

Athabasca University Students' Union



AGM
2002

Your
Voice
-
Our
Future



Athabasca University
Students' Union

ANNUAL REPORT



2003 COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

DEBBIE JABBOUR - PRESIDENT
SHIRLEY BARG - VICE PRESIDENT
SANDRA MOORE - SECRETARY/TREASURER

COUNCILLORS

KARIE-ANNE GETTA
KARL LOW
MAC MCINNIS
NICHOLAS PALAMARCHUK

STAFF

CARLA BENAVIDES - OFFICE ASSISTANT
TAMRA ROSS LOW - VOICE EDITOR

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AGENDA - Athabasca University Students' Union 10th Annual General Meeting

Date: May 24, 2003.

Time: 4 P.M. MST

Location: Room 225, Edmonton Learning Centre, Teleconferencing

- 1.0 Call to Order and President's Welcome
- 2.0 Confirmation of Notice of Meeting
- 3.0 Approval of Agenda
- 4.0 Approval of September 28, 2002 AGM minutes
- 5.0 Annual Financial statements as at September 30, 2002
 - 5.1 Appointment of Auditor for 2002-2003 Fiscal year
- 6.0 Motion to repeal all previous bylaws in favour of new bylaws
- 7.0 Presentation of AUSU Annual Activity Report
- 8.0 Open Forum and Discussion period
- 9.0 Adjournment



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Join us in Edmonton, Saturday, May 24

In person or by teleconference

For our 10th Annual General Meeting



- [Council Login](#)
- [Council Member Login](#)
- [Admin Login](#)
- [Administrator Login](#)

The meeting will be held in Room 225 of the Edmonton Learning Centre at 4:00 pm, EST, and the reception will follow from approximately 6 to 8 p.m.

The meeting will feature an overview of AUSU's accomplishments over the past year, and our plans for the coming year.

Find out what we have in store for you!

The meeting will feature guest speakers, and a question period where you can ask questions of council.

After the meeting there will be fun, free food and festivities with council members and other AU students!

More details will be posted on this page as we get closer to the AGM. Check back often for updates!





*****Click [here](#) to read an invitation from the president*****



If you wish to attend the AGM in person or via teleconference, and/or you wish to attend the dinner and festivities of the AUSU 10th anniversary celebration to be held after the meeting, please contact us at ausu@ausu.org or fill out our [reply form](#). Whether or not you will be attending, you may request an AGM packet which will feature the yearly financial information of AUSU, details of our activities over the last year, and our plans for the future.

At the AGM, AUSU will be presenting their new bylaws, and all student attendees will have an opportunity to vote on them. To download a copy of the proposed bylaws in pdf format,

[click here.](#)

You may also want to read President Debbie Jabbour's comments on the new bylaws in her current **President's Message**.

As in previous years, there will be a booklet produced by AUSU including information for this year's AGM. This booklet will contain information on last year's finances, activity reports from each of the councillors, details of future AUSU plans, and more. If you want to view last year's AGM booklet, [click here](#).

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Anniversary AGM

Help us celebrate 10
years as your
students' union!

On Saturday, May 24,
AUSU holds its Annual
General Meeting in
Edmonton, followed by a
free anniversary dinner.

To attend in person or
via teleconference, or
just to get more
information, [click here](#).

Publications

AUSU Newsletter -
September
Read online

Featured Tutor

Theresa Ferguson

Anthropology and

Athabasca University Students' Union
ausu@ausu.org

Monday to Friday 8:30 - 4:30

Edmonton call direct (780) 497-7000 Fax: (780) 497-7003

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To report problems with the website or if you have trouble accessing your account, mail: webmaster@ausu.org



Council President: Debbie Jabbour - djabbour@ausu.org

Vice-President: Shirley Berg - sberg@ausu.org

VP Finance/Admin: Sandra Moore - smoore@ausu.org

Katie-Anne Getta - kgetta@ausu.org

*Indigenous Studies
Tutor*

When Bruce Morrison, a former Anthropology coordinator, asked me in 1983 to conduct a seminar on Contemporary Aboriginal Issues at the Alexander reserve, I had no idea that this would be a "20 years and counting" part-time career...
[Read More](#)

Mac MacCinnis - mmcinnis@ausu.org

Karl Law - klaw@ausu.org

Nicholas Palamarchuk - npalamar@ausu.org

Voice Editor: Tamra Ross Low - voice@ausu.org

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#306 North Tower, Seventh Street Plaza, 10030 107th Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3E4 phone (780) 497- 3413 Fax (780) 497-7003

Minutes of the Athabasca University Students' Union Annual General Meeting

AUSU AGM

1:00 P.M., September 28th, 2002

Tele-Conference

Councillors Present: Debbie Jabbour (Chair), Gurpreet Dulai, Shirley Barg, Sandra Moore, Nicholas Palamarchuk, Karie-Anne Getta, Tamra Ross Low (via phone) and Darren Kereluk

Others Present: Judith Hughes (Ex-Officio), Christine Lynch (Recording Secretary), Karl Low and Carla Benavides

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

D. Jabbour called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm (MST).

2.0 CONFIRMATION OF NOTICE OF MEETING

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION 092802.01

BIRT that the Agenda is approved as presented.

D. Kereluk/S. Moore – **CARRIED** (Unanimously)

4.0 APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 28th, 2000 AGM MINUTES

MOTION 092802.02

BIRT the October 28th, 2000 AGM (Annual General Meeting) minutes are approved as presented.

D. Kereluk/G. Dulai – **CARRIED** (Unanimously)

5.0 PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

- D. Jabbour submitted a President's Report & Welcome
- Low attendance at the AGM is a reflection of the reality of the busy lives AU students lead, and should not be taken as an indicator of apathy.

- D. Jabbour expressed appreciation for the effort those in attendance had made to be there.
- The next AGM will mark the 10th Anniversary for AUSU (Athabasca University Students' Union) and Council will be arranging an event to celebrate.
- D. Jabbour thanked J. Hughes for attending the meeting and said that she feels it is very important for AUSU to work closely with AU (Athabasca University) Administration.
- AU has a great administrative group and they are always there when AUSU needs help.

6.0 WELCOMING ADDRESS FROM AU

- J. Hughes agrees with the importance of AU and AUSU working together
- AU's challenge is the way it is funded
- Other Universities are funded for its actual structure or campus. AU feels that it should be funded for the way it communicates, the electronic infrastructure.
- AU is growing significantly and has to grow to sustain its place as a leader in distance education
- J. Hughes told AUSU that they have a terrific Council, website and online student newspaper and that she is looking forward to another year of working with AUSU.
- AU has a strong student body and they deserve a good representation.
- J. Hughes thanked AUSU for having her at the AGM.

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Presentation of AUSU Annual Activity Report

- AUSU Annual Activity Report was presented.
- AGM packages will be available for any students who would like one.
- G. Dulai explained that the AGM packages contain financial statements and because they are only accessible to AUSU members he is working with the accounting firm (Yaremchuk & Annicchiarico) to determine if there is a way that the AGM packages can be accessible to students online.
- Students can request an AGM package via email.

7.2 Presentation of Financial Statements

- G. Dulai presented an Annual Report of the Secretary Treasurer for the year ending September 30, 2001.

- An operational deficit was incurred. This occurred due to a reprinting of the student diary. Steps have been taken to ensure that the circumstances that led to the reprinting do not occur again, particularly with regards to proofreading and external feedback. Council is required by policy to recover this deficit in the upcoming fiscal year. Stable revenues were a positive which will help achieve this objective.
- Events and programs costs increased significantly due to increased costs in the aforementioned student diary, as well as increased costs for convocation. While the amount of student diary costs were virtually unplanned, the convocation costs were planned in order to increase AUSU's profile in AU's most visible event of the year.
- Honoraria increased due to a higher number of members on Council, as well as increased amounts of honoraria per Council member. Amounts were increased based on the fact that Council was forced to assume a much more administrative role, whereas it had in the past functioned primarily in a policy governance role which required much less involvement and time commitment.
- The website is a new cost component that increased overall costs, particularly given that it was a new venture that involved many one time startup costs. On the flip side, newsletter costs were drastically decreased due to transferring the format to a primarily online presence.
- Overall, the year was relatively routine, with the exception of the circumstances surrounding the student diary, and AUSU begins the next fiscal year in a relatively healthy position.

MOTION 092802.03

BIRT the audited financial statements for 2000-2001 be accepted as presented.

G. Dulai/N. Palamarchuk – **CARRIED** (Unanimously)

MOTION 092802.04

BIRT AUSU retains their current auditor, Yaremchuk & Annicchiarico of Edmonton, AB.

G. Dulai/D. Kereluk – **CARRIED** (Unanimously)

8.0 OPEN FORUM AND DISCUSSION PERIOD

- S. Barg asked D. Kereluk to speak a little about his past experiences with AUSU and any changes he has noticed from the past to the present.
- D. Kereluk explained how he felt that with past council certain members would fault him for bringing up certain issues and would keep bringing up the particular issue even after it was finished being discussed.

- This council doesn't fault you for disagreeing, things are discussed thoroughly, then we move on.
- D. Jabbour said that it is nice to have members with past experience who can offer that type of insight.
- S. Barg encourages all of council, if they have not already done so, to read each report submitted by each council member, so we are aware of what each of us has been doing.
- T. Ross Low would like to let council know how pleased she is with how much we have all done within the last few months.
- D. Jabbour thanked T. Ross Low for a great job on the AGM package cover.
- Council agrees to set a date for the next AGM by October 31, 02.

MOTION 092802.05

BIRT this AGM is adjourned at 1:45PM (MST).

D. Kereluk/S. Moore – **CARRIED** (Unanimously)

**Annual General Meeting Report
Athabasca University Students' Union
Sandra Moore - Secretary-Treasurer**

This report is a summary of the consolidated financial statements of AUSU for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002. The complete statements and their notes are included in the following pages. The purpose of this summary is to highlight key points from the statements. As I took over the Secretary/Treasurer position earlier this year, my report is brief.

During the 2002 audit the previous treasurer wrote off \$10,114.00 in accounts receivables on the advice of the auditors. These accounts were for advertising in the 2000/2001 AUSU Student Handbook and newspaper advertising revenue from 1999. Council did not know the background of these accounts and did not fully support writing them off without another attempt at collection. Secretary/Treasurer Gurpreet Dulai attempted to collect these debts on February 25, 2003 after pressure from Council to do so. Due to poor record keeping by the previous councils, invoices and payment records were lost. Most companies responded with a request for the original invoices, which could not be found, or to state that they had in fact paid this invoice. The accounts have been written off and policies will be put in place immediately for proper financial record keeping and collection of unpaid accounts.

Revenues that are set aside in GIC's will be dealt with once the Strategic Planning Committee develops a concrete long-term strategic plan for AUSU. The major expenditure for this year was the printing of the newsletter that was mailed out to each AUSU student nationally and internationally. Overall, the year was relatively routine, besides the issue of the receivables that were written off.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Moore
Secretary/Treasurer

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2002
AND
AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

YAREMCHUK & ANNICCHIARICO LLP CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



YAREMCHUK & ANNICCHIARICO LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



P.L. Yaremchuk, B.Comm., B.C.A.[®]
A.J. Annicchiarico, B.Comm., C.A.[®]
K.K. Koudy, CMA, CA[®]
S.J. Layetake, B.Comm., CA[®]
K.V. Wron, B.Comm., CA[®]
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8103, 8167 - 51 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6E 6A8
Telephone: 780-488-7232
Fax: 780-485-6120
Email: info@yca.ca
http://www.yca.ca

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of **Athabasca University Students' Association:**

We have audited the statement of financial position of **Athabasca University Students' Association** as at September 30, 2002 and the statements of changes in net assets, operations and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Association's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at September 30, 2002 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Edmonton, Alberta
December 20, 2002

Yaremchuk + Annicchiarico LLP
Chartered Accountants

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash (Note 4).....	\$ 92,643	\$ 60,077
Term deposits and accrued interest (Note 4).....	100,000	83,877
Accounts receivable.....	45,575	38,556
Prepaid expenses	<u>217</u>	<u>217</u>
Total current assets	238,435	182,727
EQUIPMENT (Note 3).....	<u>14,818</u>	<u>11,325</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$253,253</u>	<u>\$194,052</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>		
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 14,535	\$ 21,860
Prepaid student fees revenue	<u>55,880</u>	<u>43,472</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>70,415</u>	<u>65,332</u>
NET ASSETS:		
Invested in equipment.....	14,818	11,325
Internally restricted (Note 4).....	121,198	71,222
Unrestricted.....	<u>46,822</u>	<u>46,173</u>
Total net assets	<u>182,838</u>	<u>128,720</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$253,253</u>	<u>\$194,052</u>

Approved by the Board:

