



**Collective Agreement Between:**

**THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY (THE BOARD)**

**AND**

**ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (the AUGSA)**

Made this 3rd day of December, 2025.

**Term of Agreement**

**July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2028**

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## **ARTICLE 1: TERM OF AGREEMENT**

- 1.01 This Agreement is effective from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2028 and replaces any previous agreements negotiated by the parties regarding the employment of Graduate Assistants at Athabasca University.
- 1.02 During the term of this Agreement, the Board and the AUGSA may mutually agree to waive or amend provisions of this Agreement.
- 1.03 The provisions of this Agreement will remain in effect until the parties conclude a new agreement.

## **ARTICLE 2: DEFINITIONS**

- 2.01 In this Agreement
  - a) “Agreement” means this Collective Agreement, witnessed, signed, and dated;
  - b) “Appointing Dean” means the Dean of the Faculty employing the Graduate Assistant;
  - c) “Board” shall mean The Governors of Athabasca University or a person or persons authorized or designated to act in that capacity and/or on the Board’s behalf;
  - d) “Calendar” means the official online version of Athabasca University’s Academic Calendar;
  - e) “Dispute” means any difference arising between the parties to this Agreement concerning the interpretation, application, administration, operation, or alleged violation of this Agreement;
  - f) “Eligible” means a Graduate Student in a certificate, diploma, master, or doctoral level program who is in Good Standing;
  - g) “File” means the Graduate Student’s employment file. All documents related to the Graduate Student’s employment as a Graduate Assistant will be kept separately from any files related to their academic record. Files relating to a Graduate Student’s employment will be kept in Human Resources;
  - h) “Graduate Assistant” (GA) means a graduate student who has been appointed to carry out either teaching or research duties under this Agreement;
  - i) “Graduate Assistantship” means the appointment of a graduate student as a Graduate Research Assistant or Graduate Teaching Assistant.
  - j) “Graduate Student” means any student who is enrolled in a Graduate Program at Athabasca University and is a member of the AUGSA;
  - k) “Graduate Research Assistant” (GRA) means a Graduate Assistant whose appointment is for the performance of research and related duties;
  - l) “Graduate Teaching Assistant” (GTA) means a Graduate Assistant whose appointment is for the performance of teaching and related duties;
  - m) “Offer of Appointment” means an Offer of Appointment to a Graduate Assistantship made in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. An Offer of Appointment to a Graduate Assistantship is distinct and separate from an Offer of Admission to the student’s program of study;

- n) “Relevant Faculty” means the Faculty where the Graduate Assistant is employed or offered employment;
- o) “Research Duties” means work done on a research project under the direction of a Supervisor. This may include collecting research data, interviewing research subjects, literature searches, bibliographic work, writing drafts, presentations, and/or general research services;
- p) “Supervisor” means an Athabasca University (AU) Academic Staff Member as designated by the Board who supervises and coordinates the duties performed by the Graduate Student during their appointment as a Graduate Assistant and is responsible for the assignment, monitoring, and evaluation of those duties;
- q) “Teaching Duties” means any tasks related to assistance with the instructional responsibilities of Faculties. This may include preparing and conducting lectures, laboratories, seminars or leading discussion, and/or grading assignments, reports, and examinations;
- r) Other individuals are referred to by title e.g. Provost and Vice President Academic; Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies. This includes delegation of authority to another;
- s) “Good Standing” refers to a Graduate Student who has maintained program status in the calendar year.

### **ARTICLE 3: RECOGNITION AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

- 3.01 In accordance with the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* and the *Labour Relations Code* of the Province of Alberta, the Athabasca University Graduate Students’ Association has the exclusive authority, on behalf of Graduate Students, to negotiate and enter into an agreement with The Governors of Athabasca University with respect to the academic employment of Graduate Students as Graduate Assistants.
- 3.02 The Negotiation Committee shall consist of no more than five (5) members per side (The Governors of Athabasca University and the AUGSA). The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Human Resources will participate as a resource to both sides. Additional committee members may be added by mutual agreement of both parties in writing.
- 3.03 Either party may give to the other not less than sixty (60) nor more than one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days prior to the termination of this agreement notice in writing of its intention to commence collective bargaining. Collective bargaining shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the *Alberta Labour Relations Code*.
- 3.04 A Memorandum of Settlement concluded by the negotiating teams will be submitted to the Board and Graduate Assistants for ratification.

