



# Annual Report 2009: Activities and 07/08 Financials



AU STUDENTS' UNION  
UNITED BY DISTANCE

**/DEAS:** the foundation of  
education, innovation,  
and growth

# AUSU

## FINANCIAL REPORT AND AGM INFORMATION

All data refers to the 2007/08 AUSU fiscal year, beginning October 1, 2007, and ending September 30, 2008. Planning information is for the 2008/09 fiscal year, beginning October 1, 2008, and ending September 30, 2009.

For verification and explanation of all financial data, please contact the AUSU VP Finance at [vpfa@ausu.org](mailto:vpfa@ausu.org).

The Annual General Meeting of AUSU will be held via teleconference on March 23, 2009, at: 5:30 pm at 1213, 10011 109th Street NW, Edmonton, AB. All members who live in a location with teleconference access may book a line. Special arrangements will be made for members overseas if we receive at least two business days notice of attendance. Inquire with [ausu@ausu.org](mailto:ausu@ausu.org) for more information or to book a line for the meeting.

Errors and omissions excluded.  
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## CONTACTS

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# *PRESIDENT'S*

## message to the membership

Dear Members:

2009 is increasingly the year of AUSU. We have increased: student representation on AU committees and planning groups; the number of and size of financial awards for our members; the number of AUSU publications (and improved our most popular ones); and, most importantly, the number and percentage of members who know we're here and ready to help. Building on our solid policy base and staffing, AUSU has been able to do these things for a rapidly growing member base—almost 80% larger than 7 years ago. Overall, the 2007/08 fiscal year has been one of steady and sustained growth in our existing services to members. Strong foundations built over the last several years have allowed us to move forward with a number of projects that were waiting in the wings. Already we are seeing results from these new initiatives, in the form of new respect for our collaborative student voice, evidenced by enhanced response to your concerns from key university groups.

Politically, this past year has been a busy one. With the country's focus on the immediate economy and the minority government parties in perpetual campaign mode, getting attention for longer term investments such as post-secondary education has not been easy. However, through our partnership with the Coalition for Student Loan Fairness, AUSU has kept student financing on the government radar. The need for this will become even more acute as the economic situation worsens, so Council has already approved a continuation of our relationship with the CSLF. AUSU has not been idle either: our VP External has sent letters to the parties during the recent election campaign, and lobbied the Alberta government to ensure that revisions to the Alberta Post-Secondary Learning Act (which governs all Alberta post-secondary institutions) do not jeopardize our education over what are hopefully short-term economic concerns.

Nor has AU been idle: the university is continuing to push forward to increase enrollments both outside of Alberta and Canada. AUSU is keeping a watchful eye on this to ensure that students are not being viewed merely as numbers as this growth continues. In fact, we've planned





one of our major lobbying efforts this year to seek improvements in AU's communication with students, and to that end have already begun reviewing important services, such as MyAU, with an eye toward making these more student-friendly and student-focused. We will continue our review of student services so that when useful student communications like au.world (AU's now defunct e-newsletter to students) are discontinued, we can lobby the university to ensure that these valuable services are replaced with others of like or greater value to students. As students of distance education, we can feel particularly isolated, and while we work against that here at AUSU, it makes sense to ensure that the university also recognizes this and takes steps to address the isolation students might experience.

The university is also beefing up its research credentials, having launched AU Press and worked strongly with the Alberta Government to make sure our university's role as a research institution is recognized. AUSU hopes to parlay this into increased opportunities for undergraduate students to participate and assist with research, so that those who want to go further than an undergraduate degree have the same opportunities to beef up their C.V. as students at traditional, campus-based universities.

Yet this is only the beginning. With the downturn in Canada's economy, AUSU expects to see large numbers of people turning to post-secondary education both to ride out the storm and to be prepared for when the economy turns around again. We are taking steps to brace for the influx by developing additional resources for new members, broadening our offerings into new media such as podcasts, and setting up programs that we hope will address the needs of an increasingly diverse membership. With councillors across Canada and as far away as Korea, we have truly become an international organization, both in membership and representation, and this has to be reflected in how we operate, communicate, and deliver services. One development that is new this year is an international teleconference line so that overseas members can attend our Annual General Meeting and sessions of council.

Financially, we remain on solid footing. Our reserves, built over the previous years, have allowed us to make needed purchases such as office furniture that is safe for our staff to work around and storage space so that we can take advantage of bulk discounts. This will also provide us with some initial seed money to begin to purchase various types of merchandise for our members to buy at or near cost. Unlike most students' unions, we see merchandise as a way to build a community across the distance, not as a way to make money from students who already support us. We have also seen significant cost savings in moving more of our web site programming and design work in-house.

However these savings and growth come at a cost. In this case, the cost is that various projects, such as our new web site, enhanced council activity reporting, and audio/visual enhancements, have been delayed simply because our staff is already working at or over capacity most of the time. To continue our growth, we need to hire more staff. This expansion will also allow us to push forward with better data collection systems so that we can lobby AU and the government more effectively about your wants and desires, as well as make many strongly desired improvements to our site to enhance the AUSU community. And at the end of the day, the community of AUSU is what we are all about. For whether or not we ever hear from you directly, whether you are young or old, a part-time visiting student or a full-time program student, no matter what city, province, or country you are taking your studies from, you are an AUSU member, and we are all united by our experience in distance education.