.....Director

.....Director

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

	Invested In Equipment	Internally Restricted	Unrestricted	Total <u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 11,325	\$ 71,222	\$ 46,173	\$128,720	\$166,783
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(5,724)	(5,640)	65,482	54,118	(38,063)
Transfer to restricted net assets ..	-	55,616	(55,616)	-	-
Equipment purchases	<u>9,217</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(9,217)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>\$14,818</u>	<u>\$121,198</u>	<u>\$ 46,822</u>	<u>\$182,838</u>	<u>\$128,720</u>

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
REVENUE:		
Student fees.....	\$327,454	\$250,419
Advertising	1,059	13,000
Interest.....	1,821	6,236
Vending and other.....	<u>1,099</u>	<u>847</u>
Total revenue.....	<u>331,433</u>	<u>270,502</u>
EXPENSES:		
Amortization.....	5,724	4,185
Bad debts.....	-	5,105
Bank charges and interest	209	167
Computer expenses.....	8,845	4,376
Events and programs (Note 5).....	31,149	110,097
Election.....	20,120	-
Honoraria.....	50,986	40,880
Insurance.....	650	539
Newsletter.....	40,929	15,629
Office	15,154	14,212
Professional fees	11,929	13,002
Representation expenses.....	28,070	20,553
Salaries and benefits	33,952	48,534
Subscription fees	505	1,351
Student awards.....	7,031	3,851
Telephone.....	7,335	4,539
Vending.....	-	891
Website.....	<u>14,727</u>	<u>20,654</u>
Total expenses.....	<u>277,315</u>	<u>308,565</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES.....	<u>\$ 54,118</u>	<u>\$ (38,063)</u>

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Cash receipts:		
Students fees	\$330,282	\$257,258
Advertising	3,620	20,353
Interest	1,821	7,133
Vending and other	<u>1,099</u>	<u>847</u>
	336,822	285,591
Cash disbursements	<u>278,916</u>	<u>301,341</u>
Net cash from (used in) operating activities	<u>57,906</u>	<u>(15,750)</u>
INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchase of equipment	(9,217)	(4,562)
Increase in term deposits - net	<u>(16,123)</u>	<u>(3,600)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(25,340)</u>	<u>(8,162)</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH DURING THE YEAR ...	32,566	(23,912)
CASH AT BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	<u>60,077</u>	<u>83,989</u>
CASH AT END OF THE YEAR	<u>\$ 92,643</u>	<u>\$ 60,077</u>

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

1. PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION:

The objectives of the Association shall be to provide for the administration of the affairs of Athabasca University students including:

- a) the development and management of student institutions;
- b) the development and implementation of a system of student governing principles;
- c) the promotion of the general welfare of Athabasca University students;
- d) the furtherance of the values inherent in an open University as well as of life long learning.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICES:

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. The significant policies are as follows:

Revenue recognition:

Student fee revenue is recognized in the year to which the fees relate. Revenue from special activities is recognized when the function to which the revenue relates to has been presented or completed.

Donated services:

The work of the Association is dependent on the voluntary service of many individuals. Since these services are not normally purchased by the Association and because of the difficulty of determining their fair value, donated services are not recognized in these financial statements.

Equipment:

Equipment is stated at cost. Amortization is provided using the declining balance method at the following annual rates:

Office equipment	20%
Computer equipment.....	30%

Equipment donated to the Association is recorded at its estimated fair market value. No equipment was donated in 2002 or 2001.

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED):

Financial instruments:

The Association's financial instruments consist of cash, term deposits, accounts receivable and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. It is management's opinion that the Association is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments.

Cash and cash equivalents:

Cash and cash equivalents consist of balances with banks and short-term investments with maturities not exceeding 90 days.

Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

3. EQUIPMENT:

The major categories of equipment and related accumulated amortization are as follows:

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>	
			<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Office equipment.....	\$ 7,552	\$ 4,022	\$ 3,530	\$ 3,742
Computer equipment.....	39,446	28,158	11,288	7,583
	<u>\$46,998</u>	<u>\$32,180</u>	<u>\$14,818</u>	<u>\$11,325</u>

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2002

4. NET ASSETS - INTERNALLY RESTRICTED:

Included in cash and term deposits are certain amounts that have been internally restricted at September 30, 2002 by resolution of Council as follows:

	Balance at Beginning of year	(Deficiency) Excess of Revenue over Expenses	Transfer from Unrestricted Net Assets	Balance at End of Year
Student awards	\$25,000	\$ (5,616)	\$55,616	\$ 75,000
Contingency	26,655	520	-	27,175
Capital reserve	15,993	312	-	16,305
Emergency loans ...	908	(908)	-	-
Club projects	<u>2,666</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,718</u>
Total	<u>\$71,222</u>	<u>\$ (5,640)</u>	<u>\$55,616</u>	<u>\$121,198</u>

5. EVENTS AND PROGRAMS:

Events and programs consist of the following:

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>
Student diaries	\$ 539	\$ 82,521
Convocation	26,544	21,267
Advertising and promotional materials	520	3,189
Gifts and donations	516	594
Staff appreciation	1,033	1,203
Database	1,540	1,323
Club promotion	<u>457</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$31,149</u>	<u>\$110,097</u>

6. COMPARATIVE FIGURES:

Certain of the prior year's figures, provided for the purpose of comparison, have been reclassified in accordance with the current year's presentation.

7. INCOME TAX STATUS:

The Association is incorporated under the Societies Act of Alberta as an Association without share capital. The Association is a non-profit organization within the meaning of the Income Tax Act (Canada) and is exempt from income taxes.



AUSU Proposed Bylaws 2003

**For consideration at the 2002
AUSU Annual General Meeting
May 24, 2003**

**These bylaws are new, and significantly
changed from the previous set. For
comparison, please see the current AUSU
bylaws, in pdf or rich text format at:
<http://www.ausu.org/bylaws/index.php>**

Article 1 Preamble

1.1 The Society

The name of this organization is "Athabasca University Students' Association," herein referred to as "Athabasca University Students' Union" or AUSU.

1.2 The Bylaws

The following articles set forth the Bylaws of the AUSU

Article 2 Defining and Interpreting the Bylaws

2.1 Definitions

In these Bylaws, the following words have these meanings,

- 2.1.1 *Act* means the Societies Act R.S.A. 1980, Chapters S-18 as amended, or any statute substituted for it.
- 2.1.2 *Annual General Meeting* or AGM means the annual general meeting described in Article 5
- 2.1.3 *AU* means any operation or unit that falls under the jurisdiction of the Governing Council of Athabasca University
- 2.1.4 *Bylaws* mean the Bylaws of the AUSU as amended.
- 2.1.5 *Council* means the current Students' Council of the AUSU as described in Article 6.1
- 2.1.6 *Council Meeting* means a meeting of the Council
- 2.1.7 *Councillor* means any person elected or appointed to Council
- 2.1.8 *General Meeting* means the Annual General Meeting and any Special General Meetings
- 2.1.9 *Officer* means any Officer listed in Article 6.2
- 2.1.10 *Member* means any person who has been enrolled in or taking at least one undergraduate AU course within the last six months

- 2.1.11 *Meeting* means any General Meeting or Council Meeting
- 2.1.12 *Registered Office* means the registered office for the AUSU
- 2.1.13 *Register of Members* means the register maintained by the Council containing the names of the members of the AUSU
- 2.1.14 *Special General Meeting* means any general meeting of AUSU other than an Annual General Meeting
- 2.1.15 *Special Resolution* means
- (a) A resolution passed at a General Meeting of the membership of AUSU. There must be twenty-one (21) days notice for a General Meeting. The notice must state the proposed resolution. There must be approval by a vote of 75% of the voting Members who vote in person;
 - (b) A resolution proposed and passed as a Special Resolution at a General meeting with less than twenty-one (21) days notice. All the voting Members eligible to attend and vote at the General Meeting must agree; or
 - (c) A resolution agreed to in writing by all the voting Members who are eligible to vote on the resolution in person at a General Meeting

2.2 Interpretation

The following rules of interpretation must be applied in interpreting these Bylaws

- 2.2.1 *Singular and Plural*: words indicating the singular number also include the plural, and vice-versa.
- 2.2.2 *Gender*: words indicating the masculine gender include the feminine and neuter genders and vice-versa.
- 2.2.3 *Headings*: are for convenience only. They do not affect the interpretation of these Bylaws.
- 2.2.4 *Liberal Interpretation*: these Bylaws must be interpreted broadly and generously, subject, where required, to the laws of Alberta and Canada.

Article 3 Object of the Society

The Object of AUSU is to assist our members in achieving their educational goals at Athabasca University, and to represent the will of our members to Athabasca University, to the public, and to all levels of government.

Article 4 Members

4.1 Types of Members

AUSU recognizes three types of membership.

4.1.1 Active Members

Active Members are members paying full AUSU membership fees.

4.1.2 Associate Members

Associate Members are members not paying full AUSU membership fees.

4.1.3 Honorary Members

Honorary Members are those persons or groups given honorary membership by an action of Council.

4.2 *Rights of Members*

4.2.1 **Active Members** are entitled to:

- (a) vote at general meetings of AUSU,
- (b) vote for as many Councillors as there are vacancies to be filled on Council during an AUSU election,
- (c) hold a position on Council, unless the Active Member is a paid employee of AU as defined under the terms of any existing letter of agreement between AU and AUSU
- (d) exercise other rights and privileges given to Members of any type in these Bylaws or by Council

4.2.2 **Associate Members** are entitled to:

- (a) petition the Council in respect to any matter within the jurisdiction of AUSU
- (b) receive upon payment of AUSU fees AUSU publications and all other regular mailings and communications of AUSU
- (c) exercise other rights and privileges given to Members in these Bylaws or by Council except those specifically given to Active Members

4.2.3 **All Members** are entitled to:

- (a) receive notice of meetings of AUSU
- (b) attend any meeting of AUSU
- (c) speak at any general meeting of AUSU; and
- (d) exercise other rights and privileges given to Members in these Bylaws or by Council except those given specifically to Active or Associate Members

4.3 *Resignation*

4.3.1 Members of AUSU may resign membership by presenting a signed letter of resignation to the AUSU Council, which shall take effect upon receipt, and shall not be rescinded.

4.3.2 Resignation of membership does not exempt the resigned member from paying AUSU membership fees.

4.4 *Fees*

4.4.1 AUSU membership fees are non-refundable except in accordance with current AU policy.

4.5 *Standing*

4.5.1 Members shall be considered to be in good standing unless:

- (a) They have failed to pay a debt to AU or AUSU, or;

- (b) They have been subject to disciplinary action by Council

4.5.2 A member who is not in good standing can regain good standing by:

- (a) Paying the full amount of any debt due to AU or AUSU, and
- (b) Being declared to have returned to good standing by a resolution of Council

4.5.3 Revocation of good standing does not exempt the member from paying AUSU membership fees as administered by Athabasca University.

4.6 Expulsion

4.6.1 Membership in the Association shall cease upon:

- (a) a Member failing to comply with these Bylaws;
- (b) a resolution to revoke an individual's membership passed at a properly convened meeting of the Council by more than two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast on that resolution but only after the member has had sufficient opportunity to prepare and present a defence before Council, the decision of which shall be final and binding, or
- (c) a petition of at least 250 of the Active Members of the Association,

4.6.2 Expulsion of membership does not exempt the expelled member from paying AUSU membership fees as administered by Athabasca University.

Article 5 General Meetings

5.1 Officers

The Officers of AUSU are the Officers of Council

5.2 Method

Attendance at, participation in, and voting in meetings of AUSU shall be by means Council deems appropriate.

5.3 Notice

5.3.1 Notice of a meeting of AUSU shall be provided to all members by means Council deems appropriate no less than 21 days in advance of the meeting, and shall include information on all available methods of attendance and participation.

5.3.2 A meeting adjourned to at least 30 days in the future requires a new notice as defined in section 5.3.1.

5.4 Quorum

5.4.1 The quorum requirement at a general meeting of AUSU shall be 10 Active Members.

5.5 Procedures

5.5.1 Failure to Reach Quorum

The President cancels the General meeting if a quorum is not present within one-half (1/2) hour after the set time. If cancelled, the meeting is rescheduled for one(1) week later at the same time and place. If a quorum is not present within one-half(1/2) hour after the set time of the second meeting, the meeting will proceed with the Members in attendance.

5.5.2 Presiding Officer

5.5.2.1 The President chairs every General Meeting of AUSU. The Vice-President chairs the meeting in the absence of the President

5.5.2.2 If neither the President nor the Vice-President is present within one-half(1/2) hour after the set time for the General meeting, the Members present choose one (1) of the Members to chair.

5.5.3 Adjournment

5.5.3.1 The President may adjourn any General meeting with the consent of the Members at the meeting. The adjourned General Meeting conducts only the unfinished business from the initial Meeting.

5.5.3.2 No notice is necessary if the General Meeting is adjourned for less than thirty(30) days

5.5.3.3 AUSU must give notice when a General Meeting is adjourned for thirty(30) days or more. Notice must be the same as for any General Meeting

5.5.4 Voting

5.5.4.1 Each Active Member has one (1) vote. The Chair of a General Meeting will decide how votes are to be expressed and tabulated based on the most reasonable means available in the situation. A secret ballot is used if at least five (5) Active Members request it.