### **ARTICLE 4: APPLICATION OF THE AGREEMENT**

- 4.01 This Agreement describes the terms and conditions that apply to the employment of Graduate Assistants by Athabasca University.
- 4.02 Upon ratification by the Board and by the AUGSA such amendments shall amend this Agreement, and such amendments shall affect all persons governed by this Agreement.

- 4.03 All matters not specifically covered by the provisions of this Agreement will be dealt with at the discretion of the Board.
- 4.04 This Agreement is binding on the Board and its representatives, the AUGSA and its representatives, and Graduate Students employed as Graduate Assistants.
- 4.05 The terms and conditions of this Agreement apply solely to the appointments of Graduate Students as a Graduate Teaching Assistant or a Graduate Research Assistant, and to no other form of graduate funding.
- 4.06 This Agreement does not restrict Graduate Assistants from holding assistantships with scholarships, provided the eligibility requirements of the scholarship do not prohibit holding an assistantship.
- 4.07 If a conflict arises between this Agreement and the requirements of a funding agency, the requirements of the funding agency will apply.

## **ARTICLE 5: ELIGIBILITY**

- 5.01 All AU Graduate Students in Good Standing are eligible to hold a Graduate Assistantship.
- 5.02 Eligibility to hold a Graduate Assistantship is not a guarantee of an Offer of Appointment.
- 5.03 To be considered for a Graduate Assistantship, Graduate Students must apply to a posted Graduate Assistantship posting.
- 5.04 These terms and conditions do not restrict Graduate Students from combining a Graduate Assistantship with graduate scholarships, fellowships, or any other awards. If a Graduate Student receives an award and an assistantship, they shall be advised to check the eligibility requirements of the award to ensure there are no restrictions on holding an assistantship.
- 5.05 International Graduate Students must be legally qualified to work in Canada to be eligible for Graduate Assistantships.

## **ARTICLE 6: JOB POSTINGS**

- 6.01 AU agrees to post all new Graduate Assistant job opportunities on the Athabasca University Faculty of Graduate Studies website, prior to hiring, for a minimum of seven (7) calendar days. The job posting would typically include:
  - a) nature of the assistantship;
  - b) posting start and close date;
  - c) position appointment start date (negotiable);
  - d) anticipated average hours of work per week;
  - e) maximum hours of work per week;
  - f) total defined hours of assistantship (if applicable);
  - g) whether the assistantship is renewable or not (if applicable);
  - h) assistantship funding information (if applicable);
- 6.02 Job Posting requirements shall be waived for renewals under Article 10.

- 6.03 The Employer will make reasonable efforts to ensure that unsuccessful interviewees are notified of the outcome of their application.

## **ARTICLE 7: OFFERS OF APPOINTMENT**

- 7.01 For each Graduate Assistant appointment or reappointment, Human Resources will complete and forward a written Offer of Appointment, along with any other related documentation required by Human Resources, to the prospective Graduate Assistant. The appointment will be conditional upon confirmation the prospective Graduate Assistant is legally qualified to work in Canada, and upon completion of the related additional documentation required by Human Resources. The Offer of Appointment will indicate the specifics of the appointment including but not limited to:
- a) The term of the appointment (including the start date of the appointment);
  - b) The rate of pay;
  - c) The duties and responsibilities of the Graduate Assistant, including whether duties will be teaching and/or research duties;
  - d) An indication of the anticipated average number of hours per week and the total maximum number of hours per week the Graduate Assistant will be expected to perform;
  - e) The name of the Graduate Assistant's Coordinator Supervisor;
  - f) A statement that a Graduate Assistant appointment is not intended to cover living expenses and the student remains responsible for paying tuition and fees related to their program of study;
  - g) A statement that income from Graduate Assistantships is in accordance with Canada Revenue Agency legislation and will be treated accordingly by Human Resources;
  - h) Notification that the student must maintain the prerequisite academic requirements.
- 7.02 Both Human Resources and the student must sign the acceptance of an Offer of Appointment. A copy of the signed Offer of Appointment will be sent to the Graduate Assistant, the Supervisor, and to Human Resources for the Graduate Assistant's employment file. If funding has been obtained through a grant, the Research Office shall be copied.
- 7.03 Human Resources, the Supervisor, and the Graduate Assistant will agree, in writing, to any subsequent changes to the Graduate Assistant's duties and responsibilities from those agreed to in the Offer of Appointment. Any changes to duties must not cause the student to work more hours than permitted under this Agreement (see Article 10).
- 7.04 Failure by the Graduate Assistant to report on the start date prescribed in the signed Offer of Appointment, without reasonable explanation and prior notice to the Employer, or failure to fulfill the agreed upon duties and responsibilities may result in the termination of the appointment without further notice.