Karl Low, President

# Meeting Agenda

## issues for discussion by the members

16th Annual General Meeting of AUSU  
March 23, 2009; 5:30 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 March 2008, AGM minutes
- 5.0 Annual financial statements as at September 30, 2008
  - 5.1 Appointment of Auditor for 2007-2008 Fiscal year
- 6.0 MOTION: BIRT AUSU amend membership in the society by:
  - 6.1. CURRENT POINT: Definitions of members: 4.1(b) Associate Members: Members who pay less than the full AUSU membership fees.  
  
AMENDMENT: Replace 4.1(b) with "Associate Members: AUSU Councillors or Members not currently in an active AUSU course."
  - 6.2. CURRENT POINT: 4.2.1 Active Members are entitled to: (. . .) (d) receive, upon payment of full AUSU fees, AUSU publications and . . .  
  
AMENDMENT: Delete the words "upon payment of full AUSU fees" from 4.2.1(d).
  - 6.3. AMENDMENT: Move points detailing the rights given to active members in points 4.2.1(a), 4.2.1(b) and 4.2.1(d) to associate members in 4.2.2 and renumber both accordingly. Also, renumber points under active members.
  - 6.4. AMENDMENT: Change 4.2.3 to read "All types of Members are entitled to:"
  - 6.5. AMENDMENT: Add the words "or currently enrolled in a multi-year AU collaborative program offered at another post-secondary institution." to the end of the first sentence in the definition of member.
- 7.0 MOTION: BIRT AUSU changes its fee alteration requirement by: Replacing the words "a referendum of the members and in accordance with current AU policy" with the words: "Special Resolution."
- 8.0 Special Resolution: BIRT AUSU adjust its current fees by: Adding "Membership Fees are \$3 per credit hour for any AU undergraduate course." to the Bylaws as article 4.4.2.
- 9.0 Presentation of AUSU Annual Activity Report
- 10.0 Adjournment

*/INSPIRATION*





# AGM 2008 Minutes

## Minutes of the 15th AGM



### ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION

#### Annual General Meeting

1:00 (MST), March 8, 2008

#### Teleconference

Councillors Present: Lisa Priebe (Chair), Real Beaulieu, Lonita Fraser, Joy Krys, Karl Low, Barb Rielly, Huma Lodhi, Sarah Kertcher

Staff Present: Tamra Ross (member), Pam Schellenberger (member), Sandra Livingston (member)

Other Members: Nick Kenyeres, Romy Verhesen, Philippe Guerard, Beth Nixon, Meghan Roberts, Roxanne Fandrey, Kimberly Severson, Shelley Lawson, Bethany Porter, Emily Dukeshire, Anke Starratt, Heather Fraser

Absent: Mac McInnis

Record of Minutes: Pam Schellenberger

Call to Order: 1:20 pm (MST)

1.0 Call to Order and President's Welcome

2.0 Confirmation of Notice of Meeting

3.0 Approval of Agenda  
H. Lodhi/ P. Guerard

- Carried 23/0 -

4.0 Approval of June 2007, AGM Minutes  
H. Fraser/ K. Severson

- Carried 23/0 -

5.0 Approval of September 2007, SGM Minutes  
S. Kertcher/ A. Starratt

- Carried 23/0 -

6.0 Annual Financial Statements as of September 30, 2007  
Motion: BIRT AUSU accepts the audited financial statements for 2007.  
H. Lodhi/ P. Guerard

- Carried 23/0 -

6.1 Appointment of Auditor for 2007-08 Fiscal Year

Motion: BIRT AUSU appoint Kingston Ross Pasnak as the official auditors for the 2007-08 Fiscal Year

L. Priebe/ S. Lawson

- Carried 23/0 -

7.0 AUSU Bylaw Revision – Clarification of Candidate Criteria

**Special Resolution:** BIRT AUSU amend Bylaw 9.0 by removing point 9.2 from the Bylaws 031208.01 This resolution was proposed at the AGM without 21 days notice; as per the AUSU bylaws all members were asked if they agreed to allow the resolution to proceed. No members present objected. This resolution required that 75% of those present vote in favour.

P. Geurard/ H. Lodhi

- Defeated 7/15-  
(L. Priebe Abstained)

**Special Resolution:** BIRT AUSU amend Section 4.2.1 of the Bylaws by changing Item C to read “run for a position on council, pursuant to the nomination guidelines in section 9.2 unless they are,”

M. Roberts/ N. Kenyeres

- Carried 20/2-  
(L. Priebe Abstained)

8.0 AUSU Referendum Policy Revision – Clarification of Process

Motion: BIRT AUSU insert the words “and include” into Policy 3.04.05 between the words “comply with” and “all of the following”

Special Resolution: BIRT AUSU insert the words “and include” into Policy 3.04.05 between the words “comply with” and “all of the following”

031208.02 This resolution was proposed at the AGM without 21 days notice, as per the AUSU bylaws all members were asked if they agreed to allow the resolution to proceed. No members present objected. This resolution required that 75% of those present vote in favour.

