



Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association
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Council Meeting Minutes

Date: September 22, 2010

Place: Teleconference

Time: 4:30pm

Attendance: Amanda Nielsen, President
Denise Ferris, VP External
Michael Balaski, VP Academic
Nathaniel Ostashewski, VP Operations & Finance
Ric Wheeler, VP Student Life
Greta Kirstein, GDHERM Rep
Lorna Howieson, MBA Rep
David Keene, Arts Rep
Melissa Seaborg, Counselling Rep
Adam Snider, Coordinator

Absent: Lawrence Poon, MSIS Rep

INDEX	MINUTES	ACTION
1.0 – Call to Order	Meeting called to order 4:39pm.	
2.0 – Approval of Agenda	MOTION: Ric moved to approve agenda as presented and David seconded. Motion carried unanimously.	
3.0 – Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes	MOTION: Ric moved to approve the previous meeting's minutes as presented and Amanda seconded. Motion carried unanimously.	
4.0 – New Business		
4.1 – Copyright Letters	Access Copyright Letter: The letter is ready to go. Lorna suggested that we also share it on our website so that all AU graduate students can see it, and to add a Cc on the letter noting "Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association	Adam – Sept 24

	<p>Members.”</p> <p>MOTION: Ric moved to approve the letter (see attached) with the addition of the “Cc” to Athabasca University Graduate Students’ Association Members. Amanda seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.</p> <p>Adam will print this letter on AUGSA letterhead and mail it to Access Copyright.</p> <p>Copyright Letter to Federal Government: Lorna is currently reviewing the amendments to the Copyright Act and will draft a letter when she has finished this research.</p>	
<p>4.2 – Discussion Forums</p>	<p>Greta presented the quote from BluFyre (see attached) and indicated that Kris from BluFyre strongly recommends vBulletin over Joomla because it is more suitable for our needs.</p> <p>The following concerns were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderation is very time consuming and may be overwhelming if all AU grad students join the forums. • Manually validating every account will not be practical once the forums become popular. <p>After discussion, it was decided that these issues can be dealt with manually in the short term, and that the WIMP committee can look into automated solutions to be implemented when and if they are needed.</p> <p>MOTION: Nathaniel moved to hire BluFyre Media to do the vBulletin Core installation and to purchase the vBulletin software license. Amanda seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.</p>	
<p>4.3 – In-person Meetings with Students</p>	<p>Amanda noted that she has quotes for locations in Edmonton, Calgary and Toronto. Still working on deciding locations and other logistical issues, but the process is moving along.</p>	
<p>4.4 – Alberta Party “Big Listen”</p>	<p>We held this event for Alberta-based members on September 15, 2010. Meeting went well and some good ideas were shared and will be sent to the Alberta Party within the next 24 hours.</p> <p>Thanks to Greta for attending to take minutes so that all of our Albertan members could participate fully.</p>	

5.0 – New Business		
5.1 – AGC Meeting Review	Denise provided an overview of the AGC Meeting on September 18, 2010. The following points were raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Hinman from the Wildrose Alliance was the guest speaker; he discussed WRA policies on post-secondary education, as well as some of his own personal feelings. • CAUS and ASEC chairs were present and discussed their goals for the year. • Some minor bylaw changes were made. • Planning for Lobby Week has begun. Nathaniel noted that SSHRC provides some funding for conferences, so they could be a good source for funding.	
5.2 – President Fest	The Presidents from each of the Alberta GSAs met to share ideas. <p>U of L will likely be implementing a compensation system similar to AUGSA’s.</p> <p>AUGSA is at the low end of GSAs in terms of staff salaries; “middle of the road” as far as Council and Executive salaries/stipends.</p> <p><i>MEETING SOFTWARE CRASHED AT 5:20pm.</i></p>	
5.3 – AUGSA PowerPoints	<p><i>MEETING RESUMED AT 5:27pm.</i></p> <p>Amanda noted that there are PowerPoint presentations that have been created to present to both students and staff/faculty. Adam will put these on the wiki.</p>	Adam – Sept 24
5.4 – September Reports & Rubrics	Amanda reminded everyone that reports and rubrics for September are due on the 28 th .	All – Sept 28
5.5 – AUSU Handbook Blurb	Adam noted that AUSU has already indicated that they will be updating the website URL listed in the blurb. <p>Nathaniel noted that the blurb should note that AUGSA represents doctoral students as well as master’s students.</p> <p>MOTION: Nathaniel moved to accept the AUSU Handbook Blurb with the change to note that AUGSA represents doctoral</p>	Adam – Sept 24

	<p>students and the updated URL; Michael seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>Adam will send the revised blurb to AUSU.</p>	
6.0 – Other Business		
6.1 - Reminders	<p>Amanda gave a number of reminders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CASA consideration meeting on Monday at 4:30pm MT • No more meetings at 4:30pm starting in October, as this time is too early for some people. • Video shoot meeting has been sent out for Edmonton-area folks via Doodle; please respond. • Please tell students in your program area about AUGSA awards. Adam will try to get information up on myAU. • The first meeting of the Awards Committee will be on October 13, 2010 at 7pm. 	Adam – Sept 24
6.2 – Extend Award Deadline	<p>MOTION: Amanda moved to extend the application deadline for the Outstanding Distinction Award for AU Graduate Students to October 5, 2010 and Michael seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>This is a one-time extension to encourage students to apply for this brand new award. In the future, the September 30 deadline will be maintained.</p>	
6.3 – AUGSA Contact Info Update	<p>Lorna noted that she has gotten the AUGSA contact info updated in the MBA and DBA program manuals, and is working on getting this info updated AU-wide.</p> <p>Program representatives are asked to take note of any mentions of AUGSA in their own program manuals and request that these be updated.</p>	Program reps – Oct 1
6.4 – Website Banner Photos	<p>Michael is working on getting photos for the website that are more representative of AU graduate students; Adam will send Michael links to some good sites for getting royalty-free photos with licenses that allow for free commercial and/or non-commercial use.</p>	Adam – Sept 24
6.5 – AU Landing	<p>Nathaniel noted that work on this project has now begun. Within</p>	

<p>Project</p>	<p>24 hours of creating the group on the Landing (which is currently not a public group), 3 students has expressed interest in signing up. This is without any publicity at all, so hopefully we will have a fair level of participation once the course is launched and the promotions begin.</p> <p>A PDF will be emailed out to students once we get the email list, to announce this courselet.</p>	
<p>6.6 – Bio Photos</p>	<p>Adam reminded those who have not yet had their portrait taken for the website bio page to please do so and send it to him ASAP.</p>	
<p>6.7 – Program Rep Issues</p>	<p>MOTION: Amanda moved to go <i>in camera</i> and Nathaniel seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>The meeting went IN CAMERA at this point.</p> <p>MOTION: Amanda moved to go <i>ex camera</i> and Ric seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.</p> <p>The meeting went EX CAMERA at this point.</p>	
<p>7.0 – Adjournment</p>	<p>MOTION: Michael moved to adjourn the meeting and David seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.</p>	

Amanda Nielsen, President

Adam Snider, Coordinator

Date of Approval