5.5.4.2 The Chair or President does not have a second or casting vote in the case of a tie vote. If there is a tie vote, the motion is defeated.

5.5.4.3 An Active Member may not vote by proxy.

5.5.4.4 A majority of the votes of the Active Members present decides each issue and resolution, unless the issue needs to be decided by a Special Resolution.

5.5.4.5 The Chair declares a resolution carried or lost. This statement is final and does not have to include the number of votes for and against the resolution.

5.5.4.6 A ballot vote may be requested and used if at least five(5) Active Members request it. In such case, the Chair may set the time, place, and method for a ballot vote. The result of the ballot is the resolution of

the General Meeting.

5.5.4.7 Members may withdraw their request for a ballot vote.

5.5.4.8 The Chair decides any dispute on any vote. The Chair decides in good faith, and this decision is final.

5.5.5 Failure to Give Notice of Meeting

No action taken at a General Meeting is invalid due to:

- (a) accidental omission to give any notice to any Member;
- (b) any Member not receiving any notice; or
- (c) any error in any notice that does not affect the meaning.

5.5.6 Written Resolution of All the Active Members

All Active Members may agree to and sign a resolution. This resolution is as valid as one passed at a General Meeting. It is not necessary to give notice or to call a General Meeting. The date on the resolution is the date it is passed.

5.6 *Annual General Meeting*

5.6.1 The President or Council shall call an Annual General Meeting each year, to occur during the calendar year.

5.7 *Special Meetings*

5.7.1 Special meetings of AUSU may be called by the President, Council, or a petition signed by 250 Active Members.

5.7.2 only the matter(s) set out in the notice for the Special General Meeting are considered at the Special General Meeting.

Article 6 Government

AUSU Students' Council is the highest governing body of AUSU, and where not inconsistent with acts of AUSU, statute, or these Bylaws, is authorized to exercise and delegate all powers of AUSU.

6.1 *Council*

6.1.1 Composition

Council shall consist of no less than three(3) and no more than nine(9) Active Members of AUSU.

6.1.2 Term

Councillors shall serve two-year terms or until the next election, whichever occurs first.

6.1.3 Vacancies

Vacancies on Council may be filled by appointment by the Council

6.1.4 Responsibilities

Councillors are responsible for attending and participating in Council meetings, acting in support of Council responsibilities, and other such duties as Council may delegate to them.

6.1.5 Qualifications

Councillors must be Active Members of AUSU in good standing that have successfully obtained a minimum of three(3) credits from AU.

6.1.6 Removal

A finding by majority vote of Council that a Councillor has not met his or her responsibilities shall remove the Councillor. A Councillor that has been removed is no longer a member in good standing.

6.1.7 Remuneration

Council shall set rates of remuneration for Councillors.

6.2 Officers

6.2.1 Council shall elect from among its members and by secret ballot the Offices of President, Vice-President of External & Student Affairs(VPES), Vice-President of Finance and Administration(VPFA), and any others that council deems necessary (herein referred to as "Officer" or "Office").

6.2.2 Term

Officers shall serve for the remainder of their term as Councillors, or until the election of their successors.

6.2.3 Vacancy

6.2.3.1 In the event of a vacancy in an Office of AUSU, Council shall elect Councillors to the vacant Office immediately or by the Council meeting.

6.2.3.2 Council shall not elect a Councillor to an Office of Vice-President while the Office of President is vacant.

6.2.4 Remuneration

Council shall set rates for remuneration for Officers.

6.2.5 President

The duties of the President of AUSU include, but are not limited to:

6.2.5.1 Presiding

Presiding over, or ensuring the election of a chairperson to preside over meetings of AUSU and Council;

6.2.5.2 Representation

(a) Representing AUSU to external organizations, which at the President's discretion may be

- (b) delegated in whole or in part to Council; and
Representing AUSU to Athabasca University, which at the President's discretion may be delegated in whole or in part to Council.

6.2.6 Vice-President of External & Student Affairs

The Vice-President of External & Student Affairs is responsible for exercising the duties of President when the President is unable or unwilling to do so, and accepting the Office of President immediately upon its becoming vacant.

6.2.7 Vice-President of Finance and Administration

The duties of the Vice-President of Finance and Administration include:

6.2.7.1 Provide Documents to Members

Ensuring that the official documents of AUSU are kept up to date and made available to members and employees of AUSU by means Council deems appropriate;

6.2.7.2 Keeping Records

Ensuring the creation and safekeeping of the minutes of meetings and other books and records of AUSU and of Council;

6.2.7.3 Custody of the Seal

Ensuring safe custody of the seal of the Society; and

6.2.7.4 Sign Documents

Certifying as official and authoritative minutes of a meeting of AUSU, minutes of a meeting of Council, Bylaws of AUSU, and other documents of AUSU by affixing thereon his or her signature and the seal of the society.

6.3 Council Meetings

6.3.1 Frequency

Meetings of Council shall be called no less frequently than once every three months.

6.3.2 Special Council Meetings

The President or any two Councillors may call a special meeting of Council

6.3.3 Quorum

6.3.3.1 Quorum of AUSU Students' Council meetings is a majority of its members.

6.3.3.2 Councillors having submitted resignations are not considered in determining the quorum requirement in special meetings called for the purpose of accepting their resignations

6.4 Responsibilities

AUSU Students' Council has the following responsibilities:

6.4.1 Compliance

Comply with these Bylaws, acts of AUSU, acts of Council, and any applicable statute,

6.4.2 Represent Members

Represent the Members of AUSU; and

6.4.3 Achieve the Objects of the Society

Achieve the Objects of the Society of AUSU as set forth in these Bylaws.

6.5 Powers and Duties of the Council

The Council has the powers of the Society, except as stated in the Societies Act.

The Powers and Duties of the Council include:

- (a) Promoting the objects of the Society,
- (b) Hiring employees to operate the Society,
- (c) Regulating employees' duties and setting their salaries,
- (d) Maintaining and protecting the Society's assets and property,
- (e) Approving an annual budget for the Society,
- (f) Paying all expenses for operating and managing the Society;
- (g) Paying persons for services and protecting persons from debts of the Society;
- (h) Investing any extra monies,
- (i) Financing the operations of the Society, and borrowing or raising monies,
- (j) Making policies for managing and operating the Society,
- (k) Approving all contracts for the Society,
- (l) Maintaining all accounts and financial records of the Society;
- (m) Appointing legal counsel as necessary
- (n) Making policies, rules, and regulations for operating the Society and using it's facilities and assets,
- (o) Selling, disposing of, or mortgaging any or all of the property of the Society, and
- (p) Without limiting the general responsibility of the Council, delegating its powers and duties to such Committees or persons the Council appoints.

6.6 Petitions

Council shall set forth means by which members of AUSU may bring a matter to Council for consideration by submitting a petition with the signatures of not less than 50 Active Members

6.7 Committees

Council may create standing and ad hoc committees the report to Council.

6.8 Set Procedures

Council may adopt special rules of order that govern its proceedings.

6.9 Procedures

Where not inconsistent with these Bylaws, a special rule of order of Council or AUSU, or any applicable statute, meetings of Council shall be governed by the most recent edition of "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised."

6.10 Borrowing Powers

Council holds the borrowing powers of AUSU, which it may delegate.

6.11 Audit of Accounts

Council has the responsibility of ensuring that Council receives yearly an audit of accounts, which responsibility it may delegate.

Article 7 Finance and Other Management Matters

7.1 The Registered Office

The Registered Office of AUSU is located in Edmonton, Alberta. Another place may be established at the Annual General Meeting or by Resolution of Council.

7.2 Finance and Auditing

7.2.1 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of AUSU ends on September 30th each year.

7.2.2 Annual Audit

There must be an audit of the books, accounts, and records of AUSU at least once each year. This must be performed by a qualified accountant appointed by Council. At each Annual General Meeting of AUSU the auditor submits a complete set of books for the previous year.

7.2.3 Other Matters

All other financial matters of AUSU shall be done in accordance with the Policies of AUSU

7.3 Protection and Indemnity of Directors and Officers

7.3.1 Each Councillor, Officer, Committee Member or AUSU employee hold their position with protection of the Society. The Society indemnifies each Councillor, Officer, Committee Member or AUSU employee against all costs or charges that result from any act done in his role for the Society. The Society does not protect any Director or Officer for acts of fraud, dishonesty, or bad faith.

7.3.2 No Councillor, Officer, Committee Member or AUSU employee is liable for the acts of any other Councillor, Officer, Committee Member or AUSU employee. No Councillor, Officer, Committee Member or AUSU employee is responsible for any loss or damage due to the bankruptcy, insolvency, or wrongful act of any person, firm, or corporation dealing with the Society. No Councillor, Officer, Committee Member or AUSU employee is liable for any loss due to an oversight or error in judgment or by any act in his role for the Society, unless the act is fraud, dishonesty, or bad faith.

7.3.3 Councillors, Officers, Committee Members and AUSU employees can rely on the accuracy of any statement or report prepared by the Society's auditor. No Councillor, Officer, Committee Member or AUSU employee is to be held liable for any loss or damage as a result of acting on that statement or report.

Article 8 Elections

8.1 Timing

Council will call a general election within two years of the most recently held general election.

8.2 Nomination:

Any Active Member in good standing may submit to the Council a self-nomination together with the individual's written consent to act, if elected.

8.3 Election:

8.3.1 The conduct election shall be the responsibility of the Council or designate and shall involve a process of secret ballots as defined within the Council's policies on Elections.

8.3.2 Changes to the Council's policies on Elections shall not be done without proper notification being provided to AUSU members.

8.4 Votes:

At any general election for Councillors each Active Member entitled to vote shall be entitled to vote for as many Councillors as there are vacancies to be filled on the Council.

Article 9 Amendment

These Bylaws may be amended, in whole or in part, by a special resolution of AUSU as defined in these Bylaws where they do not conflict with the Societies Act of Alberta, any amendments thereto, or replacements thereof.

President's Report & Welcome

As we celebrate our 10th Anniversary of AUSU, I cannot help but reflect on the words of Sir Isaac Newton, who acknowledged the accomplishments of those who had preceded him, saying, "If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."¹ Some ten years ago, a hard working group of students, with the help of the university, created our student association. It is through the efforts of those students, and the many who have followed in their path during the past ten years, that we have managed to build this organization into what it has become today.

I feel deeply honoured to be part of this very special 10th Anniversary AGM. When I joined Council in April, 2001, a particularly difficult period of conflict had almost destroyed AUSU completely. Some of that conflict carried over into the first few months, and it took hard work, perseverance, and incredible patience to maintain our equilibrium and keep things moving forward. But we did it, and by the time a new group of Councillors was elected by acclamation in March 2002, we were ready to bring AUSU to the place that first group of councillors envisioned it reaching. I am very proud of what our Council team has accomplished during this past year and a half, and I respectfully acknowledge those who laid the foundation for us.

The history of AUSU is a colourful one, filled with interesting and complex characters. In researching the history in preparation for this meeting, I was struck repeatedly by the many similarities through the years. Issues that we advocate for have not changed, and often I found ideas that we thought had newly originated with us had, in fact, been discussed several years ago by a previous council! Over the years most have tried very hard to do their best for their fellow students, although a few sought only personal gain or pursued another agenda. Some began with the best of intentions, then became disillusioned or lost their sense of purpose. Virtually all who served on council had strong personalities, and while most of the time this strength led to the positive implementation of ideas and projects, at other times these personality mixes became volatile and threatened the very existence of AUSU. Certainly mistakes were made, but countless projects were successfully completed on behalf of students. Although I've only presented some highlights of our history in this AGM report, I will be writing a more detailed summary for the website during the next few months. George Santayana said that those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it.² I believe that AUSU Council should take that to heart, and never forget the lesson of those who went before us. As we embark upon our second decade, I hope to continue to reinforce and strengthen the foundation our predecessors laid for those who will follow.

In an old 1988 edition of the Voice, a student wrote a letter to the editor in which she commented that one of the reasons she felt AUSU was having problems was because they were trying to run the organization as if it were a regular student union serving regular, campus-based students. She stated that "AU is special and AUSA (AUSU) has to be special as well"³ This is a philosophy my colleagues and I on council have tried to incorporate into our thinking during the past few years. Although we do share many similarities with other student unions, and we advocate for similar things, fundamentally we are very different. AUSU *is* special because we are simply a reflection of the very special people who comprise our membership. All of us are adept at multitasking, seeking to achieve a university degree while managing family, work, community, and personal life. We are doing this in isolation, away from peer support networks - and we are succeeding. AUSU Council has made it a priority to lessen the loneliness, working to link our fellow students into a virtual gathering place.

¹ Blackburn, S. (1994). *The Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy*. New York: Oxford University Press.

² Hergenhahn, B.R. (2001). *An Introduction to the History of Psychology*. Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

³ Voice, Summer, 1998 Edition. *Letters to the Editor*.

