

AUGSA Council Meeting Minutes

March 31, 2026 – 6:00 pm MST

Microsoft Teams

Council Attendance

Executive Committee: Gelareh Keshavarz (President) Kia Buchanan (VP Academic) Judy Parnell (VP External)

Faculty of Business Representatives: Pawel Zygmunt, Dennis Delagdo

Faculty of Health Disciplines Representatives: Erica Wong

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative: Emily Grady, Hyeyung Park

Faculty of Science and Technology: Paul Ackah

Graduate Labour Relations Representatives: David Newman

Staff: Jordan Ager (Executive Director)

General Members:

Guests: Shannon McIntosh - BakerTilley

Regrets:

		PRESENTER	ACTION
1.0	Call to Order	President	The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm MT.
2.0	Land Acknowledgement		G. Keshavarz provided a land acknowledgement to honour the Indigenous peoples on whose lands we gather.
3.0	Approval of Agenda	President	Motion 2.0: to approve the agenda as presented. Moved: K. Buchanan Seconded: E. Grady Motion carried without opposition.
4.0	Approval of Previous Minutes	President	Motion 3.0: to approve the minutes of February 17, 2026 as presented. Moved: E. Grady Seconded: K. Buchanan Motion carried.



5.0	Executive Reports	Executive Team	<p>Paul: Kia, In your report, you said something about a PhD in computing and information systems programming.</p> <p>Kia: its currently going through the approval process</p> <p>Gelareh: Paul, there is another interdisciplinary PhD that is happening. I think you're going to see that in my next report. And that is in the proposal stage. And in AUGSA newsletter we have a survey, you are welcome to go fill it out to provide feedback.</p> <p>Paul: Judy, How was the CASA AGM?</p> <p>Jorden: Paul, I think Judy was going to give a summary during the roundtable portion of the meeting, so lets chat about that then.</p>
6.0	Business Items	Executive Director	<p>Jorden Welcomed Shannon McIntosh from the Accounting Firm BakerTilley to present the 2025 Audited Financial Statements and Auditor's Report:</p> <p>Shannon Presented the 2025 Financial Statements and Auditor's report: No questions were asked during the presentation: Shannon opened up the floor for questions:</p> <p>Paul: Why is there a significant increase to salaries from 2024 to 2025?</p> <p>Jorden: If you notice the line 3 spots down, Council honorariums dropped by about half: Last year</p>



		<p>was the first year we moved back to the “Executive Committee” governance model – the Executive team are paid through payroll unlike the Representative members. On top of that there was 2 months of transition time with Meaghan and myself both being paid full salary. Next year those two lines will level out to what they should be.</p> <p>Paul: I wanted to ask about our cash (unrestricted) We need to do something about this, get it invested</p> <p>Jorden: Absolutely, I am currently working on amending the investment policy and based on this Audit report recommending restrictions to implement on these funds....its coming Paul, just some procedures we must get through. We do currently have a chunk of it invested and I think a few of are about to mature.....we will be chatting with TD bank about this.</p> <p>Motion 4.0: to approve the 2025 Audited Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report as presented Moved: K. Buchanan Seconded: P. Ackah NO DISCUSSION Motion carried.</p> <p>Motion 5.0: To Ratify the results of the 2026/2027 AUGSA Elections: <i>President: Gelareh Keshavarz</i> <i>Vice President Academic: Diana Sarkis</i> <i>Vice President External: Ashley Stasiewich</i></p>
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7.0	CASA AGM	VP External	<p>Judy: Before I forget, I wanted to give everyone the link to the AGAG, which is the Alberta Graduate Advocacy Committee or a group. And I'm just copying the URL and putting it into the chat. So we have two more meetings for this group.</p> <p>As for CASA, it went very well. I just wanted to let you know about CASA. We, Kia and I attended the CASA last week, it was my birthday too, so we celebrated that together. It was terrific. It went very, very well and even AUSU is very pleased as</p>



		<p>well to be included. So we're very happy with that.</p> <p>There are some things I will probably talk more about in regards to priorities that were established in the plenary.</p> <p>But I will talk about more in my report, just so that I have it documented also for onboarding for the new person too, so that she will have a better feel as to how we, how this e-plenary basically panned out. There were a few things that we were a little concerned because they were vague, and we needed more clarification. So we just want to make sure that she's aware of those things so that she can carry it to the future.</p> <p>Kia: it's a good experience. People are thanking us for co-hosting and it was a good opportunity for us as graduate students to provide feedback to CASA. There was an endless amount of consultation tables. So just when I thought we were done with the consultation, and have a break and we're going to come back and we're going to consult about something else. So as somebody who's coming from the outside, it was a little overwhelming. There's a lot of information. There's a lot of paperwork and such to go through. When you have the whole year, when you've done foundations and kind of understand the cycle of Advocacy and the work that they do, it's much easier to participate. But coming in at the end, that was a challenge. I think ongoing membership is a good idea from our perspective as a council, as an organisation that represents graduate students. Judy was sitting on</p>
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			<p>the Graduate Advocacy Committee and the National Advocacy Committee, I think those are two good seats based on the committees that they have. It was a good experience to have and they were very welcoming.</p>
9.0	Roundtable	Everyone	<p>Emily Asked about the Graduate Research forum and how that differs from the conference. Jordan, Kia and Gela Clarified that they are different but we will be working with them to piggy back our conferences next to each other for our first time hosting in Athabasca.</p> <p>Emily then asked about the Indigenous excellence month and if that was going to be like the BHM celebration we hosted, Gelareh informed us that that is exactly the idea and we would like everyone to know that there will be a portion that is in person in Edmonton, so if you are in the area and would like to attend.</p> <p>Jorden: Speaking of GSRC, Gelareh and I would like to announce that we have hired this years' Conference Coordinator.....our very own Emily Grady!</p> <p>Emily: I am very excited that it will be the first year hosted in Athabasca</p> <p>Gelareh: Ok, ok lets open up the floor for the Representatives to share and say anything:</p> <p>The Representatives updated each other on their personal academic situations</p>



8.0	Adjournment	President	Motion 5.0: to adjourn the meeting. Moved: P. Zygmunt Seconded: D. Delagdo Motion carried without opposition.

Gelareh Keshavarz, President

Jordan Ager, Executive Director

Date of Approval

