	Council	<p>Motion 16.0: to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 pm.</p> <p>Moved: B. Hollett Seconded: P. Ackah Motion carried without opposition.</p>

Dave Roy, Chair

Meaghan Sullivan, Executive Director

Date of Approval