K. Low/ S. Lawson

- Carried 22/0 –  
(L. Priebe Abstained)

9.0 Presentation of AUSU Annual Activity Report

Discussion: Members expressed interest in the following areas:

- Athlete Funding Proposed Project
- Welcome Packages as a Proposed Project
- Graduate Students’ Union

Information was provided on the following items:

- The Capital Project that involved providing financing for the VP of Research at AU.
- providing financing for AU tutors to use AU students as research assistants for their research work.
- the student complaint and contact database that is currently being created by AUSU.

10.0 Meeting Adjourned at 3:06 pm (MST)

M. Roberts moved.

Meeting adjourned at 19:43 MST

# VP *EXTERNAL*

activity report and notes to the members



Dear Members,

AUSU has experienced much change over the last short while: a massive election, a new council with representatives from far flung places, and both new challenges and ongoing ones. Over the last year I have had the pleasure of serving as AUSU's Vice President, External and learned much about student needs and ways in which to serve our members.

Our most immediate tasks are those based in student–university relations. We continue to work with AU to ensure our voice is heard, that our members concerns are addressed, and to push for better services for students. AUSU has continued to press for the popularly requested university student e-mail addresses to enable students to take advantage of commercial student discounts. AUSU has also brought to AU the issue of ongoing problems with tutor responsiveness and has begun to amass statistical data in support of our assertions. Increasingly, AUSU representatives sit on a wide number of AU committees and will continue to seek further seats at the table so that our members have a voice in decisions at as many levels as possible. AUSU represents AU students from all places and walks of life by participating in policy and decision making on AU Academic and Governing Councils. In this past year, we have worked to preserve and boost the number and dollar value of AU awards funding for undergraduate students. AUSU also took part in the recent AU restructuring discussions and pressed home our overarching concern that services to and for students take precedence over all other considerations. Our dealings with the University continue to be conducted in a professional manner and that respectful communication has been reciprocated.

Provincially and federally a lot has been going on, and our membership is affected by the outcomes of it all. This past year has seen drama, flux, anticipation and a strong sense of shift in Canada's political scene. A government was elected, a coalition formed and effectively dissolved, parliament sat and then to all intents and purposes disappeared for months only to pop up again days before a federal budget that threatened to launch us back into the electoral fray once more. During this period your students' union lobbied various groups, Members of Parliament, and all the federal political parties to ensure that your concerns, wishes, and needs were communicated to whomever might take the reins of power. Now that the Conservative government has survived the budget it is hoped, sincerely, that it will face the economic uncertainty faced by all Canadians and that it will be responsive to her students as well.

AUSU also continues to work with Coalition for Student Loan Fairness (CSLF) to better serve our members across Canada who access government education funding. The CSLF has, at our request, done much to research the treatment of mature students by the Canadian Student Loans Program and this research has helped AUSU to more effectively argue for a program that better understands

their needs. In the coming year the Federal government is expected to put in place a new loans program for students. We have made clear what AUSU members need from the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, the Hon. Diane Finley. Soon we shall see if our government listens to students or has yet again chosen a regime of one-size-fits-all. A number of influential thinkers foresee an increase in student enrolment as the economic downturn plays out. This may well force the government to acknowledge the wider array of students, and their varying needs.

AUSU has also reached out to various political, aboriginal, and mature student organizations and continues to look for opportunities to serve our members. We look forward to working with compatible organizations as they mature and as our interests and theirs converge. Stay tuned.

We remain watchful as the government responds to the current economic crisis. Some pundits have argued that Canadian universities must raise tuition significantly, as they have in the past, if institutions of higher learning are to continue to function. We remain opposed to large increases in tuition as these raise barriers to education. Significant hikes to tuition are rarely offset for everyone and our current crop of bursaries, scholarships, grants, and income tax provisions cannot match blooming costs. Higher tuition will put education farther out of reach of disadvantaged students, discourage those who might otherwise invest in an education, and it may well close off the potential influx of students that an economic downturn offers. We argue that Canada's future is better served by government investing in education so that, in turn, the educated pay back that investment through taxes on their higher earnings and the creation of new jobs through entrepreneurship and new business starts.



Barbara Rielly  
Vice President, External

# DP FINANCE

## activity report and notes to the members



Hello members of AUSU and Board of Directors. This report is a summary of our audited financial statements for the year ending September 30th, 2008. The complete statements and notes are included in the following pages.

The main source of income for AUSU continues to be student fees. We budgeted for a conservative deficit in 2008. We finished the year off with a \$26,000 surplus which was available to offset some unexpected expenses. Overall spending for the 2007/2008 fiscal year was below budget predictions. Fortunately, we were able to make some key major purchases this year with our reserve funds—notably our new office furnishings.

