

## AUGSA Council Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2025 – 6:00 pm MST

Microsoft Teams

### Council Attendance

**Executive Committee:** Dave Roy (President), Kia Buchanan (VP Academic), Judy Parnell (VP External)

**Faculty of Business Representatives:** Dennis Delgado (until 730 MST)

**Faculty of Health Disciplines Representatives:** Aliya Karmali (until 710 MST), Erica Wong

**Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative:** Hyeyung Park, Emily Grady (until 700 MST)

**Faculty of Science and Technology:** Gagan Jhaggi, Paul Ackah

**Graduate Labour Relations Representative:** G. Keshavarz

**Staff:** Kelly DeCoste (Manager, Graduate Labour Union)

**Regrets:** Meaghan Sullivan (Executive Director), Pawel Zygmunt

|     |                              | PRESENTER | ACTION   |
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| 1.0 | Call to Order                | President | The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm MT. D. Roy provided a land acknowledgement.   |
| 2.0 | Approval of Agenda           | President | <b>Motion 2.0: to approve the agenda as presented.</b><br>Moved: E. Grady<br>Seconded: K. Buchanan<br>Motion carried without opposition.               |
| 3.0 | Approval of Previous Minutes | President | <b>Motion 3.0: to approve the minutes of May 6, 2025 - Onboarding.</b><br>Moved: H. Park<br>Seconded: D. Delgado<br>Abstain: 1<br>Motion Carried 9-0-1 |
| 4.0 | Reports and Presentations    | Council   | Reports were presented as distributed.   |



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| 4.1 |  | President   | D. Roy shared that Executive Transition in Canmore was successful, and that there was progress made on the AUGSA Strategic Plan. D. Roy thanked M. Sullivan, guest Lindsay McNena, and incoming and outgoing AUGSA Executive and Council for their contributions to a successful transition.  |
| 4.2 |  | VP Academic | K. Buchanan echoed the positive learning experience at Executive Transition in Canmore and shared that the Strategic Plan will be reviewed within the Strategic Planning Committee. K Buchanan is Chairing the HR Committee and working with the Finance committee.   |
| 4.3 |  | VP External | <p>J. Parnell attended the CASA AGM with P. Ferguson (outgoing AUGSA council) in Winnipeg and had a positive experience, with lots of networking. It was shared that AUGSA would be hosting the CASA AGM, and that planning will begin for events associated with AUGSA's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. J. Parnell is working on the following committees: Advocacy, EDI, and Engagement and has created Action Plans for their work this year. The Annual Student Survey was discussed and there are plans to add some new questions this year. Members were asked to share any suggestion by early June.</p> <p>E. Grady shared that there is a software team looking to pose questions regarding graduate student software needs in a survey. Discussion tabled until next meeting.</p> |



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| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Financial Reports</b>            | President   | D. Roy presented the financial reports and that investments are a part of the Strategic Plan regarding AUGSA finances. P. Ackah asked for clarification regarding the expenses for Microsoft Office and for AUGSA to consider exploring opportunities for discounted air travel with airlines to support travel costs. K. Buchanan stated that the Microsoft Office fees for a quarterly rate were reasonable given the number of services offered to Council. J. Parnell echoed exploring discounted travel for airfare and hotels. |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Committee Updates</b>            |             |  |
| 6.1        | <b>Strategic Planning Committee</b> | President   | D. Roy shared that the Strategic Planning sub-committee meeting will be scheduled for the week of June 2. The Terms of Reference and Strategic Plan will be reviewed at this meeting with the goal of approving the 2025-2026 Strategic Plan at the June 17 Council Meeting. Quarterly meetings will also be scheduled.  |
| 6.2        | <b>Governance Committee</b>         | President   | D. Roy shared that the first sub-committee meeting will be scheduled the week of June 2 to review the Terms of Reference, Governance Plans, and to schedule quarterly reviews.   |
| 6.3        | <b>Finance Committee</b>            | President   | D. Roy shared that the first sub-committee meeting will be scheduled the week of June 2 to review the Terms of Reference, financial portfolio and investment plans, and to schedule quarterly reviews.   |
| 6.4        | <b>Human Resources Committee</b>    | VP Academic | K. Buchanan shared that the first sub-committee meeting will be scheduled soon to review the Terms of Reference and review the schedule of deliverables.   |
| 6.5        | <b>Engagement Committee</b>         | VP External | J. Parnell shared that the first sub-committee meeting will be scheduled for the week of June 2 to review the Terms of Reference, discuss  |