Although there have been a few bumps in the road since the September 28, 2002 AGM, overall it has been an exciting and productive time. We continue to develop the website, adding improvements that will better meet the needs of students. Our online study buddy database has been extremely popular, and the discussion forums are very active. A new Voice editor was hired this past year, and the newspaper has become a magazine; with a host of exciting new features. We have raised our provincial profile with the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), lobbying the Alberta government for fairer treatment of post-secondary education funding. The effects of tuition hikes on our members is always at the forefront, and we represent students on a wide variety of Athabasca University committees to ensure student interests are never forgotten. Working in conjunction with the tutors, recently we managed to convince the university to cancel a proposed change to the course extension policy - a change that would have had a very negative impact on students.

As your president, I've worked extremely hard this past year to do my job to the best of my ability - and it has been a difficult and challenging task. Although there are many rewards, it's not always easy to take a hard line and place the good of the organization above the needs of a few individuals. These past months we have experienced many changes and many stressors. Two key staff members and three council members have left, and several of our councillors have faced profound personal losses. Fortunately we have a wonderful group of councillors and staff who continue to work cooperatively to get us through the difficult times so that we can continue to maintain and expand the services we provide for students.

On a personal level, I am so thankful to my colleagues who have contributed their help and support during this past year, both visibly and behind the scenes, to ensure that AUSU meets its objectives. My fellow executives, vice-president Shirley Barg, who continues to give her best for AUSU, expanding that role now as CAUS chair; and Sandra Moore, who, in addition to getting two new clubs on the move, has taken over the role of secretary/treasurer, working hard to learn a great deal in a short time. Carla Benavides, our interim office administrative assistant, who stepped in on short notice and has kept our office together and operating smoothly during an unexpected move. Karie-Anne Getta, whose support and unswerving loyalty to AUSU has been essential this past year in ensuring accountability to the students. Tamra Ross Low, our new Voice editor, who has brought a fresh vision and attitude to our student newspaper. Mac McInnes, who has been the backbone of our website development and continues to bring novel ideas forward. Nicholas Palamarchuk, who has taught us so much about strength in the face of adversity. And our newest member of Council, Karl Low, who has worked hard on our new bylaws and policies. Each of these councillors continues to give their very best to this organization and I consider myself privileged to work alongside them.

As we enter our second decade, we are no longer a young organization but we are moving into a new phase of growth. Exciting times lie ahead, and I feel honoured to be part of them. The best is yet to come!

Debbie Jabbour, President
Athabasca University Students' Union
May 24, 2003

Vice-President's Report
Athabasca University Students' Union
Shirley Barg – Vice-President

The past year has given me many moments of satisfaction and fulfillment, confirming for me that my time working with fellow AUSU Councillors and Executive has benefited the organization and me. Within this past year I've been able to reconfirm that professionalism in communications and actions is of the utmost importance when dealing with difficult situations, that changes don't come about overnight, and that we, as student representatives, *can* make a difference.

The more I talk to administrators and student leaders from other post-secondary institutions, the more I realize that AUSU is a world-leader in representation, providing services, support, and advocacy to students at a distance. It's up to present and future AUSU Councillors and volunteers to make sure we stay that way.

This year has also thrown some events into my life that I've never before had to face, the most painful one being the death of my greatest hero—my father. My thanks go out to my colleagues on the Executive and Council, co-committee members, and students for your words of sympathy and understanding, and for all the support you extended.

AUSU has had numerous changes in composition over the year with the removal of Darren Kereluk from Council, the resignation of Gurpreet Dulai from Executive and Council, the resignation of Tamra Ross Low from Council, the addition of Karl Low to Council, and the move of Sandra Moore from Councillor to Acting Secretary Treasurer. Our Administrative Assistant also left to take a maternity leave, and Carla Benavides joined us to capably fill the position. As if those changes weren't enough, AUSU has had to move to a different office within the Edmonton Learning Centre. All changes, whether welcome or not, require a period of adjustment, and I feel this Council has worked exceptionally well in pulling together to ensure the operation of AUSU was not compromised through the transition periods. Thank you to everyone involved!

I extend a special thank you and congratulations to Debbie Jabbour who has demonstrated commitment and determination well above-and-beyond as she maintained her involvement with AUSU and struggled to finish her AU courses in time to be eligible for this year's Convocation. To add icing to her cake, Debbie will be graduating with Great Distinction.

While I'm thanking people, I'd like to use this opportunity to thank Gurpreet Dulai for his work with AUSU over the past three years. Gurpreet stayed with the organization through some very difficult times and as Treasurer, got AUSU through a deficit period and onto a firm financial footing, as well as establish the foundation for our current AUSU awards and scholarships.

AUSU Activities:

In the past year I've been involved with five AUSU committees: External Committee (Chair), Legislative Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Executive Committee, and Personnel Committee.

The External Committee has established links for student representation from across Canada. So far we have members from British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec. It's my intent to utilize the External Committee as a springboard to regionally based ambassadors and Council representation.

I've also participated as AUSU representative on Athabasca University Committees: Student Services Group, Benchmark Committee (an ad hoc sub-committee of Student Services Group established to review processes and service standards in the areas of registration and credit transfer), Middle States Accreditation Taskforce, and Student and Honourary Awards Committees

As the Vice-President, the majority of my time goes towards external activities such as involvement with the Council of Alberta University Students. A summary of my activities with CAUS over the past year follows:

- Meetings in Lethbridge, Calgary, and Edmonton with other CAUS members
- Participation in media conferences
- Representation and presentations at public tuition forums in Edmonton, Lethbridge, and Medicine Hat
- Meetings with Alberta Learning and government representatives
- Presentations to Student Finance Board and Standing Policy Committee on Learning
- Meetings with education coalition groups
- Reorganization of CAUS underway, writing new Bylaws, registration as a non-profit society, set-up of provincial CAUS office
- Involved in recruiting, interviewing, and hiring an Executive Director
- Recently elected as Chair of CAUS for the coming year.
- Re-appointed as university student representative on the Alberta Council of Admissions and Transfers (ACAT)

Internally to AUSU, I've been involved with the following activities:

- Attendance at the Students' Unions Development Symposium in Vancouver last July
- Assistance with office move and set-up
- Assistance and resolution of students' concerns
- Discussion and action on councillor dismissal, non-academic misconduct issues, rebuttal preparation, and follow-up damage control
- Recruitment, interviews, and hiring of the Voice Editor
- Bylaw and policy review with the Legislative Committee
- Ongoing discussions with Alberta Learning about removal of distance education from Tuition Fee Policy
- Meetings with AU regarding tuition
- Convocation 2003 planning
- Plans and preparations for implementing on-line voting for the next AUSU election

My plans for the coming year include:

- Reviving the Students' Services Committee
- Seeking External Committee members from Saskatchewan/Manitoba, the Maritimes, and Northern Canada
- Working towards regional Council representation
- Strengthening provincial involvement through CAUS
- Completing the process for on-line voting in the next AUSU election
- Working with the Executive/Personnel Committee to hire a General Manager
- Strengthening and expanding relationships with students' associations at collaborative institutions.

**Annual General Meeting Report
Athabasca University Students' Union
Sandra Moore - Councillor / Secretary-Treasurer**

My time on council from March 2002 until now has been a flurry of activity that I have thoroughly enjoyed. My fellow councillors are an awesome group of people who share my belief that all of our energies should be directed towards making AU a better place for you-the student. From getting through the by-laws to roughing the storms, it has been an honor to work with such a great group of people (and staff!).

As chair of the Groups and Clubs Committee I have communicated with many students over the past year interested in starting up student groups. Over the past year, two groups have formed under the sponsorship of AUSU: Athabasca University Psychology Students' Society (AUPSS) and the Student Moms Club (SMC). With the psychology club I wanted to bring students together for in person discussions, thus area coffee groups were formed all across Canada. This idea would also work well for AU students in general and I hoping that it soon becomes a reality.

In the works is a club for "techies", an East Coast Students Club, an Anthropology Club, and an English Club. There has also been interest for political clubs and business clubs. I encourage any student who is interested in joining together with fellow students with the same academic or personal interests to contact me. The Groups and Clubs Committee has enlisted the assistance of a web page designer who offers a certain number of hours of initial web page design to the student as well monthly updates, provided free of charge by AUSU.

In October of 2002 I was chosen as the AUSU representative to sit on AU's Budget Advisory Council. I spoke out against the proposed tuition fee increases of 7.3% and proposed that if the fees were to go ahead that AU should offer a reimbursement to students after a certain amount of courses have been taken at AU. Unfortunately, AU did not accept this proposal.

In November of 2002, I attended the 2nd Annual Peer Counseling Conference in Edmonton with fellow councillor, and psychology student, Debbie Jabbour. From this conference Debbie and I learned about setting up a Peer Support group at AU. We have enlisted the help of a few other students as well as some staff at AU and hope to have a proposal developed by late this year.

Another one of my duties over the past year has been supplying AUSU with promotional items. Included in these items were the hundreds of desk clock/calculators that AUSU handed out to graduating students at convocation. From t-shirts to the contents of the student packs; I have had a blast shopping for you!

I have also been learning a lot about provincial and federal politics when it comes to education. I have been attending Council of Alberta University Students' (CAUS) meetings with fellow councillor Shirley Barg, helped organize a public forum on post-secondary education issues in Medicine Hat, and in March 2003 I represented AUSU at the first ever National Forum on Education in Winnipeg, MB. This conference united post-secondary student organizations of all denominations (colleges, technical institutes and universities) from all across Canada. Attendance at conferences like this is vital as AUSU represents students from all across Canada.

Early this year I began working on a mail out newsletter that should hopefully reach your mailboxes by next month. Finally, in the spring of 2003 I took over the position of Secretary/Treasurer from outgoing executive member Gurpreet Dulai.

I encourage any of you to email me with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have about life at AU or how AUSU operates at smoore@ausu.org

Thanks for continuing to let me be your representative on council!

**Annual General Meeting Report
Athabasca University Students' Union
Karie-Anne Getta - Councillor**

I joined Council in March, 2001 and immediately assumed the position of chair of the Finance Committee. As chair of this committee, I've worked closely with our secretary-treasurer to prepare yearly budgets and provide input on financial matters. For the final few months of the 2001-2002 Council term, I was part of the four remaining Council members who continued to keep AUSU functional, and I was pleased to become part of the new Council of nine members that took office in March, 2002.

In addition to my regular Council duties, I participated in Convocation 2002. I am a member of the web committee as well. I look forward to serving students in the year to come.

**Annual General Meeting Report
Athabasca University Students' Union
Karl Low - Councillor**

The Legislative Committee is a standing committee with the mandate of undertaking policy and bylaw review as directed by Council.

AUSU has determined that it must be able to quickly adapt to changes and new developments in distance communication methods and technologies. These requirements, as well as the rapid growth and diversification of the AU student body caused Council to direct the Legislative Committee to prepare a full review and revision of the AUSU Bylaws. The review was undertaken with the following goals:

1. To reorganize the bylaws so that they would be more readable and easier to understand for the members of AUSU,
2. To simplify the bylaws so that AUSU and Council has more flexibility to adapt to changing requirements and abilities of the AUSU membership,
3. To ensure that the new Bylaws met all the requirements of the Societies Act of Alberta, and
4. To maintain the current safeguards for the membership of AUSU and Council.

This task has been ongoing at AUSU for a number of years, beginning with a first revised set of Bylaws that were eventually deemed to not fully meet the ascribed goals. In the interim, a new Council had been appointed and a new Legislative Committee convened and was presented with this revised set of Bylaws.

These Bylaws were then further revised in accordance with the stated goals and were finally approved by Council for submission to the membership of AUSU on March 24th, 2003. Beyond the reorganization, notable changes to this proposed set of bylaws include moving most process specifications from the bylaws to policy so as to increase flexibility, and making it simpler for students to bring matters before Council or AUSU as a whole.

Since the approval of the Bylaws, the Legislative Committee has been undertaking a full review of the policies of AUSU. This has been done with the intent of determining how best to revise the policies not only to be internally consistent and correct, but also to reflect the current organization of AUSU and ensure that the members' interests are properly accounted for and protected.

Over the next year this policy review will continue. The Legislative Committee will be working with other groups and committees within AUSU to ensure that AUSU's policies are relevant to their needs. The end goal is to have a policy set that, in conjunction with the revised bylaws, allows AUSU to quickly capitalize on new opportunities but still provides for the security of the members and safeguarding of their interests.

Karl Low,
Councillor, Legislative Committee Chair

**Annual General Meeting Report
Athabasca University Students' Union
Mac McInnis - Councillor**

As the chair of the web committee the main thrust of this year's activity has been focused on getting the new website up and running. The majority of the work on the website was completed in October of this year. Since October the web committee has been working out the flaws and bugs in the website to make it more user friendly. Since the website inception in October the web committee has added a couple of new features to the website. These include but are not limited to adding an alumni page, graduation photo pages, and a tutor of the month feature. Tutor profiles are hard to come by, so if students have any tutors that they would like profiled on the website, please let me know.

