

2005

Athabasca University Students' Union

ANNUAL REPORTS • 2004 SUMMARY FINANCIALS • COMMITTEES & CLUBS • PLANNING

Annual General Meeting 2005
Report to the Members



AUSU

FINANCIAL REPORT AND AGM INFORMATION

All data refers to the 2003/04 AUSU fiscal year, beginning October 1, 2003, and ending September 30, 2004. Planning information is for the 2005/06 fiscal year, beginning October 1, 2005, and ending September 30, 2006.

For verification and explanation of all financial data, please contact the AUSU VP Finance at vpfa@ausu.org.

The Annual General Meeting of AUSU will be held September 26, 2005, at: 1200, 10011 109th Street, Edmonton, AB. Teleconference lines will be available for all students who request one and who live in an area with access to the teleconferencing network. Inquire with ausu@ausu.org for more information.

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Welcome from the president

As your new AUSU President, I am pleased to present this report to our members detailing AUSU's activities over the 2004 financial year, as well as what we are doing now and our plans for the future.



The past year has brought some dramatic changes to AUSU, including the composition of our council and staff and an evaluation of our management/governance structure to address the growing needs of our organization. We have revamped some old programs, such as our Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards offerings, and investigated some new ones, including a potential discount on health and dental coverage for members. Furthermore, we spent a great deal of time this summer drafting a proposal for Alberta Advanced Education's new initiative — The A Learning Alberta review — and creating detailed information packages for the new AU Executive team. We have also, for the first time in several years, self-produced an AUSU Student Handbook/Planner for our members. To enhance the transparency of AUSU operations, we have also drafted 15 position policies to guide our work for the next few years. It's been an extremely busy yet productive year for the organization.

In April of 2004, nine individuals were elected to council and the following were appointed to the AUSU executive; Mac McInnis – President, Teresa Neuman – VP External and Student Affairs, and Karl Low – VP Finance and Administration. In January 2005, Teresa resigned from AUSU to pursue her educational and work goals, and in late February 2005, Mac McInnis stepped down to become a councillor without portfolio due to time constraints. Council appointed a new Executive at the Special General Meeting on February 28th, 2005. At that time I was appointed President, Lonita Fraser was appointed VP External and Student affairs, and Karl Low was re-appointed the VP Finance and Administration. Despite this dramatic change to the AUSU executive part way through the fiscal year, we continued to operate without disruption of services to our members.

In March 2005, Christine Lynch, an AUSU employee of over six years who had become our Office Coordinator in mid 2004, decided to move on. In April we hired a new Office Manager for our head office in Edmonton, Lorianne Slauenwhite. Lorianne has quickly adapted to our distance model and is already recommending improvements to many administrative functions to address our growing membership. In May Lorianne facilitated our office move

to the new Learning Centre in the Peace Hills Trust building in downtown Edmonton. While our new space is approximately two thirds the size of the old AUSU office, we continue to lease our space for free from the University which is a substantial savings to the union. This has also provided us with the opportunity to audit our space and document storage needs.

One solution to the space crunch is to digitize all AUSU records so that they are available electronically. Currently, AUSU stores many documents as hard copies in the office, which is not only problematic in terms of space but causes delays when dispersing and searching for documents for council members across the country. As AUSU members can potentially serve on council or request documents from anywhere in the world, Council agreed that hard copy storage was not the answer. The process to digitize and store our data with appropriate safeguards is in its early stages and will be well underway in the next fiscal year.

Council has also begun the process of searching for technologies to improve our distance operations. In the past, many councillors have served out of Edmonton, which has created some Edmonton-centered processes. As none of the current Executive lives in Edmonton, this model has created challenges in the safe distribution and sharing of documents and administrative processes. As AUSU council continues to attract councillors from multiple provinces and potentially from other countries, we have made a commitment to continually investigate applications and methods for facilitating a seamless distance operating model for the organization.

While no new AUSU student programs were implemented this year, some old ones were revamped and new ones investigated. First, the old Scholarship, Awards and Bursaries Program was revised in Fall 2004 and the first test year was completed in Summer 2005. The student response to the bursaries was tremendous and council evaluated and further improved the program for Fall 2005.