## **ARTICLE 8: HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 8.01 Both the Board and the AUGSA recognize and accept their responsibilities to develop and maintain a safe work environment.
- 8.02 The Board is committed to ensuring that all university work locations conform to the standards set out in relevant health and safety legislation, including the Provincial Occupational Health and Safety Act(s), Regulation(s) and Code(s), and any amendments or replacement thereto.
- 8.03 Graduate Assistants shall follow all relevant occupational health and safety policies, procedures and safe work practices including any relevant University, faculty and departmental procedures. Where a Graduate Assistant becomes aware of any incident or safety concern, the Graduate Assistant shall immediately report the incident or safety concern to their Supervisor.
- 8.04 Graduate Assistants who work from their home are responsible for ensuring a safe working environment in their residence. Graduate Assistants are required to comply with all relevant occupational health and safety legislation and University policies, procedures or safe work practices.

## **ARTICLE 9: ASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES**

- 9.01 The Supervisor will complete an Assignment of Duties, including a precise description of the duties and performance expectations for the assistantship. Both the Supervisor and the Graduate Assistant must sign the Assignment of Duties. Human Resources must approve these specific duties and send a copy to the Supervisor, the Dean of the relevant Faculty and to the Graduate Assistant's employment file.
- 9.02 The Graduate Assistant position is viewed as an apprenticeship for furthering an academic or professional career. As such, Graduate Assistant functions should not include routine duties commonly associated with janitorial, secretarial, clerical, technical, or administrative work except as directly related to the Graduate Assistant's own teaching or research duties as outlined in the Assignment of Duties.
- 9.03 An individual Graduate Teaching Assistant cannot make recommendations for more than 50% of an individual student's final grade. The Board appointed faculty member has the non-delegable responsibility for assigning the final grades to all the students in a course.
- 9.04 A Graduate Assistant and the Supervisor may renegotiate the terms of the appointment to reflect any changes in the Graduate Assistant's ability to perform their assigned duties. Both parties and the Dean of the relevant Faculty must agree, in writing, to any changes. A copy will be forwarded to Human Resources and added to the Graduate Assistant's employment file.

## **ARTICLE 10: HOURS OF WORK**

- 10.01 The parties recognize that the nature of academic work may mean fluctuations in the number of hours worked in any given week, but in any case, the maximum number of hours worked per week will not exceed the maximum number of hours agreed to in the Offer of Appointment, unless agreed to by the Supervisor and the employee.
- 10.02 The total number of hours shall include all forms of service such as allowance for orientation, attendance at meetings with their Supervisor and preparation and marking.

- 10.03 Work associated with the Graduate Assistantship is to be completed within the term of the appointment.

## **ARTICLE 11: RENEWAL OF GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP**

- 11.01 Where a Graduate Student has been offered a subsequent Graduate Assistant appointment, the renewal of the assistantship is contingent upon:
- a) The Graduate Student's acceptable performance of Graduate Assistant duties to the satisfaction of the Supervisor;
  - b) The fulfillment of the appointment criteria as evidenced by the Supervisor's report; and
  - c) The Graduate Student remaining eligible for appointment to a Graduate Assistant.
- 11.02 Normally, a Graduate Student's termination from a Graduate Assistant will cause any possible renewals related to that appointment to be rescinded.

## **ARTICLE 12: DISCIPLINE**

- 12.01 A Graduate Assistant will only be disciplined for just cause. Discipline may take the form of a letter of warning, unpaid suspension, or termination of employment in accordance with the principles of progressive discipline.
- 12.02 Prior to imposing discipline, the Employer shall convene an investigation meeting with the Graduate Assistant regarding the alleged misconduct that may give rise to disciplinary action. The Graduate Assistant shall have the right to be accompanied by a representative of the AUGSA.
- 12.03 The Supervisor shall make all reasonable efforts to rectify difficulties related to performance or any failure to meet the requirements of the position.
- 12.04 Written notice of termination, with reasons outlined, will be given to the Graduate Assistant and the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies by the Faculty Dean and a copy included in the Graduate Assistant's employment file.
- 12.05 Graduate Assistant's duties may be temporarily suspended without pay pending an investigation into the allegations.
- 12.06 Discipline and/or termination of employment of a Graduate Assistant will not affect their academic standing or progress through their program.