As work on the website committee has slowed down, I am involved with the AU Awards Committee and the AU Appeals Committee. The purpose of the awards committee is to recognize members from the Athabasca University community. As a member my job is to make recommendations for the awards after reviewing the award guidelines, nomination forms, and procedures to ensure that eligibility and criteria for the awards are met. The function of the Appeals Committee is to ensure that students who appeal exam marks, grades or other issues related to academic misconduct get a fair and equitable appeal. I sit as the student representative on this committee to ensure that the students get a fair voice and opportunity on their appeals.

I also attend AUSU Council meeting and the occasional external events on behalf of AUSU. In between these activities I have taken on small little projects on that need to be completed.

Mac McInnis
AUSU Councillor

**Annual General Meeting Report
Athabasca University Students' Union
Nicholas Palamarchuk - Councillor**

Since joining AUSU Council in March 2002, I have attended to regular Council duties. In March 2003, I attended the AUSU Retreat in Canmore.

In the past year I have served and am serving on the following committees:

1. The Student Service Committee,
2. The Groups and Clubs Committee, and
3. The Strategic Planning Committee.

The Strategic Planning Committee was formed only a few months ago. Since the chair, Gurpreet Dulai, has left Council; I have taken over the Chair. The focus of this committee is to develop short and long-range goals for AUSU, to monitor progress toward our goals, and to evaluate the effectiveness of goals as they relate to our Mission Statement.

I am a Student Representative on the Convocation Committee at Athabasca University. In June, I will be participating in Convocation 2003 in Athabasca, Alberta.

I am a Student Representative on the Task Force Eight: Educational Offerings in the Athabasca University Middle States Accreditation Initiative.

Although I am in the Health Administration Program, I have full intentions of going into graduate studies at Athabasca University. In the future, I will enter the Master of Distance Education Program.

I am looking forward to participating in new activities and continuing my present duties.

Nicholas Palamarchuk
May 2003

Annual General Meeting Report
Athabasca University Students' Union
Carla Benavides – Administrative Assistant

Christine Lynch had been previously working in the AUSU office in the position of Administrative Assistant and has gone on maternity leave. I have assumed this position since January 2003. Since Christine had her baby earlier than expected, I was somewhat thrown into the position without being fully informed by her on the office procedures. I have familiarized myself with the regular duties and have a better idea of the various departments within AU which allows me to direct student inquiries appropriately. Recently, other responsibilities have been added to my schedule. I very much enjoy new challenges and acquiring new skills, as well, there are many areas to become involved in and opportunities for growth with AUSU council members. I love the environment within AU and staff and find it a really exciting place to work.

My regular office duties include:

- Answering Email, telephone, mail; redirecting student inquiries/requests when necessary
- Mail out of "Study Smart" materials to students when requested; usually on a daily basis
- ADP payroll twice a month
- Order office supplies
- Filing, keeping the office as neat and efficient as possible
- Record minutes of the meetings; prepare them in draft form until approved for final draft
- Prepare meeting packages; include a report of my own for each meeting
- Forwarding the many student opportunities that come into the office, to T.Ross Low, Editor of the Voice
- Booking of various functions; retreat, conference attendance, AGM

New responsibilities include:

- Entering data for all payables and receivables into Simply Accounting
- Printing cheques
- Posting new job opportunities onto the AUSU website
- Editing/monitoring new bulletin board posts

Goals for the future:

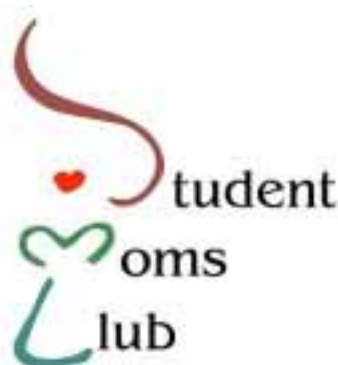
- Develop a system between myself and S.Moore, Secretary/Treasurer to send copies of all financial information electronically.
- Develop a procedure manual so as to outline all office procedures and to indicate where all information is filed and should be filed. This should allow for a more efficient filing system that has better accessibility and improved use of space. By doing this I also hope to promote continued consistency in office procedures for the future.
- Keep more databases for student complaints, requests, and suggestions so as to improve upon student services.

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION SPONSORED CLUBS



ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS' SOCIETY (AUPSS) – formed in 2002 and spearheaded by AUSU councilor and psychology major Sandra Moore the AUPSS is open to any AU student with an interest in psychology. The AUPSS has brought together psychology students with an on-line discussion forum, regularly scheduled chats, and in-person area coffee groups across Canada. The psychology site also has links to sample student papers, grad studies information and information on joining various psychology organizations. Check out the groups and clubs page on the AUSU website. For more information on the AUPSS contact Sandra at smoore@ausu.org

STUDENT MOM'S CLUB (SMC) - formed in 2003 and spearheaded by AU student Joy Krys, the SMC is a place for AU moms to connect. The site offers a discussion board, feature articles about parenting and children by AU students, recipes and tips for studying with young children. This relatively new club can be accessed through the AUSU website. For more information contact Joy Krys at joykrys@sprint.ca



The Voice - Report for AGM, May 24, 2003
Prepared by: Editor In Chief - Tamra Ross Low

This report reflects what has happened with the voice since February of 2003, when I took over as editor.

In December of 2002, long time Voice editor Tammy Moore indicated that she would be leaving The Voice. It was bad news for AUSU and the loyal Voice readers, but wonderful news for Tammy, as she had just acquired her dream job as a full time Jr. High school teacher.

For a time, I worked with Tammy as a volunteer to see if she would be able to retain her editor position with assistance. However, the demands of her job necessitated her leaving, so in January I left AUSU council and applied for the job as Voice editor. After a tense few weeks and an arduous interview process, I won the job and began as official Voice editor in February.

Since that time a number of changes have been made. I was told by AUSU that I won the Voice job because of my vision for our student paper, and so I have worked hard to implement that vision since taking over. My plan was to make The Voice Newspaper into The Voice Magazine. This is more than a mere change in title - it is recognition of the unique nature of our student publication, which is in turn a reflection of the unique nature of our student population.

Most university newspapers - like municipal and national papers - are filled with factual but cursory reporting of recent occurrences, current trends, and local events. Magazines, on the other hand, may comment on the same issues, but in a more in-depth, reflective, and diverse style. Both types of reporting are valid and necessary, and it's difficult to say which is more important. *The National Post* relies of factual, up to date reporting, while *Time Magazine* expands on that reporting with in-depth, research based articles. The Voice has always followed the latter course, but has aspired to be a newspaper, on par with other university newspapers. I believe that this view has left The Voice in the position of always being in the bottom of the pack, because our off-campus style of learning means that there are no on-campus events to report, and we have no campus-based reporters.

This situation is similar to the long-time belief that distance education students are somehow inferior to students who take on-campus courses. In recent years, however, DE students have started to take pride in their alternative style of learning, and some of us have come to feel that we are actually receiving a higher level of education due to our increased options and the ability to work at our own level. My vision for The Voice has been to erase the notion that we have to compete with other university newspapers

on their terms, and instead recognize the unique nature of our publication and actively promote our strengths.

The Voice became *The Voice Magazine* in February - a change that was soon followed with a new look and an updated website. So far the feedback has been fabulous.

The Voice is moving toward a more diverse style, with a mixture of topics that include news, politics, education, lifestyles, health, entertainment, and humour. We have also introduced a fiction feature so that students who prefer writing fiction will have a forum for publication just as the fiction writers do.

One measure of the success of The Voice is our subscriber list. People who subscribe have asked to receive a weekly email announcing the publication of each new Voice issue. We have far more readers than we do subscribers, but growth in the subscriber list is a good indicator of increased readership overall. In February we had about 130 subscribers, but this number reached 150 in March. It is a small number, but a significant milestone given that our website is still fairly new. Today the subscriber list has 180 members, indicating a 20% increase in dedicated readers in just over 2 months. This is an exciting trend, and one we hope to see continue.

Our recent Voice Reader Survey [there will be a much more extensive one in the coming months] told us a lot about what Voice readers are looking for in a student publication, and I believe that this information is responsible for the increase in Voice readership. Watch for our upcoming annual reader survey and contest, to help shape the Voice for the future.

Anyone interested in being profiled in the Voice student profiles column, or in writing for The Voice should contact voice@ausu.org. We love to hear from you. Comments and suggestions are welcome. We also hope to hear from some students who will be graduating in June to be part of the Voice convocation special for 2003.

Thanks for reading!

Tamra Ross Low

AUSU In Brief

Who are we?

Executive:

Debbie Jabbour, Edmonton AB	-	President
Shirley Barg, Edmonton AB	-	Vice President
Sandra Moore, Redcliff, AB	-	Secretary/Treasurer

Council members:

Karie-Anne Getta, Calgary, AB
Mac McInnis, Calgary, AB
Sandra Moore, Redcliff, AB
Nicholas Palamarchuk, Andrew, AB
Tamra Ross Low, Calgary, AB
Karl Low, Calgary, AB

Staff:

Voice Editor	-	Tamra Ross Low, Calgary, AB
Administrative Assistant	-	Carla Benavides, Edmonton, AB

Council Activities during 2002/2003

- Preparation of student packages
- Convocation 2002
- Committee representation
- Student scholarships
- CAUS membership
- New Editor of the Voice
- Website redevelopment
- Voice new look online
- First AUSU newsletter mailed out
- Increased government lobbying with CAUS
- Participation in the 2002-2006 Strategic University Planning Committee
- New student scholarships implemented
- Groups and Clubs committee expanded
- Participation in Middle States Accreditation University Self Study Committees

Activities planned for 2003/2004

- Add more discussion and chat forums on the AUSU website
- Work for greater student representation in other parts of Canada
- Increase communication between students and AUSU
- Increase student to student communication

AUSU Committees

Committee	Chair	Members
Executive	Debbie Jabbour	Sandra Moore, Shirley Barg
Finance	Karie-Anne Getta	Sandra Moore, Debbie Jabbour
External	Shirley Barg	Debbie Jabbour, Huma Lodhi, Marc Halas, Rob Caswell, Sean Manak, Trevor Siwak
Academic	Inactive	
Student Services	Inactive	
Clubs	Sandra Moore	Debbie Jabbour, Tara McKee, Nicholas Palamarchuk, Lonita Fraser, Tamra Ross Low
Website	Mac McInnis	Tamra Ross Low, Karie-Anne Getta, Debbie Jabbour
Strategic Planning	Nicholas Palamarchuk	Sandra Moore, Shirley Barg, Debbie Jabbour,
Legislative	Karl Low	Sandra Moore, Angela Staley, Debbie Jabbour, Shirley Barg

AU and External Committees

Committee	Representative
Governing Council	Debbie Jabbour
Academic Council	Debbie Jabbour
AUGC Finance	Debbie Jabbour
Budget Advisory	Sandra Moore
Student Awards	Shirley Barg
Student Appeals	Mac McInnis
Staff Awards	Shirley Barg (Mac McInnis 2003)
Strategic University Planning	Debbie Jabbour; completed June 2002
Council of Alberta University Students	Shirley Barg, Debbie Jabbour
Student Services Group	Shirley Barg
Middle States Accreditation Self Study	Debbie Jabbour, Shirley Barg, Sandra Moore, Nicholas Palamarchuk, Karl Low, Tamra Ross Low,
Bryon Paege Scholarship	Mac McInnis

AUSU ACTIVITY REPORT 2001/02

PRIORITY ACTIVITIES:

AUSU Advocacy

Student representatives on:
AU Governing Council
AU Academic Council
AU Governing Council Finance
AU Budget Advisory Committee; AU Student Awards Committee;
AU Student Appeals Committee
Strategic University Planning
Council of Alberta University Students [CAUS]
Center for Learning Accreditation Steering
Student Services Group

The Voice

New Voice Editor
New look from newspaper to magazine
Increase in writers and regular columnists
New features; Sounding Off column
More student information from AU
Increased readership

AUSU News

First issue of the AUSU newsletter mailed to all students in September
Numerous responses to contest entry form, plus noticeable increase in
new accounts on AUSU website and forums
Simultaneous with mailing of newsletter, a website version of the letter
was made available on AUSU web space

Conference Attendance

Students Development Symposium, July 2002. Hosted by the Alma
Mater Society.
Peer Counselling, November 2002. Hosted by University of Alberta.
National Forum on Tuition conference, March 2003. Hosted by
University of Manitoba. S. Moore attended and a report was
included in the Voice.

Study Buddy Program

Served a large number of students since its inception in late 1996
Continues to be a popular program, with many requests made each month.

On-line list where students are able to select a study buddy of their choice. Students are also able to add their own name to the list.

AUSU Retreat

In March, members met in Canmore, Alberta for a team building retreat, coupled with an intensive final rewrite of the bylaws in order to prepare for the upcoming AGM.