One of the most exciting plans for next year is a possible discount on health and dental coverage for AUSU members across Canada. Due to our monthly start dates, the varied location of our membership, and the difficulty in determining full-time student status, AUSU has been unsuccessful in the past when seeking a health plan discount for our members. This year, however, we have located a major health insurance provider that can develop custom plans for our unique membership. Talks are going well and Council is hopeful this will result in a discount plan in the near future. We will certainly keep you updated on this front.

A substantial change occurred in the production of the student Handbook/Planner this year. Last year, AUSU collaborated with AU to create the free planner for our members; however this year we decided it would be of greater benefit for AUSU to produce this publication autonomously. The first AUSU produced Handbook/Planner in many years was ready in Summer 2005 and included 18 months of planner pages. AUSU plans to continue producing this handbook for our membership annually.

This summer the Alberta government announced a new initiative to analyze and revamp the post secondary system in Alberta. The "A Learning Alberta" (ALA) initiative requested submissions from stakeholders and the general public for consideration this fall. This

amazing opportunity was one we could not miss and not only did AUSU participate in the joint submission by CAUS members, we also drafted and submitted our own document based upon the needs of our members (this document is available for download from AUSU.org). We will continue to lobby the ALA steering committee throughout the fall to ensure there is positive change for students of Athabasca University.

Traditionally, AUSU has focused primarily on lobbying the Alberta government, which is the chief source of AU's funding. However, it has been recognized that due to our increasingly national presence, that national and federal lobbying needs to be investigated to see if potential benefits can be reaped for our members in their home provinces. This process has begun through the drafting of position policies to focus our national lobbying and will evolve over the next year. Concurrent with this focus on national lobbying, Council has decided to increase its media participation through production of press releases and an online media area on our website. Our first press release was released in August 2005 to promote the granting of US accreditation to Athabasca University. We obtained some coverage of this press release; however our goal is to continue to develop our media relations and improve our visibility in the media and with the public.

Athabasca University also went through some dramatic changes this past year with almost a complete transition in its executive team, including new president Dr. Frits Pannekoek. As AUSU seeks to continue its positive relationship with the University, Council put together a detailed package for the new AU Executive team to introduce them to AUSU, our services and our current goals for the university. The package was well received and we had our first meeting with Dr. Pannekoek in mid August. We are looking forward to working with the new Executives in the coming year. AU also has become the first ever Canadian university to be accredited in the United States. This landmark development means that AU is a viable alternative for U.S. students who receive government funding or certain scholarships.

Finally, an issue that has been ongoing this year is the reorganization of AUSU's management/governance style. As an organization develops, so too does its mode of governance. In the past, the lines between the duties of council and staff were indistinct, which led to confusion and frustration over roles within the organization. While this type of model can be effective, even integral, to a smaller organization with limited funding, AUSU has grown to the point that a more professional structure is required. AUSU is currently working to develop a working structure that places the emphasis of policy governance on council and the day-to-day administration on staff. Our goal is to have an effective operational structure in place for the next council in Spring 2006.

All in all it was a productive year and one that is continuing to build upon the foundation of past councils. AUSU is growing much faster than most student associations and therefore has continual growing pains. However, I feel extremely optimistic about the upcoming year and I believe that AUSU council and staff will continue to rise to the challenge of advocating for our members and providing services to improve their educational experience.

Lisa Priebe
Athabasca University Students' Union
September 2005

AGM 2005

agenda

Athabasca University Students' Union

13th Annual General Meeting

Date: September 26, 2005.

Time: 6 P.M. MST

Location: Suite 1213, Edmonton Learning Centre, Teleconference

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 May 2005, SGM minutes

7.0 Annual Financial statements as at September 30, 2004

7.1 Appointment of Auditor for 2004-2005 Fiscal year

8.0 Motion to accept the AUSU Bylaws:

BIRT the Bylaws of AUSU be amended as indicated in the attached document.

8.0 Presentation of AUSU Annual Activity Report

9.0 Open Forum and Discussion period

10.0 Adjournment

AUSU AGM 2005

September 26, 2005

The 2005 AUSU Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on September 26, 2005 at a time to be announced. All AUSU members are invited to attend in-person at our Edmonton office, or via free teleconference from almost anywhere in the world. At regular council meetings, only council may vote, but at any general meeting you have a vote as well. Don't miss this opportunity to express your views and to ask council questions about the 2004 financials or this year's operating budget. There will be a question period after the meeting, to allow council and the membership to engage in some lively discussion about any topic of interest to you. The annual report will be available through a link on this page very soon. All members are encouraged to download a copy and to attend the meeting.

