

AUGSA Council Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2025 – 6:00 pm MST

Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Faculty of Business Representatives: Brittany Hollett, Yi Wang

Faculty of Health Disciplines Representatives: Sarrah Ahmed, Pamela Ferguson

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, David Newman, Pawel Zygmunt, Gelareh Keshavarz, Hyeyung Park, Dennis Delgado

Regrets:

		PRESENTER	ACTION
1.0	Call to Order	D. Roy	The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm MT. D. Roy provided a land acknowledgement.
2.0	Welcome Observers	D. Roy	Welcome general members and incoming 2025-2026 AUGSA Council and Graduate Labour Representatives to the Council Meeting.
3.0	Approval of Agenda	D. Roy	Motion 2.0: to approve the agenda as presented. Moved: Brittany Hollett Seconded: Paul Ackah Motion carried without opposition.
4.0	Approval of Previous Minutes	D. Roy	Motion 3.0: to approve the minutes of March 18, 2025, as amended. Moved: Pamela Ferguson Seconded: Emily Grady Motion carried without opposition.
5.0	Reports and Presentations	Council	Reports were presented as distributed. B. Hollett explained upcoming changes to the MBA programing including the following changes:



			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removal of in-residence as a requirement 2. Reduction in the number of credits to graduate 3. Change of program title to Executive MBA. <p>Y. Wang attended the Faculty of Business Meeting regarding the changes to the MBA program as well, in addition to a meeting on Mentorship, Near Peer. This is a project that requires future student representation needs as well.</p> <p>E. Grady noted that the FGS Open Forum panel was a large success. Thank you to fellow panelists Yi Wang, Sarrah Ahmed, and Paul Ackah for their contributions to the panel on behalf of graduate students. There was a lot of discussion surrounding AI during the forum, including a highlight on more training for professors on the usage of AI.</p> <p>S. Ahmed explained there is a current student advocacy concern being reviewed in the Faculty of Health Disciplines, which could lead to potential future meetings with the faculty.</p> <p>D. Roy shared that the onboarding for the Executive Committee will take place in Canmore, Alberta April 25-28, 2025. He hopes to maximize the time in Alberta by meeting with additional council members in the area during his time in the province.</p>
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			<p>G. Jhaji explained that he hopes to form a Website Committee during the 2025-2026 term to assess any form of support that could lead to website improvements.</p> <p>P. Ferguson described the busy nature of the VP External portfolio at this time, including a student advocacy concern from the Faculty of Health Disciplines. The VP External role included attendance and representation of AUGSA at the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) Conference in Winnipeg that took place in early April. AUGSA was able to send both the outgoing and incoming VP Externals as part of the Executive transition handover process.</p>
6.0	2024 Audited Financial Statements Presentation	M. Sullivan	<p>M. Sullivan presented the audited financial statements for the 2024 fiscal period. This included a review of the statement of financial position, statement of operations, statement of changes in net assets, and statement of cash flows.</p> <p>Motion 3.0: to approve the 2024 audited financial statements as presented to be put forth to members for approval at the 2025 AUGSA Annual General Meeting. Moved: Yi Wang Seconded: B. Hollett Motion carried without opposition.</p>
7.0	Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) 2026 AGM Announcement	P. Ferguson	<p>P. Ferguson announced that AUGSA has been selected and approved as the host of the 2026 Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) Conference. The</p>



			<p>location proposed is Montreal, Quebec. The date range is March 25-27, 2026.</p> <p>J. Parnell noted that during the 2025 Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) Annual General Meeting (AGM), student groups from Quebec had shared suggestions on the facilities, food and location already and are willing to help with local knowledge for the 2026 CASA AGM. They won't be contributing as partners but are willing to aid on guidance that is local to Quebec.</p> <p>The financial obligations is a commitment of \$5,000 - \$8,000.</p>
9.0	Undergraduate Indigenous Circle	D. Roy	<p>An undergraduate student, Molly Slater, reached out explaining that there are students currently working with Nuksahtowin, a meeting place at Athabasca University (AU) for indigenous citizens who are academics and learners at AU, to create an indigenous circle that is dedicated to graduate and undergraduate students.</p> <p>https://www.athabascau.ca/indigenous/index.html</p> <p>The student inquiry to AUGSA is first seeking to meet and see how AUGSA can support and be involved. D. Roy explained that this is something that AUGSA had been considering building independently over the past several months as an Association. D. Roy noted that this may be an opportunity to support that initiative in an inclusive way.</p> <p>D. Roy asked if anyone would like to join him for this meeting to discuss the opportunity. The following individuals expressed interest with time availability for the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. E. Grady



			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. G. Jhaji 3. J. Parnell 4. H. Park 5. P. Zygmunt 6. G. Keshavarz <p>B. Hollett expressed this is an amazing opportunity, maintaining that we are elected to represent graduate students and to ensure that we maintain focus on representing graduate students as we embark on a potential joint-venture. Following participation is important as we support this important endeavour.</p>
10.0	Upcoming/Recent Events	D. Roy	<p>Executive Transition: April 25-28, 2025</p> <p>Council Transition: May 6, 2025</p> <p>Labour Union Transition: May 7, 2025</p> <p>Convocation: M. Sullivan expressed that AUGSA needs representation at the 2025 Convocation event taking place in Athabasca, Alberta on June 5th – 6th. With an emphasis on limiting travel costs, we are first seeking individuals local to the event, then provincial, and then outside the province. The following individuals noted their availability to represent at convocation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H. Park 2. P. Ackah 3. D. Roy 4. M. Sullivan
11.0	Committee Updates	Council	No further updates at this time.



12.0	Old Business	Council	No further business at this time.
13.0	New Business	Council	<p>P. Ferguson noted that as a final mention to the incoming Council Members, the AUGSA travel policy should be reviewed with update considerations to meal allowance and mileage amounts, citing that the CRA Mileage rate is too high. This is one of the policy recommendations for the incoming Council.</p> <p>B. Hollett informed the incoming Faculty of Business representatives and Council that the Faculty is launching a new graduate program, the Master's in Management. This initiative is expected to generate additional revenue for the Association, and strategic planning will be required to accommodate this development.</p>
14.0	Other Business	Council	Thank you to all 2024-2025 AUGSA Council and Executive Committee members for their leadership and representation over the past 12 months, and for setting the incoming Council up for a successful and enjoyable upcoming year.
15.0	Adjournment	Council	<p>Motion 16.0: to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 pm.</p> <p>Moved: B. Hollett</p> <p>Seconded: P. Ackah</p> <p>Motion carried without opposition.</p>

Dave Roy, Chair

Meaghan Sullivan, Executive Director

Date of Approval
