



AUGSA Council Meeting Agenda

May 25, 2026 - 18:00 MST

Microsoft Teams

Council Attendance

Executive Committee: Gelareh Keshavarz (President) Diana Sarkis (VP Academic) Ashley Stasiewicz (VP External)

Faculty of Business Representatives: Pawel Zygmunt, Manisha Stephen

Faculty of Health Disciplines Representatives: Erica Wong

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Representative: Shawna Harline, Jacqueline Patterson **Faculty of Science and Technology:** Syed Hamza

Graduate Labour Relations Representatives: Raymond Morland

Staff: Jordan Ager (Executive Director)

General Members:

Guests:

Regrets:

1.0 Call to Order: 18:00 MST

2.0 Land Acknowledgement

3.0 Approval of Agenda

Move: Sarkis / Harline

Discussion: None

Carried/Tabled

4.0 Approval of Minutes from *April 21, 2026*

Move: Zygmunt / Wong

Discussion: None

Carried/Tabled

5.0 Old Business

5.1 Items for Information

5.2 Items for Discussion/Approval



6.0 New Business

6.1 Items For Information

6.1.1 Executive Committee Reports

Discussion:

Jorden: Note the Reports included this month are from last month: Current VP's will not have their first reports until next month's meeting. Gelareh can answer any questions in regards to her report:

Gelareh: A lot of time has been spent on Indigenous History Month, and I will share right now the programme we are sharing. spread the word in your communities. Because for the 1st of June that we are going to have an in-person meeting in Edmonton. I want to thank Shawna for stepping up and helping with in person portion of the June 2 opening circle. Indigenous Month history, no Indigenous person can be the voice of everybody. This culture is so unique and so varied, and I cannot be voice of anybody, so it's going really well. Diana is also helping collect the headshots and bios, so thank you for that Diana! The rest of my time has gone on Governance. And as Jorden was just saying, we're in a good situation. And I don't know how much I can, I probably, I don't need to share much. I swear secrecy when I go to these AU Board meetings, but it's good to know that our university is actually in a good position. So it's good to know that our university is in a strong place. We are opening a new PhD: Has anyone heard any more news about this?

Hamza: Yeah, so there is news about it. So they're planning to get the final approval and start it in September of 2027, next year. So that's like the current news, but there is no confirmation. And then they're aiming to start it like next year by September. And I'm personally interested to apply for it as well.

6.1.2 Executive Directors' Report and Financial Report

Discussion:

Jorden: My report is very straightforward, so please don't hesitate to ask any questions. As for the Financial report, as you can see, and as I have been saying for a few months now, its obvious enrollment is up in AU Graduate Programs, this is very positive for our budget moving forward and ensuring we do not see another deficit this year. Hopefully this keeps up, I will have a deeper analysis of these numbers leading into the upcoming Finance Committee meeting. Feel free to ask any questions: *No Questions*



6.2 Items for Discussion/Approval

Jorden: Thank you Gelareh, we just have a few items for discussion approval. We'll start with probably the most important one we have, which is the signing authority update. We need to get the old two VP off our signing authority with the bank and we need to get Diana and Ashley on.

6.2.1 Signing Authority Update (A-1)

Move: Manisha/ Hamza

PART 1: Remove as Signors on the following Accounts:

TD Accounts for: Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association

Community Plan [REDACTED]
Business Investor Account [REDACTED]
Community Plan Plus [REDACTED]
TD Special offer GIC [REDACTED]
TD Special offer GIC [REDACTED]

- Kia Buchanan
- Judy Parnell

PART 2: Add as Signors for the following Accounts:

TD Accounts for: Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association:

Community Plan [REDACTED]
Business Investor Account [REDACTED]
Community Plan Plus [REDACTED]
TD Special offer GIC [REDACTED]
TD Special offer GIC [REDACTED]

- Ashley Stasiewich
- Diana Sarkis

Discussion: None

Carried/Tabled



6.2.2 Travel Expense Approval (See attached Travel Estimates)

Jorden: I just wanted to state that with the savings we are achieving though our inability to attend the CASA Foundations Conference, we are able to take that \$ and along with some FGS covered delegate fee and AU BOG coverage of Convocation travel we are able to send 4 individuals to 3 unique and important events for around the same cost. I would like to say that if you identify any opportunities that you feel may be important to your specific role withing AUGSA or for AUGSA in general, please reach out and we will review and see if it is possible for us to help with your attendance. I also want to note that if nothing is identified, we will do our best to help get you out in person to the GSRC to contribute to making this the best GSRC ever! We will go through the 3 travel approvals seperately, so lets start with 6.2.2.: The Big Thinking Summit

6.2.2.1 Big Thinking Summit

Move: Raymond / Diana

Jacqueline: I was just wondering what out top advocacy priorities are to take to this conference are? Any specific things you would like us to look out for?

Jorden: We havn't had a chance yet to hold the Strat plan meeting, we hope to do that by months end. But I know Gela and the Exec team have a good idea of the priorities they will be pushing for moving forward. I would suggest sitting doiw[n] with Gelareh prior to the conference to have a conversation.

Ashley: Gave a short update on what is going on with the Alberta Advocacy initiatives in regards to AGAG, AE Engagement and opportunities with ASEC, as well as our current involvement with CASA.

Jacqueline: I've seen there was a survey about adding a PhD for interdisciplinary studies. So is that something that we want to focus on in terms of advocacy?

Gelareh: That is actually a survey that we were hosting on behalf of the Dean and faculty, as far as we know the PhD is a go and they are just collecting information to help build the program.

- Further Discussion was held in regards to clarity around these upcoming PhD programs and the details surrounding them. Gelareh stated that we will ask the people at AU that we know and see if we can get more details

Carried/ Tabled

6.2.2.2 Convocation

Move: Hamza / Pawel

Jorden explained that he going up one day and Ashley is going up the second day, and that not only are we there for convocation, but to scope out the space for the GSRC, as we have never hosted it in Athabasca before.

Erica: Is it possible to use the Shuttle to get you 2 up there?

Jorden and Ashley explained that Jorden is hauling all the swag and banners up for Convocation, Ashley is hauling it back and needs to make sure she is back home in time for school pick up. Shuttle is not an option.

Ashley asked if we know what the AE Orientation entails? and Jacq explained that she had attended 2 in the past and they were set up more as a conversation on what the government wants feedback or information on. Sometimes the minister of the deputy minister will attend to meet everyone.

Carried/Tabled

6.2.2.3 AE Student Leader Orientation

Move: Jacqueline / Hamza

No Discussion

Carried/Tabled

7.0 Open Forum

- Shawna asked about Reporting templates and details – Jorden said the template is available on sharepoint and we dont expect a tone of detail
- Jorden asked if anyone had been asked to go to a faculty meeting yet – No one had yet – Hamza said he recieved an email inquiry about wether himself or Paul would be attending those – Jorden reccomended that they both decide who is best to sit on each request based on thier schedules
- Jacq Mentioned that she would be attending the ASEC Alumni event and if we needed her to inquire at all about AUGSA perhaps joining etc. – Jorden said it probably wasnt necessary as i would be in contact with the ED's and GM's from most of the ASEC schools the week prior.



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- Jordan quickly clarified that the request for Rep reporting this year is to keep everyone is engaged and ensure improtant meetings and ideas aren't forgotten about during the month between meetings.

8.0 Adjournment 19:10 pm

President: _____

Executive Director: _____