## **ARTICLE 13: REMUNERATION**

- 13.01 Rate of pay will be negotiated between the Supervisor, Human Resources and the Graduate Assistant that is consistent with this agreement and as referenced in Schedule A.
- 13.02 Payments for Graduate Assistants will be made in arrears through the regular university payroll cycle.
- 13.03 Remuneration will be treated as income in accordance with Canada Revenue Agency legislation and is subject to deductions in accordance with Canada Revenue Agency legislation.
- 13.04 Payment in lieu of vacation is included in the remuneration. Payment in lieu of vacation will be calculated in accordance with the *Alberta Employment Standards Code*.



- 13.05 Graduate Assistants are not eligible to participate in the Athabasca University employee benefit plans, pension plans or group life insurance as part of their appointment.
- 13.06 Graduate Assistants, whose main place of work is a home office, will receive an additional \$0.50/hour to cover any and all home expenses including offices supplies. This will only be paid where such expenses are allowable to be paid within the research grants that may fund the Graduate Assistantship.

## **ARTICLE 14: LEAVES**

- 14.01 Any leave granted under this agreement will be unpaid leave.
- 14.02 It is expected that short absences (less than three weeks) and leave for illness or compassionate reasons will be handled in an ad hoc manner. Supervisors are encouraged to be considerate of the needs of Graduate Assistants.
- 14.03 The Graduate Assistant shall work with the Supervisor to make alternate arrangements for short absences (less than three weeks) to ensure that the Graduate Assistant fulfills the total hours of work agreed to in the Offer of Appointment.
- 14.04 If a Graduate Assistant requires leave due to medical reasons, the Graduate Assistant will:
- a) Notify the Supervisor and Human Resources that they require an extended leave; and
  - b) If required, provide documentation to Human Resources from a medical professional that states the Graduate Assistant is unable to perform his or her duties. A copy will be added to the student's employment file.
- 14.05 Graduate Assistants shall be granted leave for maternity reasons for a period of not more than sixteen (16) weeks maternity leave plus sixty-two (62) weeks parental leave.
- 14.06 Graduate Assistants shall be granted bereavement leaves of three business days, or up to five business days (where extended travel is required) for the loss of an immediate family member including parent, child, sibling, spouse, partner and grandparent.
- 14.07 Graduate Assistants are eligible for compassionate leave of up to twenty-seven (27) weeks without pay to provide emotional support, arrange health care, or directly provide health care to a family member dealing with a medical emergency, or who has a grave illness and significant risk of death.
- 14.08 Graduate Assistants are eligible for leave when required to act as a juror.
- 14.09 A Graduate Assistant and the Supervisor may renegotiate the terms of the appointment length of term of the appointment to reflect any changes in the Graduate Assistants' ability to perform their assigned duties due to a leave. Both parties and the Dean of the relevant Faculty must agree, in writing, to any changes. A copy will be forwarded to Human Resources and added to the Graduate Assistant's employment file.
- 14.10 In cases where an agreement cannot be reached on changes to the Graduate Assistant's appointment, the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies will make a final, binding decision.

## **ARTICLE 15: DEFERRAL**

- 15.01 Deferral is an option to maintain consideration for a Graduate Assistant role. Deferrals are used to cover periods of unavailability not covered in leave and extended leave entitlements. A Graduate Assistant may make a request to the Supervisor to postpone the assistantship. The Graduate Assistant must have the written agreement of the Dean of the relevant Faculty to defer the appointment.
- 15.02 Where the assistantship is postponed, the Graduate Assistant shall be given priority consideration for one (1) year following the deferral. The student must remain eligible for a Graduate Assistantship to be given priority consideration and priority consideration will depend on the availability of funds.