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|     |  |  | AUGSA's 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary planning, and to plan a meeting schedule.  |
| 6.6 | <b>EDI Committee</b>                       | VP External                                | <p>The first sub-committee meeting will be scheduled for the week of June 2 to review the Terms of Reference and plan the yearly meeting schedule.</p> <p>J. Parnell discussed the need to ensure representation of equity deserving groups on the EDI Committee. Stigma associated with the term "EDI" was discussed, with J. Parnell advocating for the need to make sure terms used within AUGSA are inclusive of the graduate student population. J. Parnell also discussed the importance of anti-oppressive practices and exploring partnerships with the AU Indigenous Circle. P. Ackah asked for clarification regarding AUGSA and AU EDI policies. J. Parnell discussed EDI within AUGSA as an important aspect of graduate student advocacy and the need to have this as a priority within AUGSA.</p> |
| 6.7 | <b>Graduate Labour Relations Committee</b> | Chair, Graduate Labour Relations Committee | <p>G. Keshavarz provided an update on the Graduate Labour Relations Committee. A notice to bargain has been sent to AU and dates for negotiations are pending. Feedback from graduate students indicates the need for more part-time research assistant positions, more transparency in hiring processes, and more equitable wages in line with comparable institutions.</p> <p>H. Park asked for clarification regarding tracking of employment from Academically Employed Graduate Students. K. DeCoste shared this process and the format in which this information can be shared.</p>   |



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|     |                               |             | K. DeCoste also shared that G. Jhajj and D. Roy both sit on the Graduate Labour Relations Committee and G. Keshavarz will be at monthly Council Meetings to ensure all student representatives are updated with information as negotiations and committee work progress.  |
| 6.8 | <b>Advocacy Committee</b>     | VP External | J. Parnell shared that AUGSA is hosting the 2026 CASA AGM. Advocacy in the VP External role occurs at 3 levels: institutional, provincial, federal.   |
| 7.0 | <b>Upcoming/Recent Events</b> | President   | <p>P. Ackah and H. Park will be attending convocation with M. Sullivan and D. Roy.</p> <p>P. Ackah and H. Park are interested in attending the June 10<sup>th</sup> alumni engagement and mentorship discussion with M. Sullivan.</p> <p>There was discussion regarding whether the mentorship initiatives should fall within the scope of the engagement committee. J. Parnell and P. Ackah discussed the importance of a platform where current AU students and alumni could connect and that additional follow-up on the progress of the mentorship project is required.</p> |
| 8.0 | <b>Other Business</b>         | President   | <p>P. Ackah provided background information on the IEEE initiative and the potential creation of a student branch to increase opportunities for student scholarships and grants. Further follow up required regarding whether this will occur as an initiative within or outside of AUGSA. Discussion tabled to next meeting.</p> <p>K. Buchanan spoke of the Near Peer program in the NP program and brought forth a request for AUGSA financial support in the amount of \$700 (\$200 for co-leads; \$500 for mentors). Discussion tabled to next meeting.</p>                |



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| 9.0  | New Business | President | No new business at this time.   |
| 10.0 | Old Business | President | No old business at this time.   |
| 11.0 | Adjournment  | President | <b>Motion 16.0: to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 pm.</b><br>Moved: H. Park<br>Seconded: E. Wong<br>Motion carried without opposition. |

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Dave Roy, Chair

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Meaghan Sullivan, Executive Director

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Date of Approval