The following is a breakdown of budgeted spending:

- Actual student fees received were approximately \$67,000 less than budgeted as 2008 saw much lower enrolment growth than AU had predicted. We also suffered from declining interest rates due to the economic downturn.
- Salary and benefits came in \$20,000 under budget as we had not yet filled a third office position.
- The newsletter was significantly under budget as a result of a busier than normal election season making it difficult for our staff to publish more than three issues.
- The handbook fell just under budget and included many upgrades from previous years including a page marker ruler. Since 2007, AUSU has sought advertising for our planner, offsetting about a quarter of our planner budget. We hope to increase this and to obtain advertising income for our newsletter as well. As our staff has more time, they will be able to spend more time seeking ads.
- Awards were under budget again as not all funds were dispersed, due to the fact that we need to provide ample funding for the emergency and travel bursaries to ensure these remain available throughout the year. We also had ongoing delays in receiving our awards draw list from AU for the Academic Achievement awards. The funds for this were not dispersed during the fiscal year and will be reflected in the 2008/2009 expenditures. Due to the implementation of the accrual based accounting system, future funds for pending awards that cannot be given out during the fiscal year due to delays in obtaining our winners' list, will be recorded as accounts payable.
- Professional fees were higher than budgeted due to the change from cash-based to accrual-based accounting as well as new auditing standards that were implemented for non-profits.
- Again we realized a large surplus in representation of \$15,200. More effort is being made this year to increase our representation by partnering with CSLE, though travel costs remain low.
- Teleconference meetings were slightly higher than projected resulting from a change in our teleconferencing system to accommodate an overseas councillor.
- Amortization was roughly \$4,000 over budget due to the purchase of new office furniture.



- Interest and banking charges were very slightly above budget. This is a category for which our office staff, in conjunction with finance committee, has been exploring ways to cut costs. We feel very strongly about incurring the minimum interest and fees as possible. As a result of the surplus accumulated this year, we have budgeted more aggressively for the future; as well, we are currently developing programs and projects to greater benefit the members.

As mentioned, our office underwent a major furniture makeover this year. Since 2003, our office space with AU has been reduced in size twice, leaving us with less than one third the amount of space for our corporate office as we had originally. Our old furnishings were mostly hand-me-downs from the university and were found to be both ergonomically unacceptable and potentially dangerous (for example, we had several old high shelving units which were missing their support braces and beginning to break, some leaning precariously under their load). Also, as AU's funds decreased, many items donated to AUSU were requisitioned by growing AU departments. For the safety of our staff and the best utilization of our current space, new furnishings were a must, as was the rental of a downtown storage space. This project was funded from our reserves and we're pleased to report that the cost was within our earned interest for the year, leaving our principal untouched.

We have just completed our 2007/2008 audit by the firm of Kingston Ross Pasnak. This is our second audit through with KRP and we are very pleased with their service. In accordance with the advice of KRP, AUSU successfully changed from a cash-based accounting system to an accrual-based system which is more reflective of the true nature of the timing of transactions, and is consistent with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. KRP's testing of AUSU's financial records did not reveal any illegal or possibly illegal acts.

After many years of high staff turnover in the AUSU office, we finally have stability with our Office Coordinator/Bookkeeper, Pam Shellenberger. We currently have two full-time AUSU staff, and a 3/4 time Voice editor. Our full-time staff have, for two years, maintained banked vacation time that has been at, or over, the legal limit. These staff also regularly exceed the permitted 5 days of banked time-in-lieu (sometimes up to three times this much) and, at the end of each year, have several remaining sick and flex days. Many of the services students request require staff to administer them, though we continue to place as many services as possible on-line. Historic staff cut-backs increased available funds at the time, but this is now a liability to AUSU. A new part-time position is required. However, AUSU is making every attempt to streamline processes before adding another full-time staffer. Adding part-time administrative help will free up our staff to do what they are trained to do and allow us to get more for our staffing dollar.

As a result of the Grand River Group Strategic Staffing Review, which was completed last year, council voted to reduce councillor wages to fund a small increase to executive wages without increasing the council wage budget. Council's pay schedule was also changed slightly giving council a standardized base wage, and adding a set wage for the individual committees that each councillor sits on. We feel that this wage is more representative of the varying amount of work that is being done by each councillor.

Typically, students' union fees at most institutions increase annually to adjust for inflation and to coincide with increases to university tuition. Also, most SU's obtain extra funding from students through fee-based services such as photocopying, faxing, locker rentals, merchandise, bar and restaurant sales, etc. This auxiliary income often exceeds that from student fees. AUSU, however,

obtains almost no funding beyond student fees. In fact, many of our members take AU courses on-site at other schools, and purchase services offered by the on-site students' union; AUSU receives no part of these funds. Nevertheless, our fees are substantially lower than those of any students' union in Canada we know of, to the extent that our fees for a full four year degree are similar to or less than what students at other schools pay for a single semester.

AUSU fees have not changed since 2001. During this period, inflation in Alberta soared to a cumulative 17.34%. Had AUSU fees been increased accordingly, the current fee would be \$9.39 per 3 credit course. Effectively, AUSU fees have decreased annually for eight years, while services have increased. We are seeking to increase our fees marginally at this time to partially offset inflationary pressures.