Recently, the Alberta Government announced a comprehensive review of the Alberta post-secondary education system. Many discussion documents were placed online, and all stakeholders were invited to respond and

Screenshot of the front page of AUSU.org, showing the 2005 AGM announcement. Notice is enlarged and highlighted for legibility.

This notice was posted prior to 21 days before the meeting, and remained on the AUSU.org front page until the date of the meeting.

The AGM was also announced via flyers, posted in the Edmonton Learning Center and the Calgary Learning Center. This flyer is reproduced below.

AGM 2005 Meeting Notices

**Athabasca University
Students' Union**

2005

Join us September 26

Find out what your Students' Union has been doing for you at the **2005 Annual General Meeting**

This meeting is open to all AUSU members
(members include all current AU students, and those who have been in a course ending in the last six months)

Attend in person at our Edmonton office,
or phone in for free from almost anywhere

All attendees will have the
opportunity to ask questions or comment

www.ausu.org
Your Voice, Our Future

Annual General Meeting 2004

Contact ausu@ausu.org or call
1-800-788-9034, ext 3413 for information

Visit www.ausu.org for updates

SGM 2005 meeting minutes

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION Special General Meeting

19:00 (MST), February 28, 2005
Teleconference

Councillors Present: Lisa Priebe (Chair), Joy Kryss, Karl Low, Cindy Stobbe, Lisa Priebe, Lonita Fraser, Shannon Maguire and Mac McInnis

Others in Attendance: Tamra Ross Low (AUSU Communications Coordinator); Members: Peter V. Tretter, Shirley Barg, Teresa Neuman, Jeanne Dupuis, and Jyle Dupuis

Record of Minutes: Christine Lynch, Office Coordinator.

1.0 SGM recording approval.

020805.01 BIRT AUSU will use the Accutel recording service for this meeting.

L. Priebe/C. Stobbe

- Carried -

2.0 Approval of Agenda

020805.02 BIRT the agenda is accepted as presented.

K. Low/C. Stobbe

-Carried-

3.0 Adoption of Annual General Meeting Minutes September 22, 2004

022805.03 BIRT the September 22, 2004 AGM minutes are accepted as presented.

T. Ross Low/P. V. Tretter

-Carried-

4.0 Motion: BIRT AUSU hires the firm of Cass & Fraser as the accountants for the organization, to perform the annual audits and provide advice in the accountancy matters of the organization.

020805.04 BIRT AUSU hires the firm of Cass & Fraser as the accountants for the organization, to perform the annual audits and provide advice in the accountancy matters of the organization.

K. Low/S. Barg

-Carried-

5.0 Open Discussion

An open discussion period during which the newly election AUSU executive were introduced.

Item of interest: AU tuition will be increasing by up to 7% but Albertans will not see this increase this year as the Provincial Government is offering a rebate. Next year Albertans may see a double increase. AUSU will obtain more information on this issue of concern to all AU students.

6.0 Adjournment

BIRT the meeting is adjourned at 7:35PM (MST).

Moved by C. Stobbe

vp external report

Over the past year AUSU has been working diligently toward discerning and addressing the concerns of our student members. We hope to support as full and profitable a university experience as we can for our members by providing direct services and working on behalf of our members to address issues that concern them at the university and governmental levels.

The government of Alberta launched the A Learning Alberta initiative this year, which is a review of Alberta's post-secondary education system. This review will cover areas such as funding, tuition, affordability, innovation, post-secondary responsibilities, and much more. As part of the review process the government has asked for public responses on the aforementioned issues. In addition to participating in the document presented by the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS), AUSU has drafted our own response, which you can access via our website, focusing primarily on issues such as affordability, accessibility, quality, innovation, and providing rural and under-served Albertans access to post-secondary education.

Our commitment to addressing the needs of our members has included the drafting of position policies, which are available on our website in the Council / Bylaws and Policies area. These address issues of funding, tuition, AU's service fees and standards, issues of technology and infrastructure, incidental fees incurred by students, working with lobby groups outside of Alberta, course and program development, tutor service standards, student services, and other areas that concern our membership. We will be concentrating on addressing these issues in the upcoming months and the formalizing of our positions as policies ensures that as members you can keep track of how AUSU is representing you.