## **ARTICLE 16: GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

- 16.01 Any dispute or difference between the parties to this Agreement regarding the application, interpretation, operation, or any alleged violation of this Agreement will be dealt with progressively, and without stoppage of work or refusal to perform work except where there is an imminent danger to the health or safety of the Graduate Assistant pursuant to the Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code.
- 16.02 Notwithstanding 16.01 the grievance process outlined in this Agreement only applies to disputes arising out of the application or interpretation of this Agreement. It does not apply to disputes involving Graduate Student academic performance (including grades or examinations), academic and non-academic misconduct, or rulings of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.
- 16.03 A Graduate Assistant may request that AUGSA act as their advocate at any stage in the grievance process. Upon such a request, the AUGSA will appoint a representative to assist, accompany, or represent the Graduate Assistant as appropriate under this Agreement.
- 16.04 The AUGSA may initiate the grievance process over a general dispute regarding the application or interpretation of this Agreement on behalf of all Graduate Assistants or a group of Graduate Assistants.
- 16.05 **Step 1 – Informal Discussion**
- The Supervisor and Graduate Assistant are encouraged to resolve complaints informally. A Graduate Assistant should initiate discussion with their Supervisor within five (5) working days of the employee becoming aware of the occurrence or recurrence of the event giving rise to the issue. Any informal resolution of a complaint will be without prejudice or precedent with respect to the interpretation or application of this Agreement.
- 16.06 **Step 2 – Faculty Dean**
- a) If there is not a satisfactory resolution of the dispute after informal discussions, the Graduate Assistant may inform the Dean of the relevant Faculty of the dispute within fifteen (15) working days of the Graduate Assistant becoming aware of the occurrence or recurrence of the event giving rise to the issue. The notice to the Dean will be in writing and include details regarding the nature of the dispute, the article(s) allegedly violated or improperly applied, and the resolution sought.
  - b) The Dean will consult with the Graduate Assistant, and the Supervisor to attempt to resolve the dispute within ten (10) working days of receipt of notification of the dispute.

- c) The Dean will deliver a decision in writing to the Graduate Assistant within ten (10) working days of receipt of notification of the dispute.

**16.07 Step 3 – Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies**

- a) If there is not a satisfactory resolution of the dispute after Step 2, the Graduate Assistant shall inform the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies of the dispute within five (5) working days of the decision by the Dean of the relevant Faculty in Step 2. The notice will be in writing, describing the nature of the dispute and the proposed resolution.
- b) The Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies will obtain a written statement from the Dean of the relevant Faculty outlining the nature of the dispute and attempts made to resolve it. The Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies may request any further information from the parties involved.
- c) The Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies will issue a decision in writing within ten (10) working days of the receipt of the Graduate Assistant's notice of the dispute. The decision will be sent to the Graduate Assistant, the Dean of the relevant Faculty, and the Supervisor involved.

**16.08 Step 4 - Arbitration**

- a) If a Graduate Assistant is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies in Step 3, the Graduate Assistant may request that the AUGSA initiate a referral to an arbitrator. The AUGSA has the sole authority to determine whether to refer the dispute to an arbitrator.
- b) In submitting a request for a referral to an arbitrator, the AUGSA will state the dispute in writing; refer to the specific Article(s) allegedly violated or improperly applied, summarize the facts giving rise to the dispute and state the resolution being sought.

16.09 A request for a referral to an arbitrator must be filed with the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies within fifteen (15) working days of the decision in Step 3.

16.10 The timelines noted above may be extended by mutual agreement of both parties. Requests for extension will not be unreasonably denied.

**ARTICLE 17: ARBITRATION**

17.01 The Arbitrator must be experienced in the resolution of disputes and a person listed on "The Alberta Government Grievance Arbitration Roster Website" (<https://www.alberta.ca/grievance-arbitration.aspx>)

17.02 Both parties involved in the arbitration process shall mutually agree on the Arbitrator chosen. If the two parties cannot agree then either party may apply to the Chair of the Alberta Labour Relations Board for the appointment of the arbitrator.

17.03 At least 10 business days prior to the scheduled arbitration, the parties involved will provide all relevant documents, and names of witnesses to the arbitrator.

17.04 The arbitrator will receive and consider the written and oral submissions from both parties involved. Both parties involved have the right to have witnesses give testimony, to cross-examine such witnesses, and to present oral arguments. The arbitrator may request oral or written testimony from other parties involved in the dispute.

- 17.05 The arbitrator shall have no power to add to, subtract from, modify, or amend the provisions or terms of this agreement.
- 17.06 The arbitrator shall confine themselves to the grievance submitted for arbitration and shall have no authority to determine any other issues not so submitted.
- 17.07 The arbitrator's decision is final and binding.
- 17.08 The costs of the arbitration panel will be shared equally by AU and the AUGSA.