As our membership grows, so do project costs. Due to the lower costs for purchasing in greater quantities, we have maintained projects with less adjusted income. But not all costs reduce with quantity: printing of our newsletter does, but postage does not (and it increases annually). Our storage space in Edmonton has also saved money, as we can now order stationery and merchandise in larger quantities for reduced per-item costs.

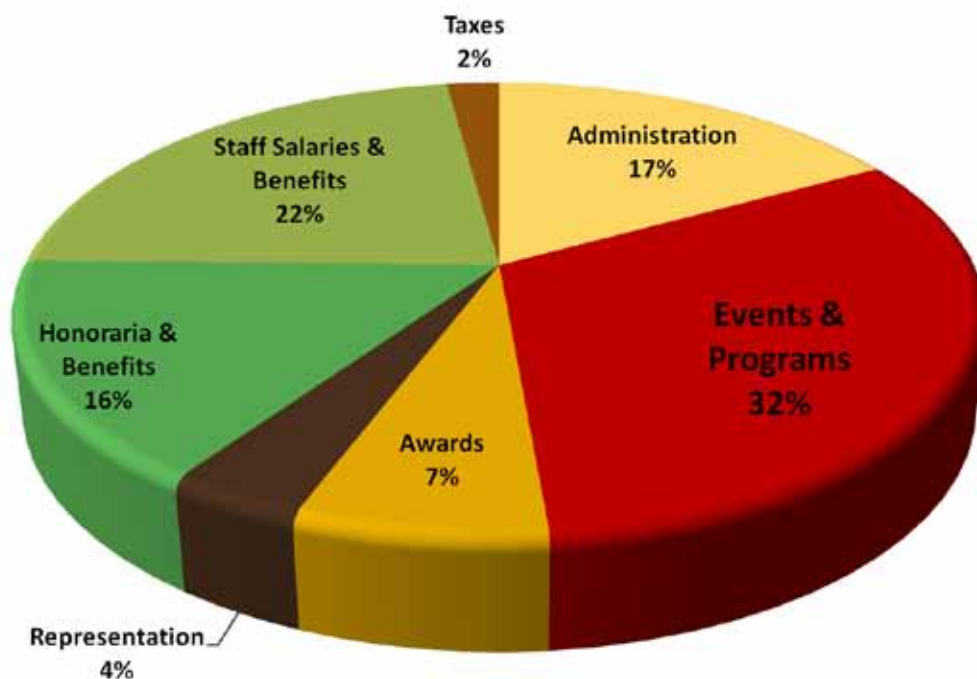
Overall, the 2007/2008 financial year was a great one that saw much change, both within council, with general council processes, and with the world economy as a whole. We continually work to strengthen our reputation and presence within the university community, and are partnering with external lobby groups, while seeking further opportunities for partnerships. AUSU will continue to search out new programs to ensure we're consistently meeting the growing and varying needs of our members. We have a positive outlook on the future, and look forward to serving our members.



Sarah Kertcher  
Vice-President, Finance & Administration

# What does \$8 buy?

Breakdown of your student fee allocation.



**At a General Meeting, all members have a vote and are encouraged to join in the discussion. Any member may attend for free via teleconference.**

## WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE MEETING

Members may attend any public meeting of Council by contacting our office and asking for an agenda and dial in information. In a regular meeting, members are asked to mute their lines and reserve questions for e-mail or a question period.

At a General Meeting, all members may engage in discussion, suggest resolutions, and vote on motions. The AGM cannot be conducted without a minimum number of members present, so participation is not only permitted, it is strongly encouraged.

After the Call to Order, the President will direct the meeting by announcing each agenda item and moderating discussion and voting. He will present each motion and ask for a seconder. A motion is not open for discussion or vote until it is seconded

by another member; however, seconding does not indicate agreement. You may second a motion to open it for discussion and voting, but opt to vote against the motion.

Once a motion is seconded, the President will open discussion. Please wait until this time to present suggestions—everyone will have a chance to speak. You may ask questions or suggest amendments to the motion at this time. When discussion concludes, voting will open and you may vote “aye” or “nay”.

Once the meeting adjourns, an opportunity for an open discussion period will be offered. You may comment on any issue that is not on the agenda at this time. All comments and suggestions are welcome.

## FINANCIAL REPORT: Statement of Financial Position

THE FOLLOWING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REPRESENT THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF AUSU AS AT THE END OF THE 2007/08 FISCAL YEAR

The AUSU fiscal year runs from October 1st though September 30th. Our audit was completed in January of 2009 by the firm of Kingston Ross Psnak of Edmonton, Alberta. This audit occurred during a transition year, as we worked to put into place new accounting procedures recommended by our auditors during last year's audit. This has also been the first year that AUSU has begun to allocate reserve funds to specific budget areas to aid in planning for future spending. And, this was the first year that draws from our allocated reserve funds were recorded separately. We have now completed our transition to an accrual-based accounting system.