As part of our effort to address the policies mentioned above, we have put together information packages that were forwarded to key staff and executives at AU. These packages included our position policies, an overview of our services, and samples of our recent publications. The packages are intended as a) introductions to Council's intentions and desires for our members, and b) as invitations to meetings with us to further discuss the information in the packages. To this end, we have already met with AU's new president, Dr. Frits Pannekoek, and are encouraged by the possibilities of working with him to promote student concerns.

Along with the above, we will specifically be concentrating on investigating the possibility of working with lobby groups outside of Alberta in the hope that they might be able to aid us in our quest to address the concerns of students across the country. We also plan to begin lobbying the federal government directly to address the educational, financial, and technological concerns of our membership.

AUSU continues its efforts to provide social outlets and methods of connection for our members, which include coffee groups, clubs, groups, discussion forums, and a real-time chat room via our website. It is our hope that these services will afford our members as full a university experience as

possible, giving them the opportunity to communicate with each other about issues related to their education, or about anything at all of interest to them. Building a student community for those members who wish to supplement their university experience remains a priority of AUSU.

Also, to further address member concerns, and make those concerns more well-known, we have begun publishing press releases to relevant news services that provide wide scale coverage of our member issues. Our press releases will be made available via a new media area on AUSU.org, should our members wish to peruse them. Our first release, heralding AU's accreditation south of the border, met with some success on American media outlets.

We will be spending the coming months working on goals that will make your university experience a better one, and welcome any commentary from our members on our efforts to date, as well as any concerns they may have about the directions we take in future.

Lonita Fraser
Vice-President External and Student Affairs
September 2005

vp finance report

It's been an unusual year from the financial side of AUSU.

At the last Annual General Meeting, members voiced concerns with the suitability of our former accounting firm to our organization and directed Council to investigate other options. While leading to a considerable delay in completing our annual audit, it also led to our hiring a new firm, Cass & Fraser, as our accountants.

This has worked out well for the union, as the new firm is more cost-effective and more focussed on non-profit organizations such as AUSU. The firm has helped us to move to an accounting system that is understandable by us, and not simply by professional auditors. Unfortunately, this change in systems means that our student revenue amounts for 2004 seem to have grown at a much slower rate than previously. By looking at the year previous to that, however, it becomes clear that this is simply a result of the change in accounting procedures, and AUSU has maintained growth at approximately 10% a year, equalling, naturally, the growth seen by AU.

With the new auditors in place and now comfortable with our systems, AUSU is in a good position to take a renewed look at a re-investment of our surplus funds into programs and technology that will benefit our members for many years to come. We now have procedures and policies in place that ensure sound fiscal management, so the time has come to explore sound fiscal investment.

While business has been unusual on the financial side, things have been relatively calm in comparison to some of what has happened on the administration side. Most notably, our Office Coordinator and long-term employee Christine Lynch has left AUSU and we have had to hire and train her replacement, Lorianne Slauenwhite. When we consider that the memory of the organization has in large part been contained within our employees, since councillors change every two years or so, the transition has been illuminating. New eyes see different things, and Lorianne's participation has allowed us to spot and correct difficulties that were simply considered part of the standard operating procedure.

On top of this, AU recently moved, and while there was some debate in Council as to whether it might be time to strike out on our own, in the end it was decided that if we are going to have an office, it makes sense to be where members and the university administration are likely to be as well. Of course, the University's willingness to provide us with free space was certainly a factor in the decision. AUSU has now completed the move and, where in past the office has been a "working" office, there are efforts now in place to also make it inviting to members should they stop by, encouraging them to become more involved with the union as a whole.

On the policy front, a new, more comprehensive Elections Policy has been developed by the legislative committee and is currently before Council awaiting approval. As required by our bylaws, any changes will be announced 21 days before they are made effective so that you, our members,

have the opportunity to make sure they reflect your values. As the election is the cornerstone of what makes us a democratic organization, there has been considerable time put into this policy, taking into account the particular circumstances of AUSU's membership, the flexibility of the union to accommodate growth and technology changes in the future, and the notion of all members being able to exercise their right to vote.

