

AUGSA Council Meeting Minutes

Feb 17, 2026 – 6:00 pm MST

Microsoft Teams

Council Attendance

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

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:

Staff: Jordan Ager (Executive Director)

General Members: N/A

Guests: Maleeka Thomas - CASA

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 January 20, 2026 as presented. Moved: P. Ackah Seconded: P. Zygmunt Motion carried.



5.0	Executive Reports	Executive Team	<p>Gelareh: So is there any question about my report? I tried to make it short to the point. I guess we have been very busy with Black History Month. That has been going really well. Thank you for everyone who attended. Our AUGSA people have been amazing and thanks for FGS for helping there. Kia has been has done a great job facilitating some of the sessions.</p> <p>I have been in touch with Tara, manager of alumni relations and we have secured some funding for Black History Month and hopefully the indigenous events that we're going to run later.</p> <p>Kia: Mainly internal meetings in Black History Month is what I've been doing the Last month. And just a reminder to invite your classmates and colleagues and professors and everyone to our 25th event.</p> <p>Paul: Just wanted to make a Correction on Judy's report...she says the CASA AGM is in Ottawa, it should say Montreal.</p> <p>Jorden: There's no financial report yet this month. Maria was under the weather for the first few weeks of February, she's a little delayed on things, but she's promised me she'd have February and January right away.</p> <p>Paul: Jorden, I was intrigued and happy when I saw your report. For those of us who are Council members who doesn't know what is going on, we can read your reports and then know what you are doing. So I really like it. Keep it up.</p>
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6.0	CASA Presentation	Maleeka Thomas	<p>Gelareh welcomed and introduced Maleeka Thomas-member relations officer from The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)</p> <p><i>Maleeka took 20 minutes to present the who, what, when, where and why of CASA and its advocacy initiatives and wins. – All of this information is publicly available, so we will not transcribe it in the minutes. These are the questions and answers that came up during the presentation:</i></p> <p>Paul: Wanted clarity on how CASA ensures that the Graduate Student Concerns, Issues and Advocacy are separated and not lost amongst the Undergraduate and diploma level Advocacy. Also ensure that only Graduate students are part of the Graduate Advisory Committee (past issue).</p> <p>Maleeka: Mentioned that some Graduate Student bodies do not have GSA's and instead the</p>



		<p>SA/SU represents them. So its not as simple as saying undergrad unions can't be part of the committee.</p> <p>Paul: Asked about the Loans and funding that is available from the Federal Government</p> <p>Maleeka: Stated that it was different province to province, but the Feds supply 60% of the student loan, and provinces contribute the other 40%</p> <p>Kia: The current Advocacy is to increase to maximum (currently loans cover about 60% of tuition) it would be nice if we could get the Feds to increase that to 70 or even 80%...Maleeka agreed completely.</p> <p>Kia: How many committees do members usually sit on?</p> <p>Maleeka: technically, you're allowed to sit on any of as much committees as you can handle, but usually the maximum is 4, because two, sorry, that members usually take on, which we encourage only two, because the more you go is the more overworked you kind of get, because the committees tend to do a lot of work.</p> <p>Kia: How common is it for people to be on, you know, 4, 5, 6 committees, or is it usually just one or two?</p> <p>Maleeka: One or two. Yeah, we have associations that have only 1500 students that they represent. And so their association is just two people. So they're not able to sit on four to five committees. So that's why we encourage just one or two as voting members. And then you can decide as many non-voting committees that you would want to sit on as.</p>
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			<p>Pawel: how do you represent student union bodies and I guess university that may be given the one vote per university or student body when their issue isn't a priority given the vote or doesn't fall under one of the council or groups?</p> <p>Maleeka: So usually how decisions are made around our plenary table, there's one delegate around our plenary table. I don't know if I have any pictures of the plenary table, but so one representative from your association, usually your primary delegate is sitting around the plenary table voting on that decision. So that weighs only one vote. In some cases where they're like important votes, like for example, fee increase, where you require a higher percentage of people, CASA has a voting calculator, is what it's called. So a calculator that essentially ensures that all votes are weighted equally.</p> <p>Gelareh: Thank you very much, and thank you very much, Malika, to this for this presentation. Is there any other question? I'm just a bit mindful of the timing, so I want to know if there is any other question. Okay, thank you very much. And then if you have more questions, we'll get back to you over Judy and all that. Okay, thank you very much. On that note, I'll pass it to Jordan. Jordan, you have a few business items.</p>
7.0	Business Items	President	<p>Motion 4.0: David Newman Back Pay (\$200) Moved: K. Buchanan Seconded: D. Delagdo</p> <p>David Newman was named Labour Chair mid December in an asynchronous vote: He should have been paid an extra \$200 for the role in Dec,</p>



		<p>and we need Council Approval to give in the December Back Pay.</p> <p>Motion: Carried</p> <p>Motion 5.0: Travel Expense Approval (3 separate motions)</p> <p>Paul: How as a GSA can we save money on travel? Can we make hotel partnerships?</p> <p>Jorden: We don't have anything like that and I'm not sure if we travel enough for an hotel or airline to consider us "frequent users" furthermore the "block rate that most conference organizers procure are very fair and affordable for the location.</p> <p>Paul: it would be great if we could look into it, I think because we are a students association, there may be some that want to offer us a discount.</p> <p>Gelareh: Is there an option to share rooms whenever possible?</p> <p>Jorden: its possible, but based on some past experiences, I would advise against it: I wont get into the details here, but most organizations Private and public have policies against that for a reason. That being said, I am going to inquire with TD about changing out VISA to a points card that can be used for travel costs – this is a great way to remove a few flights/hotels a year off the budget.</p>
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8.0	Committees	President	None.
9.0	Adjournment	President	<p>Motion 6.0: to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>Moved: D. Delagdo Seconded: P. Zygmunt</p> <p>Motion carried without opposition.</p>

Gelareh Keshavarz, President

Jordan Ager, Executive Director

Date of Approval