## **ARTICLE 18: INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

- 18.01 The intellectual contributions of a Graduate Assistant will be acknowledged in accordance with University policies and procedures regarding intellectual property.
- 18.02 Any amendments to AU's Intellectual Property Policy shall be governed in accordance with the University's Policy Framework and Procedure. Where applicable, the AUGSA will be considered a stakeholder for the purposes of any such amendments.

## **ARTICLE 19: UNION DUES**

- 19.01 The University shall, as a condition of employment, deduct each pay period the amount of the Union Dues as set by the AUGSA from the pay of all Employees.
- 19.02 The University shall remit Union Dues deducted from the pay of all Employees to the AUGSA bi-weekly.
- 19.03 Where an accounting adjustment is necessary to correct an over or under payment of dues, it shall be corrected in the succeeding bi-weekly pay period.
- 19.04 The deduction remitted shall be accompanied by particulars identifying each Employee in electronic form showing Employee name, Employee number, Employee email, classification, gross earnings, hours worked, and amount of Union Dues deducted.
- 19.05 The AUGSA shall advise the University, in writing, of any change in the amount of dues to be deducted from the Employees covered by this Agreement. Such notice shall be communicated in writing to the University at least sixty (60) days prior to the effective date of the change.

## **ARTICLE 20: INFORMATION REQUEST**

- 20.01 The University agrees that it will provide AUGSA a report, each pay period, of any new employees, their assistantship start dates, and email.
- 20.02 The University agrees that it will provide AUGSA a report, each pay period, of all employees, their job titles, their department, expected end dates, email and hourly rate.

## **SCHEDULE A**

### Compensation for Graduate Assistants

Hourly wages will be as follows:

**Effective July 1, 2024:** 3.00% increase to minimum salaries

- Graduate Assistant 2 (master/certificate/diploma): Minimum \$19.58/hour
- Graduate Assistant 1 (doctoral): Minimum \$21.70/hour

**Effective July 1, 2025:** 3.00% increase to minimum salaries

- Graduate Assistant 2 (master/certificate/diploma): Minimum \$20.17/hour
- Graduate Assistant 1 (doctoral): Minimum \$22.35/hour

**Effective July 1, 2026:** 3.00% increase to minimum salaries

- Graduate Assistant 2 (master/certificate/diploma student): Minimum \$20.78/hour
- Graduate Assistant 1 (doctoral student): Minimum \$23.02/hour

**Effective July 1, 2027:** 3.00% increase to minimum salaries

- Graduate Assistant 2 (master/certificate/diploma student): Minimum \$21.40/hour
- Graduate Assistant 1 (doctoral student): Minimum \$23.71/hour

Retroactive Pay (“Retro Pay”): Retro Pay will be paid to all current employees as of the date of ratification and will be paid out within ninety (90) days of ratification. Implementation of other changes will occur immediately upon ratification, unless otherwise stated.

Retro pay may be provided to former Employees who have voluntarily terminated their employment between the date of July 1, 2024 and the date of ratification. Former Employees will be eligible when they contact the Employer in writing within 30 days after the date of ratification.

**LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING: Graduate Assistantship Committee**

**Between**

**THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY (THE BOARD)**

**AND**

**ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (the AUGSA)**

**Re: GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP COMMITTEE**

The parties agree to the following:

1. The parties will continue the Graduate Assistantship Committee ("The Committee").
2. The Committee is tasked with identifying and recommending approaches to expanding graduate teaching and research assistantships as appropriate for AU as a Comprehensive Academic and Research University (CARU) offering graduate programs.
3. The Committee shall develop Terms of Reference to guide its scope, operations, and reporting obligations. In the event the Committee cannot reach consensus on the Terms of Reference, the Employer's position shall prevail.
4. The Committee will consist of up to four (4) members from each of the AUGSA and The Board.
5. The Committee shall meet on a bimonthly basis, at a minimum.
6. The parties shall each appoint a co-chairperson. The co-chairperson shall alternate the creation of the meeting agenda and alternate the chairing of meetings.

Signed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 2025

On behalf of the Board of Governors  
of Athabasca University

Tim Vanderpyl

On behalf of the Athabasca University  
Graduate Students' Association

Gelarah Keshavarz