In addition, the continued growth of AUSU has sparked discussions in Council as to how to move from Council being the primary administrators and workers for the organization to becoming the management of the organization. A change in this direction would naturally require higher and more flexible staffing arrangements, and so Council is undertaking a comprehensive review of its personnel policies to be sure they match AUSU's needs and goals to not only be an effective organization, but also a fair employer.

In a nutshell, we are becoming a larger, more professional organization, and this is starting to show to our members in terms of better programs and programs that are more responsive to the needs of AUSU members. Over the past few years, a solid foundation has been created which will let us increase the support for our members in new and better ways for the future.

Karl Low
Vice-President Finance and Administration
September, 2005

AUSU 2003/04 financial report

Statement of Financial Position

From the Auditors

Cass and Fraser
of Edmonton Alberta

for the financial year

beginning October 1, 2003 and
ending September 30, 2004



Cass & Fraser
Chartered Accountants

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AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of:
Athabasca University Students' Association

Except as explained in the paragraph below, we have audited the statement of financial position of the Athabasca University Students' Association as at September 30, 2004, and the statements of operations and changes in fund balances for the operating fund and capital replacement reserve fund for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the corporation'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.

Student fees are transferred from the Athabasca University to the Association. We agreed the amount transferred from the University, however we were unable to verify whether the amount transferred was correct. The University is currently working to provide a reconciliation of the amount transferred with the total students that should have been assessed.

In our opinion, except for any adjustment that might be necessary in student fees as described in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the corporation as at September 30, 2004, and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations.

The financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2003 were audited by Yaremchuk Annicchiarico LLP who expressed an opinion thereon without reservation in their report dated December 2, 2003.

Cass & Fraser

Cass & Fraser Chartered Accountants

Edmonton, Alberta
March 18, 2005

Athabasca University Students' Association

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2004

	2004	2003
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 343,709	\$ 171,210
Term deposits and accrued interest	-	102,800
Accounts receivable (note 3)	47,768	76,309
Prepaid expenses	484	4,447
	391,961	354,766
Equipment	8,476	12,364
	\$ 400,437	\$ 367,130
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 7,858	\$ 18,750
Prepaid student fees	64,584	58,168
	72,442	76,918
Net Assets		
Invested in equipment	50,147	12,364
Internally restricted	122,349	122,349
Unrestricted	155,499	155,499
	327,995	290,212
	\$ 400,437	\$ 367,130

AUSU Activity Report 2004/05

priority activities

AUSU

2004/05

Activity

Report

AUSU Position Policies

AUSU created several official Position Policies to solidify council positions on a variety of issues affecting the post-secondary experience of our members; Position Policies posted online in the official policy manual so that members can remain apprised of how AUSU is representing their interests; These policies will form the basis for AUSU lobbying over the coming year; AUSU plans to continue creating Position Policies for future issues to enhance the transparency of union operations and ensure that all of council is working toward the same goals.

Enhanced Lobbying Efforts

AUSU has increased lobbying efforts, within Alberta and across Canada; Press releases now being drafted and sent to national newswires to increase visibility of AU and AU students; AUSU plans to initiate more contact with various government representatives across Canada; More AUSU staff and council members supplying input on CAUS initiatives; Investigating the viability of joining an Ontario-based lobby group, as the second largest concentration of AUSU members is in that province; Information packages, including AUSU Position Policies, sent to several members of the AU executive, to ensure that member concerns are being heard by AU administration.

Digitizing AUSU Records

All AUSU office records that are still of use will be digitized and backed up; Records that may be of use to council members will be placed online in a secure storage system for remote access by authorized members; Records storage scheme will be reviewed and revised to further enhance security of records and to ensure that all student data is destroyed when no longer needed for AUSU operations.

AUSU.org Media Relations Area

A new section on the AUSU website will be created to house documents of interest to the media; All AUSU media releases will be archived in this section so that members and media may access them at will.

Autonomy for The Voice Magazine

Currently, the Voice operates with editorial autonomy, but it is financially reliant on its publisher, AUSU;

To ensure that the Voice will continue to operate and be funded under future councils, AUSU is investigating means to make the Voice financially autonomous;

Autonomy may require a referendum of the membership and a separation of AUSU fees so that the Voice will receive a guaranteed levy;

A new Voice editor will likely be required to complete the separation of AUSU and The Voice. AUSU will complete a detailed job description for this position and investigate how to best staff an autonomous Voice prior to separation.