AUSU Website and Forums

In September, construction of the new AUSU website began
Forums were re-introduced to the existing web-space, and see considerable student traffic

New website contains student surveys on courses and programs of study

Web-space for AUSU affiliated groups and clubs

Proposed

Graduate section, with grad photos and messages of congratulations from students/friends

Improved council biographies and pictures, so that you can know your council better

Student Handbook/Planner

No AUSU Handbook/Planner was produced this year, as we are revising this publication to make it more useful for students

Preparation for assembling student packages containing items useful to AU students has begun. Packages will be ready by summer 2003

Proposed

A new AUSU Handbook in a smaller format, or some other AUSU produced study aid[s] that might be more useful. The future of this project is dependent on student feedback, which we are in the process of collecting

AUSU at Convocation 2002

AUSU provided a pancake breakfast, convocation lunch and co-sponsored afternoon tea (with AU) for all students at this year's convocation

All graduates this year were presented with an AUSU gift desk clock, engraved with a congratulatory message

Proposed

Increased coverage of the next convocation on the AUSU website, possibly with the inclusion of live video of the ceremonies

A graduate photo album on the AUSU website

Quality banners to identify AUSU's participation

AUSU Scholarships and Awards

New scholarships introduced, with larger dollar values

New awards for top graduates each year

Proposed

More scholarships and awards as funds allow

Occasional revision of awards policies, to ensure that they are awarded in the fairest manner possible

Conference Funding and Computer Bursary

AUSU Funding is available for any student who wishes to attend a conference relevant to their field of study, and for students in need who require a computer.

Proposed

Software bursaries for students in need who require large software packages, such as Microsoft Office, for their coursework

Proposed changes to these services to improve the effectiveness

Bylaw Review

AUSU bylaws have been fully revised, and will be presented at the March 2003 AGM for consideration

Groups and Clubs

New Groups and Clubs committee was formed, to help support burgeoning extra-curricular clubs formed by AUSU students

Free web-space and basic web design provided for AUSU clubs

AUSU funding for approved club expenses

Proposed

To increase number of student clubs

CAUS membership

Remain active in CAUS, working with student representatives from Alberta's other universities, lobbying the government for changes to tuition fee policies and other areas of concern.

Proposed

Looking into developing alliances with other distance education student associations

2002-2006 Strategic University Planning Committee

Participated in the development of the new SUP from September of 2001 to June 2002.

Middle States Self-Study Committee. An extension of the SUP Planning Committee that will be involved in implementing future plans for the U.S. Middle States Accreditation process

BONUS

FOLLOWING IS A REPRINT OF THE VERY
FIRST ISSUE OF THE AUSU STUDENT NEWSPAPER

THIS FIRST EDITION WAS ENTITLED 'THE PAPER', AND THE
NOW FAMILIAR NAME 'THE VOICE' DID NOT COME
INTO USE UNTIL THE SECOND ISSUE.

IN FACT, THE NAME OF THE PAPER WAS SELECTED AS A RESULT OF A
CONTEST IN THIS FIRST ISSUE

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS RETROSPECTIVE
ISSUE OF YOUR STUDENT PUBLICATION

The Paper

The Student Voice of the Athabasca University Community

Spring 1993

STUDENT FEES GO UP

Edith Dittman

Edmonton, AB

AU Governing Council on April 8 approved a budget that included a 15 per cent hike in student tuition and related fees to be effective May 1, 1993. With this increase, which is coupled with an announced zero per cent increase from government grants, the university intends to embark on a planned growth strategy that involves invest-

ments in technology and innovations in its current delivery system.

The AU Students' Association is deeply concerned about yet another tuition fee increase (fees have increased 15 per cent every year since 1990), especially in view of a "stand pat" government grant. Although these increases are lower than those

charged students at other universities in Alberta, we are concerned that these increases will put educational opportunities out of reach for some of our students.

Athabasca University's mission statement says it is "dedicated to increasing equality of Educational Opportunity

for all Adult Canadians." In our current economic climate, with thousands of Canadians experiencing extreme financial difficulty, we can only wonder about the impact an increase in tuition and other fees will have on AU Students.

Edith Dittman is VP Academic and Student Affairs, AUSA

AUSA first in line to meet new Advanced Education Minister

The Students' Association enjoys the distinction of being the first student body to meet with new Advanced Education Minister Jack Ady. This auspicious meeting took place at Athabasca University on March 12 immediately following the honourable minister's introduction and tour of the University. AUSA president Mike Ryan exchanged information with the minister about the uniqueness of the Students' Association, especially as it related to open and distance education. After a round of introductions from other members of the Students'

Council, Ady was left with the impression that Athabasca University students are unique in many ways. Having opened these lines of communication with Advanced Education, the Students' Council is looking forward to future discussions dealing with Students' Association concerns.

Minister of Advanced Education, Jack Ady (at head of table) hears concerns of AU students.



Klein: Cut Salaries For University Presidents

Juliet Williams

Reprinted from the University of Alberta Gateway

Premier Ralph Klein called for top university administrators and presidents to reconsider the large amounts they're making in the context of recessionary Alberta.

Klein made the comments in a "One on One with Premier Ralph" at the provincial Progressive Conservative party's annual convention in April. Conservative delegates had the opportunity to present the premier with their concerns at the session.

"We have said to universities...that perhaps they can do what the government itself has done. First to reduce the salaries of senior officials, cabinet ministers by five per cent, roll back salaries of deputy ministers by five per cent, to continue the freeze on M.L.A. salaries, and to continue the freeze on salaries of mid-management people within the public service," said Klein.

Klein said he has told University presidents, hospital presidents and school board superintendents, "who by the way, for the most part, especially in the big cities, make a lot more money than I as premier of this province could ever hope to make...don't put it on the backs of the employees, don't put it on the backs of the students, but look at your own salary. Maybe you can cut your salary by five per cent."

Klein publicly commended the superintendent of the Foothills school district, who recently took a five per cent pay cut, and the new president of the Banff School of Fine Arts, who did the same, "following exactly the government's plan."

"Now if the president of the University of Alberta is listening, and the

president of the University of Calgary is listening, and the subsequent school board superintendents are listening, we'll all get along just fine," added Klein.

"Without a doubt education is the key to economic development. We place tremendous emphasis on post-secondary education, but we've had to tell post-secondary institutions this year we can't increase your grants," Klein also said, adding that his government would like to remove any present barriers which reduce the efficiency of delivering quality education to students.

Later at a press conference, Klein was uncertain as to what should be done about specific government policies with regard to post-secondary education.

Klein said the 20 per cent cap on the student-paid element of tuition is under discussion.

"First of all we would like to see how much support there is for that kind of a proposition. Then again, some of the universities are saying 'give us the flexibility to determine fees and so on.' We would like to look at that, and that, along with a number of other issues relative to post-secondary education, are on the table." Klein said a review of the student loan program is also being examined.

The convention's theme was "Home Improvement" and Klein stressed the party was putting a new face on the politics of Alberta. "We're coming out from under the dome and reaching out to Albertans."

Gateway, April 6, 1993

President's Message

from Mike Ryan



This is my first opportunity to talk to you as president of your Students' Association. As you have read, there has been a change in the executive of the Students' Association. I was elected February 6, 1993, by the Students' Council and have been diligently working with the Council to organize an effective and cohesive Students' Association.

My first priority is to communicate with my fellow students. This newspaper is one of the mechanisms by which you the student can get your point across to us. Your opinions are crucial to the formulation of Students' Association policy. Presently we are developing policies and strategies to promote and represent Athabasca University student issues in all areas of the post-secondary education system.

Do you want your voice to be heard? If so, then get involved in your

Students' Association. At present there are at least four vacancies on the Students' Council that need to be filled. Student representatives are selected from all areas served by the University, and are appointed to the Students' Council. General elections for the elected positions of the Students' Council are held every even-numbered year in the month of March. If you are interested in getting involved as a member of the Students' Council or any of its sub-committees, contact Richard Leiden (executive director) or Mike Ryan (president) at the Students' Association Office at the Edmonton Learning Centre.

In February 1992, I became involved in the founding of the Students' Association. Until then, I did not feel as if I were apart of this university. But being involved with the Students' Association has influenced my understanding of student issues and exposed me to my university. As I see it, the goals of the Students' Association are to campaign for a fair deal for distance post-secondary

education students in terms of funding and tuition fees, access to education and quality of education, and to fight against reduction of services to students.

By this time you are aware that tuition fees are rising yet again. Some say higher education has become increasingly accessible. In reality, however, education is more accessible for some, rather than for everybody. AU's mission statement declares "Athabasca University is dedicated to the removal of barriers that traditionally restrict access to and success in university-level studies...". In my opinion fee increases restrict access to university-level studies by creating a barrier as a result of economic discrimination.

Although the Students' Association opposed the tuition increases in tuition fees, our university, because of insufficient government funding, was forced to raise tuition fees. If the government publicly supports mass education, then the government must provide adequate funding. We encourage the University Governing

Council to take a leadership role and speak out against further cuts to post-secondary education.

On a more pleasant note, I am pleased to inform you the Students' Association has been welcomed in the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS). The Council meets to deal with issues common to the four universities in this province. Our executive will be the first representatives of Athabasca University students, and the first distance education students, to sit on this council. We have a distinct perspective to bring to the table at CAUS and we intend to speak with an effective voice for our students.

I hope to receive many letters and phone calls from you THE STUDENT. As your representative, I need your help to make informed decisions about what you THE STUDENT want when I speak for you at the Athabasca University Governing Council or in any other forum in which your Students' Association participates on your behalf.

Opinions

SIX MONTH INTEREST FREE LOAN STATUS ON WAY OUT

Students with Canada Student Loans are about to lose their six-month interest free period upon graduation.

Until recently, the government has paid interest on the loan while students are in school and for six months after they graduate or quit. On February 4, 1993 a House of Commons committee adopted Bill C-76, which eliminates the interest subsidy.

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) had hoped to appear before the committee to argue against the bill, but the committee chair, Don Blenkarn, and Conservative MP's David Bjornson and Greg Thompson passed a motion stating there would be no public hearings on the matter. The CFS has called a meeting of its National Advisory Group on April 14, 1993 to express concerns regarding Bill C-76. All public stakeholders have

been invited to attend, however, the Minister of the Secretary of State has declined the invitation but will send an observer.

The bill has now gone back to the House for a third reading. Once passed, the bill will make students pay the interest on Canadian Student Loans as soon as they graduate or as soon as they leave school. The bill will also make non-profit student lobby groups like CFS pay an annual registration fee that will amount to about \$600 a year. If the groups refuse to pay the fee, they would lose their official status.

It is noteworthy that in a democratic society such as Canada, not-for-profit groups representing citizens and taxpayers have to pay a fee to the government for the privilege of exercising their democratic right to free speech.

Did you hear the one about the home-study student...

Student life is not all seriousness and hard work. We would like to include some of the lighter side of AU in our student newspaper. Please submit any (sensible) jokes, cartoons, humorous stories, etc., to the AUSA Editorial Committee at the Edmonton Learning Centre.

We are especially in need of visually-inclined people: newspaper cartoonists and photographers. If you have any drawing ability at all, or you know which button on your camera to press, please contact us!

Letters

We welcome comments and views from our readers. Please include name, address, and daytime telephone numbers. Letters and commentary pieces should be no more than 500 words long, and they may be edited for editorial

Tutors Protest New Instructor Positions

Cathy Cavanaugh

Edmonton, AB

Tutors at Athabasca University are organized under the Canadian Union of Educational Workers (CUEW) in order to work collectively for a stronger, more effective voice within the University community. After years of arbitrary treatment by our employer, we also sought a mechanism that would promote more direct discussions with the administration on a range of issues including pay, working conditions and service to students. Working closely with students, we are often the first to hear about the impact of university policy and practice on the quality of their learning experience at AU. Historically, this relationship has led us to support a high level of student services appropriate to a distance university. For example, we opposed the administration's decision to eliminate toll-free telephone access last year since we knew that this created a hardship for some students.

It seems that old habits die hard, and the administration continues to exercise its authority with little regard for those most directly affected. A recent example of arbitrary action by the administration is the decision to raise fees and service charges across the board. At the same meeting of Governing Council where fees were increased, approval was given to the administration's recommendation to redesignate the French instructor positions as "academic". The result is that eight to 15 part-time tutoring positions have been terminated and two new part-time academic "instructor" positions created.

This is more than a question of jobs, although jobs themselves are a particularly critical issue for all of us these days. Under the Universities Act, AU's Governing Council is given the

power to designate individuals as academic. This determines which bargaining unit a given position or individual will fall into. At AU, all non-designated academic workers including tutors and markers are represented by CUEW Local 11. All those "designated academic" are represented by the Faculty Association.

