



**Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association**  
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## Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** December 12, 2011

**Place:** Web conference

**Time:** 6:00pm MST

**Attendance:** Amanda Nielsen, President  
Greta Kirstein, VP External  
Rob Janzen, VP Academic  
Nathaniel Ostashevski, VP Operations & Finance (entered at 7:16)  
Adam Chisholm, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) Rep  
Margot Van Sluytman, FHSS Rep  
Moiz Bhamani, Faculty of Business Rep  
Wilson Ho, Faculty of Business Rep  
Ric Wheeler, Faculty of Business Rep  
Meg Andronowska, Faculty of Health Disciplines Rep  
Jade Clarke, Centre for Distance Education Rep  
Lorna Howieson, Speaker of Council  
Adam Snider, Coordinator

**Guests:** Dan Rutledge, Alberta Graduate Council

**Absent:** Steve Harris, Faculty of Science and Technology Rep  
Eric Lavoie, Faculty of Health Disciplines Rep  
Sarah Gauvreau, Centre for Distance Education Rep  
Denise Ferris, VP Student Life

INDEX	MINUTES	ACTION
1.0 – Call to Order	Meeting called to order at 6:02pm MST.	
2.0 – Approval of Agenda	<b>MOTION: That the agenda be approved as presented.</b> (Chisholm / Janzen) Unanimously carried.	
3.0 – Approval of Previous	<b>MOTION: That the previous meeting's minutes be approved as presented.</b> (Bhamani / Van Sluytman)	

<b>Meeting's Minutes</b>	Unanimously carried.	
<b>4.0 – Alberta Graduate Council Update</b>	<p>Dan Rutledge from the Alberta Graduate Council (AGC) provided an update on AGC activities.</p> <p>The AGC's main lobby points for this year are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the Government of Alberta to support a professional development program that will allow graduate students to get experience working for/with industry while completing their programs (e.g., project management courses, networking courses).</li> <li>• For the creation of a Campus Alberta student network, allowing students at one institution to access the libraries at all other Campus Alberta institutions.</li> <li>• For the creations of provincial part-time student loans with relaxed income thresholds.</li> <li>• For the Government of Alberta to put post-secondary funding on a three-year cycle.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Rutledge also provided an AGC Conference update, noting that the previous conference generated positive feedback from students who attended. While the previous conference ran a deficit, the AGC has learned from that experience and will be running a conference again this year on May 1 – 3, 2012.</p> <p>Mr. Rutledge also noted that the AGC is currently in the process of developing new bylaws and that a new fee structure, which may involve lower fees for part-time and out-of-province students, may be a part of those new bylaws.</p>	
<b>5.0 – Reports</b>		
<b>5.1 – Executive Reports</b>	<p>The President, VP External, and VP Academic presented their reports (see attached). The President presented the VP Operations &amp; Finance's report in his absent. The VP Student Life was absent, but her written report was submitted in advance.</p>	

<b>5.2 – Financial Report</b>	The VP Operations & Finance was absent for this portion of the meeting so this report was postponed until the next meeting.	
<b>5.3 – Staff Reports</b>	The Coordinator presented his report (see attached).	
<b>6.0 – New Business</b>		
<b>6.1 – Release of Meeting Recordings</b>	<p><b>RESOLUTION: Whereas the AUGSA Council may occasionally decide to produce an audio visual recording of its minutes to better capture meeting proceedings,</b></p> <p><b>Be it resolved that audio recordings of AUGSA Council meetings be available to the general public by request to the AUGSA Coordinator, and that meeting minutes indicate if an audio recording for a particular meeting is available.</b> (Nielsen / Janzen)</p> <p>The resolution carried unanimously.</p>	
<b>6.2 – AUGSA-branded Swag</b>	<p><b>MOTION: That the AUGSA offer GSA-branded items for purchase to the public on a cost-recovery basis using Elite Sportswear as a vendor, and offers the products with appropriate policies in place to protect the GSA from potential liabilities.</b> (Nielsen / Chishom) Unanimously carried.</p>	
<b>6.3 – Edmonton Meet &amp; Greet Event</b>	<p><b>MOTION: That the AUGSA spend up to \$2500 to host an in-person Meet and Greet event in Edmonton, Alberta on Thursday, January 12th, 2012.</b> (Nielsen / Ostashewski) Unanimously carried.</p>	
<b>6.4 – Western Canadian Assembly of GSAA</b>	<p>The President noted that a new organization called the Western Canadian Assembly of Graduate Students' Association (WCA-GSA) was formed recently. The founding members are the graduate students' associations from: University of Alberta, Athabasca University, University of British Columbia, University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge, University of Regina, and University of Saskatchewan.</p> <p>The organization will meet bimonthly via teleconference to discuss issues of importance to Western Canadian graduate students.</p>	

	<p><b>MOTION: That the AUGSA ratify participation in the WCA-GSA, and work with that group to strengthen the graduate student voice in Western Canada.</b> (Nielsen / Van Sluytman) Unanimously carried.</p>	
<p><b>6.5 – AUGSA Salaries (Discussion Item)</b></p>	<p><b>MOTION: That the meeting go in camera.</b> (Nielsen / Kirstein) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>The meeting went <i>in camera</i> at this point for a discussion of AUGSA salaries.</p> <p><b>MOTION: That the meeting move ex camera.</b> (Nielsen / Bhamani) Unanimously carried.</p> <p>The meeting moved <i>ex camera</i> at this point.</p>	
<p><b>6.6 – Yammer: Internal Social Network (Discussion Item)</b></p>	<p>Council discussed the use of Yammer.</p> <p><b>MOTION: That we delete the Yammer account and not use it for internal communications.</b> (Kirstein / Ostashewski) Unanimously carried.</p>	
<p><b>7.0 – Other Business</b></p>		
<p><b>7.1 – CASA Lobby Conference Report</b></p>	<p>The VP External presented a report on the most recent CASA Lobby Conference (see attached).</p>	
<p><b>7.2 – Notice of Motion I</b></p>	<p>The VP Operations &amp; Finance brought a notice of motion for the next meeting. He will move that the budget be ratified.</p>	
<p><b>7.3 – Notice of Motion II</b></p>	<p>The VP Operations &amp; Finance brought a notice of motion for the next meeting. He will move that council approve the elimination of the VPSL position.</p>	
<p><b>8.0 – Adjournment</b></p>	<p><b>MOTION: That the meeting be adjourned.</b> (Ostashewski / Chisholm) Unanimously carried.</p>	

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Amanda Nielsen, President

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Adam Snider, Coordinator

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Date of Approval