Management Audit

AUSU is reviewing its management structure to ensure that it is appropriate for an organization of AUSU's size and funding structure;

Governance model will be modernized to separate the policy-making tasks of council, and the administrative tasks of AUSU staff.

Election 2006

A new election policy is under review, prior to the 2006 AUSU election;

A call for candidates will go out in December of 2005, and a general election will be held in March of 2006. The new council will govern AUSU operations from April 2006 through March 2008.

Health and Dental Discount for Members

AUSU is in the process of drafting an agreement with a major Canadian health and dental insurance provider which will ensure significantly discounted rates for AUSU members;

The new plan, should it be deemed beneficial to our members, may be offered by the end of fall and will be available to AUSU members across Canada (with the exception of those in Quebec due to differing insurance regulations in that province);

A plan for Quebec residents is also being pursued;

The new plan will allow members to select the amount of coverage that they desire, and will offer coverage comparable to that offered by other major health insurance providers, but at deeply discounted rates;

AUSU will only enter in to an agreement for such a plan once contracts have been reviewed and the plan is deemed to be of significant benefit to a majority of AUSU members. Updates on this project will be posted on the AUSU.org front page and in the AUSU forums.

AUSU Scholarships and Awards

The AUSU Scholarship program was updated to include more scholarship options for disadvantaged and low-income students;

AUSU

2004/05

Activity

Report

New criteria removes emphasis on lifetime grade point average in favour of a GPA over a set number of courses, and the number of A+ grades.
New travel bursary provides funds for traveling to required AU labs and practicums, as well as conferences and other academic meetings.

AUSU Advocacy

Student representatives on:

AU Governing Council
AU Academic Council
AU Governing Council Finance Committee
AU Budget Advisory Committee
AU Student Awards Committee
AU Student Appeals Committee
Council of Alberta University Students [CAUS]
Center for Learning Accreditation Steering
Student Services Group
Various task forces of the AU Middle States Accreditation board

AUSU

2004/05

The Voice Magazine

Many new regular writers and columns;
Updates to the site are in progress. New features will include an automated, searchable listings database for events, scholarships, internships and conferences;
Readership increased an estimated 124% from last year;
Small income from classified advertizing;
Second Annual Reader Survey upcoming;
Second Annual Voice Writing Contest a huge success. The fiction category received about twice the number of submissions as last time, and the non-fiction category submissions increased about tenfold;
A Voice reporter/photographer was sent to this year's convocation to take pictures of the ceremonies and interview graduates. Her contributions were featured in a month's worth of special convocation issues of The Voice.

Activity

Report

AUSU News

The fifth edition of AUSU News was mailed in September 2005 to 36,178 AUSU members worldwide;
Newsletter contained an announcement of this AGM and the upcoming AUSU elections.

Conference Attendance

Council funded an AUSU student to attend a program-relevant conference.

AUSU.org

Significant updates to the AUSU forums, including a large number of new forum sections for course discussions and reviews;
Complete update to the look of the website, and well as the addition of a more streamlined navigation system;
AUSU chatroom updated to new software when old software became outdated.
New system is more colourful and integrates seamlessly with forums;
Significant repairs to account system to ensure that login is easily passed between our various online systems;
User survey collected information on AUSU members and their needs. This information was used to improve AUSU services and target those services to our ever changing membership

AUSU Mentor Program

The Mentor Program continues to serve a moderate number of new AU students.
Response to call for mentors has been strong;
Program will be revamped this coming year as AUSU uses data collected over the first year of operations to improve the service.

Study Buddy Program

The program has served a large number of students since its inception in late 1996, and continues to be a very popular program of AU.

Student Handbook/Planner

The 2005/06 AUSU Student Handbook/Planner was released in July of 2005. It is the first planner produced entirely by AUSU for AUSU members since 2001; Planner contains 18 months of calendar pages, to remain useful until the end of 2006;
The new planner format is much smaller and more durable so that it can be carried in a purse, bookbag or large pocket;
For the first time in several years, an advertizing firm was contracted to help offset planner costs. Only a few ads were obtained, but the cost of the planner was offset by nearly \$2000. AUSU hopes to increase advertizing revenue in the next edition of the planner.