## MAJOR AREAS OF SURPLUS AND SPENDING

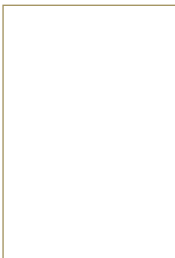
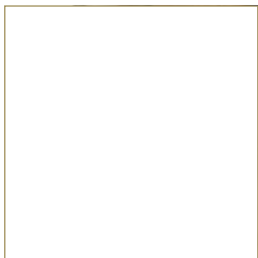
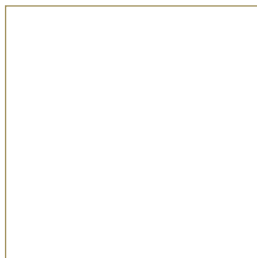
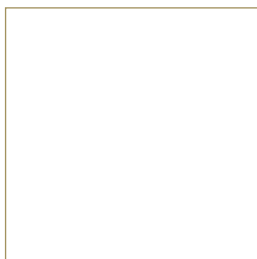
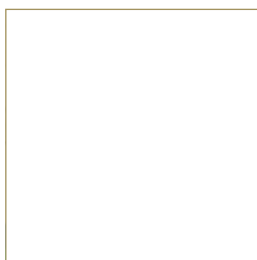
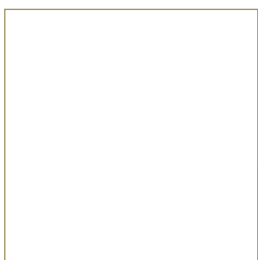
AUSU operated under a tight budget in 2007/08, caused by a decrease in interest income and student fee revenues that were lower than estimates due to slowing enrollment growth. While we budgeted for an overall \$39,000 deficit, a delayed fourth quarter newsletter helped us remain \$26,000 under budget.

### SURPLUS AREAS

- NEWSLETTER
- AWARDS
- REPRESENTATION

### AREAS OF HIGHER SPENDING

- SALARIES
- PROFESSIONAL FEES
- TELECONFERENCES



*/DEAS*





**ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION**

**Financial Statements**

**Year Ended September 30, 2008**



**AUDITORS' REPORT**

December 1, 2008  
Edmonton, Alberta

To the Members of Athabasca University Students' Union :

We have audited the statement of financial position of Athabasca University Students' Union as at September 30, 2008 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Athabasca University Students' Union'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.

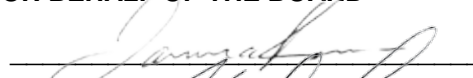

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Athabasca University Students' Union as at September 30, 2008 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

  
**Kingston Ross Pashnak LLP**  
Chartered Accountants

**ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**September 30, 2008**

	2008	2007
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT		
Cash (Note 4)	\$ 684,385	\$ 682,974
Accounts receivable	55,389	47,696
Inventory	5,102	-
Prepaid expenses	3,000	993
	747,876	731,663
EQUIPMENT (Note 5)	26,018	7,998
	<b>\$ 773,894</b>	<b>\$ 739,661</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 18,639	\$ 15,347
Deferred student fees	77,336	72,408
	95,975	87,755
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	174,901	153,908
Internally restricted (Note 6)	477,000	490,000
Invested in equipment	26,018	7,998
	677,919	651,906
	<b>\$ 773,894</b>	<b>\$ 739,661</b>

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD**

 Director  
 Director

# ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION

## Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended September 30, 2008

	Unrestricted	Internally restricted	Invested in equipment	2008	2007
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	\$ 153,908	\$ 490,000	\$ 7,998	\$ 651,906	\$ 546,774
Acquisition of internally funded equipment	(24,946)	-	24,946	-	-
Net book value of equipment disposals	651	-	(651)	-	-
Amortization of internally funded equipment	6,275	-	(6,275)	-	-
Internally imposed restrictions	13,000	(13,000)	-	-	-
Excess of revenue over expenditures	26,013	-	-	26,013	105,132
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	\$ 174,901	\$ 477,000	\$ 26,018	\$ 677,919	\$ 651,906

# ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION

## Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended September 30, 2008

	2008	2007
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Cash receipts from Athabasca University	\$ 503,893	\$ 489,567
Cash paid to students, suppliers and staff	(478,147)	(393,495)
Cash flow from operating activities	25,746	96,072
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of equipment	(24,946)	(8,642)
Proceeds on disposal of equipment	611	-
Cash flow used by investing activities	(24,335)	(8,642)
<b>INCREASE IN CASH</b>	1,411	87,430
<b>CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	682,974	595,544
<b>CASH - END OF YEAR</b>	\$ 684,385	\$ 682,974

**ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION**  
**Statement of Operations**  
**Year Ended September 30, 2008**

	Budget 2008	2008	2007
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Student fees	\$ 546,533	\$ 478,544	\$ 461,095
Interest	26,000	20,189	22,985
Advertising and promotion	10,000	7,925	6,979
	582,533	506,658	491,059
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries and benefits	145,509	124,853	116,713
Honoraria	81,950	80,995	75,491
Newsletter	120,000	73,626	29,136
The Voice	68,317	52,572	28,892
Student handbook	35,000	32,692	24,672
Administration	51,300	31,509	44,434
Awards	38,800	19,553	30,505
Professional fees	13,000	17,760	10,026
Advertising and promotion	30,000	12,071	4,637
Events and programs (Note 7)	2,700	10,780	5,843
Representation	24,500	9,300	6,869
Teleconference meetings	5,500	6,618	4,433
Amortization	2,000	6,275	2,573
Insurance	2,500	1,216	1,196
Interest and bank charges	500	785	507
	621,576	480,605	385,927
<b>(DEFICIENCY) EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS</b>	(39,043)	26,053	105,132
Loss on disposal of equipment	-	(40)	-
<b>(DEFICIENCY) EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES</b>	\$ (39,043)	\$ 26,013	\$ 105,132

**ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**Year Ended September 30, 2008**

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1. AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

On March 18, 2004, Athabasca University Students' Union ("AUSU") was incorporated under the Post Secondary Learning Act. AUSU is administered by a board of directors and its principal purpose is to provide for the administration of the affairs of the Athabasca University undergraduate students, including the development and management of student institutions, the development and implementation of a system of student governing principles, the promotion of the general welfare of Athabasca University undergraduate students and the furtherance of the values inherent in an open University as well as of life-long learning. AUSU is a non-profit organization under the Income Tax Act (Canada) and, as such, is not liable for payment of income taxes.

2. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

AUSU receives substantially all of its revenue from Athabasca University as legislated under the Alberta Post-Secondary Learning Act section 95(2)e that provides for the "maintenance of the association by the levy of membership fees on its members." Should Athabasca University substantially change its dealings with AUSU subsequent to legislative changes permitting such, management is of the opinion that continued viable operations would be doubtful.

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Significant accounting policies observed in the preparation of the financial statements are summarized below. These policies are in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Inventory

Inventory is recorded at the lower of cost and net realizable value, with cost being determined on a first-in, first-out basis.

Equipment

Equipment is stated at cost less accumulated amortization. Equipment is amortized over its estimated useful life using the straight line method at the following rates:

Computer equipment	Three years
Furniture and fixtures	Ten years

Deferred student fees

The AUSU records student fees at the beginning of a course's progression. Some of the fees received prior to year end relate to courses which commence in the next fiscal year and thus, to be consistent with generally accepted accounting principles, these revenues from student fees are classified as deferred and amortized as the courses progress.

*(continues)*



# ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION

## Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended September 30, 2008

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### 3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (*continued*)

#### Revenue recognition

AUSU recognizes revenue as follows:

Student fee revenue is recognized one month subsequent to the start of the course to which the fees relate.

Advertising revenue is recognized with the completion of the activity to which the revenue relates.

Investment earnings are recognized as revenue when received.

Donated materials and services that would otherwise have been purchased are recorded at fair value when a fair value can be reasonably determined.

#### Statement of Cash Flows

AUSU is using the direct method in its presentation of the Statement of Cash Flows.

#### Financial instruments

Effective October 1, 2007, the AUSU adopted the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA) Section 3855, Financial Instruments – Recognition and Measurement and Section 3861, Financial Instruments – Disclosure and Presentation, prospectively without restatement of prior years.

Under Section 3855, financial instruments are classified into one of five categories: held-for-trading, held-to-maturity investments, loans and receivables, available-for-sale financial assets or other financial liabilities. All financial instruments are measured in the balance sheet at fair value except for loans and receivables, held-to-maturity investments and other financial liabilities which are measured at amortized cost. Subsequent measurement and changes in fair value will depend on their initial classification. Held-for-trading financial assets are measured at fair value and changes in fair value are recognized in excess of revenue over expenditures. Available-for-sale financial instruments are measured at fair value with changes in fair value recorded in the statement of change in net assets until the instrument is derecognized or impaired.

On adopting Sections 3855 and 3861, the AUSU made the following classifications:

- Cash is classified as financial asset held for trading and is measured at fair value.
- Accounts receivable are classified as loans and receivables and are recorded at amortized cost using the effective interest method.
- Accounts payable and accrued liabilities are classified as other liabilities and are measured at amortized cost using the effective interest method.

(*continues*)

# ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION

## Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended September 30, 2008

### 3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

#### Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates include providing for amortization of equipment. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

### 4. CASH

Cash is held in a tiered interest rate account. Interest is paid based on the balance maintained in the account as follows:

\$0 to \$50,000	Prime less 4.0%
\$50,001 to \$200,000	Prime less 3.5%
\$200,001 to \$500,000	Prime less 3.0%
\$500,001 and over	Prime less 2.5%

### 5. EQUIPMENT

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2008 Net book value	2007 Net book value
Furniture and equipment	\$ 18,229	\$ 1,294	\$ 16,935	\$ 2,924
Computer equipment	27,002	17,919	9,083	5,074
	\$ 45,231	\$ 19,213	\$ 26,018	\$ 7,998

Amortization provided for in the current period totaled \$6,275; (2007 - \$2,573).

### 6. RESTRICTIONS ON NET ASSETS

AUSU internally restricts net assets for the purpose of student development, special projects, infrastructure and research. These internally restricted amounts are not available for other purposes without approval of the Board of Directors.