CUEW strongly objects to the firing of the current French tutors. We are equally opposed to the redefinition of these positions since the work performed by the new "instructors" is not substantially different from that done by tutors and markers. We are not disputing the power of the University's administration to determine designation; they clearly have that power under the Universities Act. What we do assert is that employers have a duty to be fair and just. Since the proposed changes to course delivery do not depend on the designation of the French tutors/instructors and could go ahead without altering the designation, and since there is no substantive difference between the job done by the newly-created "instructors" and that done by the terminated tutors, the decision to designate these positions which has the effect of taking them out of CUEW is clearly unfair and flies in the face of any definition of justice.

Just as the student association seeks fair and reasonable treatment for all students, CUEW Local 11 works to achieve a more equitable environment for working and learning. This action by the administration does serious damage to these objectives, calls into question the collective bargaining process, and smacks of the use of power in the service of power.

Cathy Cavanaugh is a tutor representative on AU Governing

Council Corner

The Students' Association was created to represent and serve Athabasca University students. All registered AU students are automatically members. As an effective student voice, the Students' Association was organized along the well-established principles of a deliberative assembly - the kind of gathering to which parliamentary law applies and in which courses of action to be taken are discussed democratically and decided by majority vote.

This deliberative assembly, consisting of up to 11 student representatives, makes up the Students' Council. In addition, three executive members are elected by popular vote of the student body and given the mandate to provide leadership under the direction of the assembly. This executive election was carried out last year.

Unfortunately, it was apparent by December 1992 that the Students' Association and the executive were heading in different directions, and

in January 1993, after considerable debate, it became clear there were some philosophical differences between the expectations of the executive and those of the Students' Council. These events culminated with the voluntary resignation of the three executive members during a Students' Council meeting. Despite a strong plea for the executive to work with the Students' Council to resolve their conflicts, Council was left with no alternative but to accept these resignations.

Following a one-week cooling-off period, the Students' Council met in accordance with bylaws to elect an interim president. In addition, elections were held for the positions of vice-president Administration and Finance and vice-president Academic and Student Affairs. Since that time, the new executive and Students' Council have acted quickly to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of its members in office. There is now a feeling of agreement among all the members concerned.

The Students' Council considers this matter closed and is currently concentrating on executing the mandate of the Students' Association.

Athabasca University Students' Council

Executive Committee



Mike Ryan,
President
Edmonton, AB



Edith Dittman,
Vice-president
Academic and Student
Affairs, Edmonton, AB



Terry Sorbak,
Vice-president
Administration and
Finance
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Students' Council Members

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Hendrika Khan
Patrick Peterson

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Edmonton, AB

Sherry Pedersen
Diane Pigott
Marlene Stearna
Susan Zsoldos

Carmar, AB
Calgary, AB
Edmonton, AB
Cherhill, AB

Commerce Students Gather For Winnipeg Conference

Susan Zsoldos

Cherhill, AB

A roundtable conference of commerce students was held at the University of Manitoba in March. I was selected as the representative from AUSA to attend this fast-paced conference, along with delegates from 16 universities from Alberta to Nova Scotia: Laval, McGill, Queen's, Dalhousie, York and Concordia, to name a few. Alberta had many representatives with three of our four universities in attendance.

The conference is an annual event, hosted by a different university each year. Next year's host will be the University of Calgary. Topic of discussion included motivation and student participation, mentor and co-op programs, sponsorship and fundraising, and the structure of student government.

I was quite amazed at how much recognition I received by being an AU student. Most of the delegates were very interested in our system of home-based study and correspondence courses. I felt very unique, and they all admired the determination and dedication that AU students must have in order to succeed. As I have never had post-secondary education at any institution other than AU, I was very interested to learn about the structures of other universities.

I believe it is important to network and gain recognition and credibility for our organization. By attending events such as this, we can discuss concerns that are important not just to AU students, but to the student body as a whole. The rewards and experience you can receive by getting involved are phenomenal.

Susan Zsoldos is a AUSA Students' Council member, an Editorial Committee member, and a jack of all trades.

The Paper

The Paper is the newspaper of the Athabasca University Students' Association. It is published three times per year under the direction of the AUSA Editorial Committee. Ideas, suggestions and submissions are welcomed. The views expressed in articles in the newspaper are not necessarily those of the Students' Association. All students registered in an Athabasca University course at the time of printing will receive a copy free of charge.

AUSA Editorial Committee

Chair: Edith Dittman
Members: Sherry Pedersen
Susan Zsoldos
Nancy Lutz
Sherrine Chiu-Chu
Barb Cook

AUSA Office

Edmonton Learning Centre
2nd Floor, 108 Street Building
9942-108 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 0J5
Telephone (403) 497-3413
FAX (403) 423-6806

AUSA Executive

Director: Richard Leclerc
Produced by the Department of
Marketing and Communications,
Athabasca University.
Editor: Roberta Franchuk
Print Production: Media Services

AUSA joins Council of Alberta University Students

The Athabasca University Students' Association was accepted as a full member in the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS). At its March 13 meeting, CAUS welcomed the Students' Association with an unanimous vote of approval.

The Council of Alberta University Students is an organization of Alberta university students' associations whose aim is to ensure accessible quality post-secondary education in Alberta. The organization also emphasizes effective student services and promotes the value of a high-quality educational system.

It is essential for the AU Students' Association to add the voice of open and distance post-secondary education students to the voice of traditional university students. Membership in this provincially-recognized student organization will provide the Students' Association with a public forum to deliberate issues relevant to

open and distance post-secondary education students. It will also offer greater public exposure for the Students' Association and Athabasca University.

The Students' Association will be participating in a joint campaign with CAUS and the Alberta College and Technical Institute Student Executive Council during the upcoming provincial and federal elections. The goals of the campaign are to make students aware of the important issues affecting them and to encourage their involvement in the elections, to inform candidates of the concerns of students, and to make the public aware of the importance of post-secondary education.

Students wishing to contact any Students' Association members are welcome to either write or phone our Edmonton Students' Association Office.

NAME THE NEWSPAPER

Win money! See your name in lights!

Attention AU students: Fame and riches could be yours! We are pleased to announce the commencement of the official AUSA Name the Newspaper Contest. You could become part of AUSA history, AND win a hundred bucks, if you come up with the catchiest, coolest, all-around best name for the brand new AUSA newspaper.

The contest is open to all Athabasca University students, with the exception of members of the Editorial Committee and the Athabasca University Students' Council. Entries will be judged by the Editorial Committee, and all decisions are final.

NAME THE NEWSPAPER AND WIN \$100

Proposed newspaper name

Name	Mail to:
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Address	c/o Athabasca University
	Students' Association
	2nd Floor, 9942 - 108 Street
Postal Code	Edmonton, Alberta
Daytime phone #	T5K 0J5

All entries must be received by July 15, 1993.

AU to honour music legend and nursing leader

Kerry Joyes

Marketing and Communications

Athabasca University will salute the achievements of country music legend Ian Tyson and inspirational nursing leader Helen Sabin at its 18th annual convocation to be held on June 12 in Athabasca.

Both will receive honorary degrees of Doctor of Athabasca University for their outstanding contributions to the arts and nursing respectively.

"The University is pleased to be able to recognize these distinguished Albertans who have excelled in their respective fields and who have enriched the cultural and professional fabric of the province and of Canada," said AU President Terry Morrison on making the announcement.

Ian Tyson is a singer-songwriter who is perhaps best known for his hit

songs "Four Strong Winds" and "Someday Soon." He lives on a ranch near Longview, Alberta.

A folk singer in the 1960s and '70s, Tyson's recent efforts reflect his fascination with the culture of the West: country music that explores the cowboy as hero, the role of ranching, and the cowboy lifestyle. His 1985 album, *Cowboyography*, achieved gold status in Canada and garnered a host of album-of-the-year awards. He was also inducted into the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame in 1989 and into the Juno Hall of Fame in 1992.

"We are celebrating Mr. Tyson's contribution to Canadian culture through song," explained Jeremy Mout, professor of history, who nominated Tyson. "Country music is

a uniquely egalitarian musical form, and its resurgence reflects many people's desire to get in touch with the authentic roots of Alberta's past. Like country music, Athabasca University aspires to be egalitarian. Its unique mission calls for it to be open, accessible, and even unconventional. Mr. Tyson reflects these ideals."

Helen Sabin of Calgary practised nursing in Alberta for 40 years. For 20 years she was a district nurse working in various communities across Alberta and, in 1960, she was appointed executive director of the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses (AARN) where she transformed a fragile organization into one of the most active and strongest in Canada.

"We are honouring Mrs. Sabin's

contribution to nursing in Alberta and to the legacy she left," said nursing professor Roberta Carey. "She was devoted and dedicated in her quest to ensure professional representation, collective bargaining, fair wages, and a strong voice for nursing in Alberta."

Retirement in 1976 didn't slow Sabin down; she helped establish the AARN museum and archives, which houses one of the finest and most extensive collections of nursing history in Canada.

A tireless worker in advancing the nursing profession in Alberta and Canada, Sabin received an Alberta Culture Service Award in 1975 and was named to the Legion Hall of Fame of the rural areas of Alder Flats, Winfield, Pelly, and Fortson.

New dean settling into the Faculty of Science

David Rawlence looks wistfully out his second-floor office windows, awaiting a lull in all the meetings and moving and settling-in that come with taking over as AU's new dean of the Faculty of Science.

Rawlence comes to AU from the University of New Brunswick where he was professor of biology and, before that, chair of the Division of Science for 10 years. He replaces Don Kvill, who has been acting dean since July 1992.

Born and educated in New Zealand, Rawlence earned bachelor's and master's degrees in botany at the University of Canterbury. He first came to Canada in 1966 to complete his PhD at the University of New Brunswick. In 1971, he returned to New Zealand and conducted research on water pollution in local lakes, where he first got his feet wet and developed an interest in mud and peat bogs.

After setting up the first science program in the department of com-

tinuing education at Canterbury, Rawlence was again attracted to the University of New Brunswick, this time by its expanded marine biology program. He immigrated to Canada in 1978.

His research interest involves examining microfossils found in peat bogs and lake sediment where he finds microscopic, though important, evidence of climatic change. He can hardly wait, he says, to get onto the ice of some of Athabasca's neighbouring lakes. The ice provides a stable platform through which he can bore a hole and lower a device that will take a one-metre sample of sediment from the lake floor.

"By looking at how the fossil microfossils has changed over time," he explains, "we can make some deductions about how climate has changed."

Rawlence also enjoys travelling (mainly to natural and remote areas of Australia and New Zealand) and

landscape photography. His retirement dream is to someday have a small gallery in which to show his work.

As dean, he would like to see the Bachelor of Science and the Bachelor of Nursing degrees "become the envy of other distance education institutions" and the Bachelor of Science become the basis for a major thrust into the area of environmental education. "And personally," hopes Rawlence, "I'd like to see the faculty have more time to devote to research."

Once he has arranged more permanent accommodation, he will be joined by his wife and daughter.



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Library staff gear up to respond to increased demand for services

Leslie Aitken is the Athabasca University Librarian. She and four part-time and 11 full-time staff manage over 100,000 holdings in their collection, and continually look at new ways of handling the growing demand on library services. Aitken explains how they are doing this, and some of their immediate and long-term goals.

The Library's annual report shows that overall circulation has increased 259 per cent in three years. How has the Library coped with such an increase?

Accommodating an increase of 259 per cent over three years has required a change of perspective, a re-visiting of priorities, and a reorganization. Most of all, it has required integration and fortitude on the part of the staff. Two-thirds of our job descriptions have been rewritten; more are being revised.

In its initial years, the Library was most concerned with acquiring a good basic reference collection, a selection of prescribed course materials for students, and a small collection of specific research materials to serve faculty. Responsive interlibrary loans policies and prac-

tices were put in place. Huge amounts of staff time went into acquisitions and cataloguing.

Now, of course, we are reaping the benefits of those early efforts. Increasingly in the last three years, students and external users have discovered the wealth of information in the Library. This is just what we want, but it forces us to redeploy our staff at the front end of the operation to meet an increasing demand for reference and circulation service.

In addition to the challenge posed by the increase in circulation, what other challenges are you currently facing or anticipating?

Our greatest immediate challenge is keeping up with our role in new course production and revision. At the same time that circulation is booming, another great leap forward in program expansion and course production is taking place at AU.

If a 259 per cent increase across three years seems like a startling statistic, consider a 1,600 per cent increase over eight years! That's how much the demand for copyright clearance of course textbooks has increased since 1985/86. It now takes 50 person-days per year just to clear

the out-of-print or out-of-stock textbooks alone. Additionally, we clear the usual assortment of articles, readings, and audiovisual software for course production. Meeting with faculty about their reading lists for new courses and communicating with course production staff to ensure that we get updates for all the courses that have been revised used to be about 30 per cent of one person's job. It is now almost a full-time occupation.

I'm sure that people expect us to say that the emerging technologies pose a challenge, but this is not so. The challenge is meeting the increased need to communicate with other people. Certain technologies enable us to talk more conveniently and more quickly, whether in spite of or because of them, we talk more.

Could you explain the NORALINK pilot project that you are currently involved with?