AUSU at Convocation 2005

AUSU contributed funding for the luncheon for all of this year's new graduates;
For the first time, AUSU produced a beautiful congratulatory card to be mailed to all graduates from December 2004 and June 2005;
AUSU's Lisa Priebe attended convocation on behalf of council. For the first time ever, convocation ran for three days with undergraduate ceremonies on all three days to accomodate all of the new graduates. Previously, convocation ran for two days and undergrad ceremonies lasted only one day.

AUSU

2004/05

Activity

Report

Travel Funding and Bursaries

AUSU Funding is available for any student who needs to travel to attend AU labs or practicums or to attend a conference relevant to their field of study;
AUSU continues to provide computers for students in need, in the form of a computer bursary given out once every four months;
AUSU continues to provide emergency funding to students in extreme need.

Policy Review

A thorough review of the AUSU operating policies continues;
AUSU has added a large number of position policies to the AUSU Policy Manual. These new policies make public the AUSU stance on many issues affecting AUSU members.
Policies will be reviewed regularly to ensure that they do not become outdated or irrelevant. A mandatory review date is now part of every new policy.

Groups and Clubs

Some new AUSU Student Groups and Clubs were launched. See the Groups and Clubs section of our website for information on all existing clubs;
Free web-space and web design provided for AUSU clubs;
AUSU clubs have private forums on the AUSU system, and can maintain their own forums by adding members without having to go through the AUSU webmaster.

Coffee Groups/Study Groups

AUSU now provides forum areas for local coffee groups to talk and set up meetings. The coffee group leader system will be discontinued in favour of this new system, which allows a group to continue when an organizing member leaves;
The new groups will be egalitarian in nature, and can set up meetings with as few or as many members as each member desires.

AUSU council committees

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	MEMBERS
Finance	Karl Low	Lisa Priebe, Mac McInnis
Legislative	Karl Low	Shirley Barg, Alexandria Sassoon, Shannon Maguire, Peter Tretter, Lonita Fraser
Personnel	Lisa Priebe	Lonita Fraser, Karl Low (non voting)

AUSU President Lisa Priebe is a member of all AUSU committees

Athabasca University and external committees

COMMITTEE	STUDENT MEMBER(S)
AU Governing Council	Lisa Priebe and Mac McInnis
AU Academic Council	Karl Low
AUGC Finance	Lisa Priebe
AU Budget Advisory Committee	Lisa Priebe
AU Student Awards Committee	Tamra Ross Low
Student Appeals Committee	Mac McInnis
AU Staff Awards Committee	Tamra Ross Low
Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS)	Lisa Priebe, Lonita Fraser and Tamra Ross Low
AU Middle States Accreditation Self Study Task Forces	Tamra Ross Low (Student Admissions task force), Karl Low (Legislative task force)
AU Governing Council Honorary Awards Committee	Lisa Priebe
AU Course Numbering Committee (new)	Tamra Ross Low
AU Alumni Awards Committee	Lisa Priebe
Bryon Paege Memorial Award (CUPE)	Mac McInnis

MAIN OFFICE

Athabasca University Students' Union
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Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8
TEL: 1-800-788-9041 ext. 3413
FAX: (780) 497-7003
www.ausu.org
ausu@ausu.org

COUNCIL

Lisa Priebe - President
Lonita Fraser - Vice President, External & Student Affairs
Karl Low - Vice President, Finance & Administration
Mac McInnis
Shannon Maguire
Joy Krys

STAFF

Tamra Ross Low - Communications Coordinator/Voice Editor
Lorianne Slauenwhite - Office Manager

AUSU Represents more than 36,000 Athabasca University students world wide. AUSU members are defined as all students of Athabasca University who are currently enrolled in an AU undergraduate course, or who have been enrolled in an AU undergraduate course with an end date within the last six months (if extensions are purchased, the extended end date is used to calculate membership).

For more information about AUSU and its programs, please see www.ausu.org, or call our office.
This booklet prepared for AUSU by Tamra Ross Low.
Errors and omissions excluded.

Graphics and design by Tamra Ross Low, © AUSU, 2005

AUSU

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