NORALINK is an agreement among many libraries in Northern Alberta so that they can work across institutional boundaries and pool their resources for the benefit of all. Athabasca University students will get direct reference at Grande Prairie

Regional College, Grande Prairie Public Library, Keyano College, and the University of Alberta. Their access to our own holdings and the holdings of other libraries will be increased.

Our faculty will be able to get urgently needed items very quickly from the U of A. Ultimately, we would like to distribute a catalogue of the holdings of all the big libraries in Northern Alberta to even the smallest community libraries.

What other priorities have you set in the near future?

A very important initiative is support for the "Words Work" Literacy Program. Literacy is the most fundamental of barriers to university education. We would feel a sense of accomplishment if the Library could help to bridge the gap between not reading at all and reading well enough to embark on that first AU course. As to long-range goals, I think that when all libraries in Alberta are networked into one big collaborating system, when every Albertan is every Alberta library's patron, then I think I can quit the field with honour and say, "We did it!"



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Student satisfied with results of AU studies

Professor of Geology Don Kvill received the following student letter, which he would like to share:

I am pleased to have completed Geology 313. At the beginning, I must honestly admit that the material seemed overwhelming, but being a "mature" student drove me to prove I could indeed be successful. Working full-time, I found that I had to become very efficient as well as selfish with my time. I found the essay assignments to be very helpful, and my tutor, Jack Park, always responded to them with a positive comment. The course was

extremely well laid out—study and student guides most valuable.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your encouraging words upon receipt of both exam results. As a student of distance education, it is especially gratifying to have contact and constructive comments from "someone at the other end." The comments on both the essay and assignments gave me a sense of accomplishment as well as motivation to complete the course.

With much gratitude and appreciation.

Sharon Theau

Tutor talk

Healing the Past, Forming the Future

Susan M. Belcher

The 10th Biennial Conference "Healing the Past, Forming the Future" of the National Association of Women and the Law was held in Vancouver, February 19-21, 1993.

As a tutor in women's studies, I know only too well how quickly things change in my subject area. It is not possible to keep course packages up-to-date when every day significant changes occur in terms of how gender affects the lives of Canadians. Therefore, it is necessary for us as tutors to do a great deal of reading and media-watching to keep up with these changes. This conference provided one such opportunity for me not only to hear about changes that have occurred through community work and legal challenges, but to meet many of the women who have been instrumental in this work.

As one of the 500 delegates at the conference, I was able to network with others from across the country. I found this both challenging and spiritually renewing. The workshop topics covered a variety of concerns, including sexual harassment in the workplace, women's health issues, sexual assault, the corporate agenda and women's poverty, lesbian anti-homophobia strategies, women's rights as human rights, the plight of domestic workers, reproductive technologies, women in prisons, aboriginal people and the criminal justice system, native self government and native women's rights, women and the constitutional crisis, battered women, child custody, anti-Semitism and feminism, feminism and racism, judicial appointments and gender, pay equity, and women and free trade. Many of these are topics covered by the women's studies course that I tutor.

In addition to the breadth of topics, there was a wide array of nationally

known people from various organizations and institutions. The economist Marjorie Cohen and Judy Rebick of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women are prominent figures in Canada. Jean Swanson and Pat Fleming from End Legislated Poverty. Teresa Nohanne of the Native Women's Association of Canada, Marge Friedel of the National Métis Women of Canada and Women of the Métis Nation Alliance, Shirley Masuda of the Disabled Women's Network of Canada, and Corralia Sobrante of the National Organization and the National Council of Canadian Filipino Associations are among many of the other women who, although not yet nationally-known figures, represent organizations that address a vast array of issues and concerns of various segments of the Canadian feminist movement.

It's very difficult to try to encapsulate three full days of workshops and plenary sessions into this brief summary, so I will focus on the keynote address delivered by former Supreme Court Justice, Madam Bertha Wilson, and on a workshop about the issue of women's rights as human rights.

Madam Wilson spoke for about forty-five minutes on protecting women's rights through legal challenges based on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Though her address was geared toward lawyers, who made up the majority in attendance, her suggestions were inspirational to others, like myself, who realize the necessity for legal challenges to patriarchal restrictions on the lives of women and children. Madam Wilson suggested, for instance, that the sexual assault laws should be rewritten to represent the point of view of the victim, not the perpetrator. She also suggested that laws dealing with crimes

in which the majority of victims are women should be similarly rewritten to recognize the real lives of women, not men's interpretations of their lives. She suggested that the Crown should be sued for breach of certain sections of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms if the state fails to protect a woman from domestic violence. Needless to say, Madam Wilson is very optimistic about using the law and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to exercise the rights of women and human beings. I think we will continue to hear from her for some time to come and I think she has inspired many to consider pursuing such precedent-setting cases.

The workshop I found the most riveting was the one addressing women's rights as human rights. Although there were five very impressive presentations, it was M. L. Cole's talk which haunted me through the rest of the conference. In fact, I am still reflecting on its impact. Ms. Cole is a lawyer who represented a young Saudi Arabian woman, "Nada", whose family in Saudi Arabia was very supportive of her efforts to seek refugee status in Canada. Many women are not so fortunate; many are refugees from their own families. This case set a precedent, but by no means guarantees that other women will be given such consideration. As Ms. Cole said, "The discriminatory, degrading, and humiliating treatment experienced by women is not seen as persecution. Women who refuse to obey national laws that infringe upon their basic rights as expressed in international treaties to which Canada is a signatory, whose punishment is sometimes cruel and disproportionate to the so-called offence, are treated as simple common law criminals. (Canadian

Refugee) Board members erroneously assert that laws are universally applicable, when in fact they apply only to women. In this they are supported by the Minister of Immigration, who maintains that Canada must not impose its values on other countries by criticizing 'universally applicable' laws."

Feminists believe that any woman who is persecuted for refusing to obey a law which violates her basic civil and human rights should be considered a bona fide political refugee. Women should be covered under the category "social group" in the Geneva Convention, and the Canadian Immigration Act should be amended to include gender as grounds for persecution. The government has good reason to fear such action; most women in the world, including Canadian women, are not guaranteed the same human and civil rights as men. Gender discrimination is inherent to patriarchal societies. The problem is, we have nowhere to go! There is no refuge from patriarchy for women; there are only degrees of protection. At least in Canada women are free to organize politically and lobby for social change; in too many countries around the world women are killed for even talking about change.

Returned home from Vancouver refreshed, hopeful, and yet humbled by the efforts of so many women to improve the range of choices available to other women. Ultimately my students will benefit from my experiences at this conference. The \$300 which AU so generously invested in my attendance at this conference was well spent.

Susan M. Belcher is a tutor for WMST 267 "Introduction to Women's Studies."

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Department of Educational Psychology, University of Texas
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Take a peek at the past in the AU Archives

Can an institution have a memory? AU does, and it's stored in the Athabasca University Archives. The Archives hold a treasure trove of information about the University's history, and represent the accumulated experience of the educational community. AU's archivist Eileen Hendy explains how AU's history is being preserved.

What are archives?

Archives are the unpublished documentary records of organizations and individuals generated in the course of their day-to-day activities and kept permanently for posterity. Among archival materials you might find administrative files, maps and blueprints, photographs, films, sound recordings, videos, microfilm, microfiche, and electronic records.

Governments, businesses, educational institutions, social agencies, and cultural organizations have, throughout history, relied on the documentation in their own archives to provide evidence of the structures, policies, decisions, and operations of their recent and distant past.

Who are archivists?

Archivists are professionals who manage information to ensure that a true and useable record of society is maintained. They select, preserve, and assure responsible use of society's archival resources. Archivists identify and acquire, from among an incredible variety and volume of material, that small percentage which is of permanent value. They handle and store

documents to help ensure their long-term security and preservation. Archivists organize records and develop retrieval aids.

The history of AU's Archives

Turn Edge, AU's first librarian and in whose memory the Archives are named, saw the need to preserve AU's history and began collecting archival material in the Library.

The Athabasca University Archives was officially established in 1979 when Governing Council approved a document entitled "Athabasca University Archives Policy and Administration." This document established the Archive's collecting mandate, duties of the archivist, and rules for deposit.

In January 1984, Wendy de Cordole was hired as AU's first fulltime archivist in response to the relocation of the University in Athabasca. The Archives faced the task of collecting 14 years of records in a few short months. From January to May of 1984, Wendy was kept busy surveying departments and scheduling records for transfer once the move commenced.

Over the years many individuals have assisted in the important work of the Archives. AU Archives has not only played an important role within the University, but has also made a significant contribution to the archival community by way of staff participation and support to the Alberta Archives Council and the Alberta Society of Archivists. AU Archives is a founding member of both organizations.



Eileen Hendy, AU Archivist

Governing Council learns about loans

Fred Flemingway, chief executive officer of the Alberta Students' Finance Board met with Athabasca University Governing Council on February 11. He gave a stimulating presentation on the Finance Board's status, showing that the Board is operating in a difficult financial climate.

Although Athabasca University Students' Association shares the same concerns as other students' organizations, open and distance post-secondary education students often face unique barriers while in pursuit of their educational goals. We are concerned that the present student loan system was developed before open

and distance education institutions such as Athabasca University began operating.

Through a system of consultation and representation, Athabasca University Students' Association will continue to campaign for a fair deal for students in terms of funding and tuition fees, access to education, and quality of education. We have requested representation on Students' Finance Board committees so we can add our voice to the debate. In any event, the Students' Association will remain current on events and developments about the status of student financing in the province.

Important reminders from the Office of the Registrar

Students should make sure they understand the University's academic policies. These are some areas where students often have questions:

Extensions

The contract (active registration time) for a home-study course can only be extended once for a period of 3 months for either a 3-credit course or a 6-credit course. Extensions are not available in seminar, classroom or guide independent study courses. Requests to extend the contract must be postmarked NO LATER THAN ONE MONTH BEFORE THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT DATE.

(Section 3.5 AU Calendar)

Extensions versus incomplete status

Students need to be very clear on the difference between a course extension and an incomplete status. Incomplete status allows students to complete written assignments and/or exams within two months after the contract date of the course. However, students are not entitled to tutorial help during the incomplete period. At the end of the incomplete status period, students cannot extend their contract.

(Section 3.6 AU Calendar)

Registration cut-off date

Since the 10th of the month is the registration cut-off date, students who phone or FAX registrations on the 9th should not assume that this will guarantee them admission to a course the following month. Last-minute registrations are prioritized according to need (i.e. a student needs the course to graduate, student finance based requirements, etc.) and therefore some registrations received on the 9th will not necessarily be processed prior to cut-off.

Transfers of credit

Students who wish to transfer credits from other institutions must arrange to have official transcripts sent to AU. Official transcripts are defined as those transcripts sent directly from the issuing institution to Athabasca University.

(Section 1.10.8 AU Calendar)

Inactive students

An inactive student is a student who has not registered in an Athabasca University course within 12 months of the completion date, the contract date, or date of withdrawal of their last course. Students who complete courses at other institutions without first obtaining a Letter of Permission from Athabasca University may become inactive and forfeit their enrolment status.

(Section 1.10.9a AU Calendar)

Order Form

Please send me the following resource and learning materials as described on the previous pages of this newspaper.

	COST x QTY = TOTAL
Improve Your Study Skills A Series of Seven Modules (\$10 + \$2.25 S&H + \$0.70 GST = \$12.95)	\$ 12.95 x _____ = _____
Coping With Exam Anxiety (\$10 + \$2.25 S&H + \$0.70 GST = \$12.95)	\$ 12.95 x _____ = _____
Educational Travel '83 The Canadian Guide to Learning Vacations Around the World (\$12.95 + \$2.25 S&H + \$1.06 GST = \$16.26)	\$ 16.26 x _____ = _____
Big Miller Live at Athabasca University (\$12 + \$2.25 S&H + \$1.06 GST = \$15.29)	\$ 15.29 x _____ = _____
Microcomputer Applications in Business Series (1 study pack: \$120 + \$2.25 S&H + \$8.85 GST = \$130.80) (2 or more study packs: 15% discount on total price)	
Word Processing 1 (WordPerfect V5.1)	\$130.80 x _____ = _____
Spreadsheets 1 (Lotus 1-2-3 V2.4)	\$130.80 x _____ = _____
Computerized Accounting Systems (ACCPAC Simply Accounting V5.4)	\$130.80 x _____ = _____
Word Processing 2 (WordPerfect 5.1)	\$130.80 x _____ = _____
Spreadsheets 2 (Lotus 1-2-3 V2.4)	\$130.80 x _____ = _____
Data Base Management (dBase II V1.1)	\$130.80 x _____ = _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED	_____

Name: _____
Address: _____
Postal Code: _____
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☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard ☐ Cheque (payable to Athabasca University)
Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____
Signature: _____

Mail this order form, along with payment, to:

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Marketing and Communications
Box 10,000
Athabasca, Alberta
T0G 2R0

For more information, call (403) 675-6488.