### 7. EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

Included in events and programs is \$10,015 of costs which were paid for from the internally restricted fund, and therefore, were not included in the regular annual budget.

# FINANCIAL REPORT: 2008/09 Annual Budget

THE FOLLOWING PAGES CONTAIN THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR AUSU'S 2008/09 FINANCIAL YEAR. INCLUDED FOR COMPARISON IS THE 2007/08 BUDGET.

Council opted to budget for a small deficit in 2007/08 with the understanding that overall expenditures are likely to be at least slightly below the maximum budget amount in many categories. A balanced budget at year-end is anticipated. Allocations are based on expected expenditures plus additional funding to cover normal fee increases and to provide a small amount of flexibility in each area. Expected revenue is based on enrollment projections developed by AU's institutional studies department.

	2007/2008	2008/2009
Revenues		
Student Fees	546,533	497,129
Advertising	10,000	10,000
Interest	26,000	20,000
Events	0	0
Vending	0	0
Merchandise Sales	0	2,500
Other	0	0
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>582,533</b>	<b>529,629</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Administration</b>		
Amortization	2,000	2,000
Bank Charges	500	500
<i>Technology Expenses</i>		
<i>Hardware</i>		
Staff	8,000	2,000
Councillors	1,500	1,500
Services	1,500	2,000
Software		
Staff	4,500	2,250
Councillors	1,000	600
<i>Total Technology Expenses</i>	<b>16,500</b>	<b>8,350</b>
Elections Expenses	6,000	3,000
Teleconference Meetings	5,500	6,500
Insurance Expenses	2,500	1,500
Licence and Permits	2,367	2,800
Merchandise & Promotional & Advertising	30,000	15,000
Miscellaneous Expense	1,053	0
<i>Office Expenses</i>		
Furniture	1,000	1,500
Supplies	6,000	6,500
Postage & Courier	7,000	8,500
Telephone	1,500	1,500
<i>Total Office Expenses</i>	<b>15,500</b>	<b>18,000</b>

Payroll Processing Fees	2,200	2,300
<b>Professional Fees</b>		
Accountant	16,900	16,000
Lawyer	1,000	1,000
Other	0	0
<b>Total Professional Fees</b>	<b>17,900</b>	<b>17,000</b>
Publication Supplies		1,000
Reference Materials	600	600
Subscription Fees	500	300
Training	2,000	2,000
Travel		5,000
Website Expenses	15,500	12,000
<b>Total Administration Expenses</b>	<b>120,620</b>	<b>97,850</b>
<b>Salaries and Benefits</b>		
<b>Councillor Salaries</b>		
Executive	48,615	50,608
Councillor	33,335	33,335
<b>Total Honoraria</b>	<b>81,950</b>	<b>83,943</b>
Councillor Benefits	5,809	6,340
<b>Staff Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>		
Staff appreciation	1,500	1,500
Benefits	12,000	11,000
AUSU Tax Portion	26,000	
Councillor		4,800
Staff		7,440
Staff Salaries	110,000	117,500
<b>Total Staff Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>149,500</b>	<b>142,240.00</b>
<b>Total Salaries and Benefits</b>	<b>231,450</b>	<b>226,183.21</b>
<b>Events and Programs</b>		
Special Event Expenses	2,000	0
Convocation	2,500	5,000
Newsletter	120,000	80,000
Informational/Promotional Publications		0
Student Handbook	35,000	35,000
Voice	68,317	62,141
Service Recognition	200	300
<b>Total Events &amp; Programs</b>	<b>228,017</b>	<b>182,441.19</b>
<b>Awards</b>		
Contests	0	500
Gifts & Donations	500	500
Student Awards	38,300	40,180
<b>Total Awards</b>	<b>38,800</b>	<b>41,180.00</b>
<b>Representation Expenses</b>		
Advocacy & Lobbying	20,000	20,000
Professional Development	2,500	2,500
Membership Fees	0	0
Travel	2,000	0
<b>Total Representation Expenses</b>	<b>24,500</b>	<b>22,500.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>643,387</b>	<b>570,154.40</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>582,533</b>	<b>529,629.49</b>
<b>Total Revenue Over Expenses</b>	<b>-60,854</b>	<b>-40,525</b>

*/LLUMINATION*





# PRIORITY ACTIVITIES: What we're doing for you

THE FOLLOWING PAGES DETAIL PROJECTS THAT AUSU HAS COMPLETED SINCE OUR LAST AGM, PROJECTS IN PROGRESS, AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Project planning is a core duty of AUSU council, to ensure that member funds are used to the greatest benefit of the membership as a whole, and to use the economies of scale to our best advantage. The annual project report provides a checkpoint for our members, so you can keep track of what we are doing for you, and what we have in store. Comments are always welcome and encouraged.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### COMPLETED PROJECTS

AUSU completed several initiatives in 2008, including the realization of position policy goals, a revision of the policy manual, additional services for students, budgeting of reserve funds and awards timing revisions.

- OFFICE REFURNISHING
- SMARTDRAW LICENSE
- COMPLAINT TRACKING
- ELECTION 2008
- NEW AWARDS
- CAREER CENTRE

### KEY PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

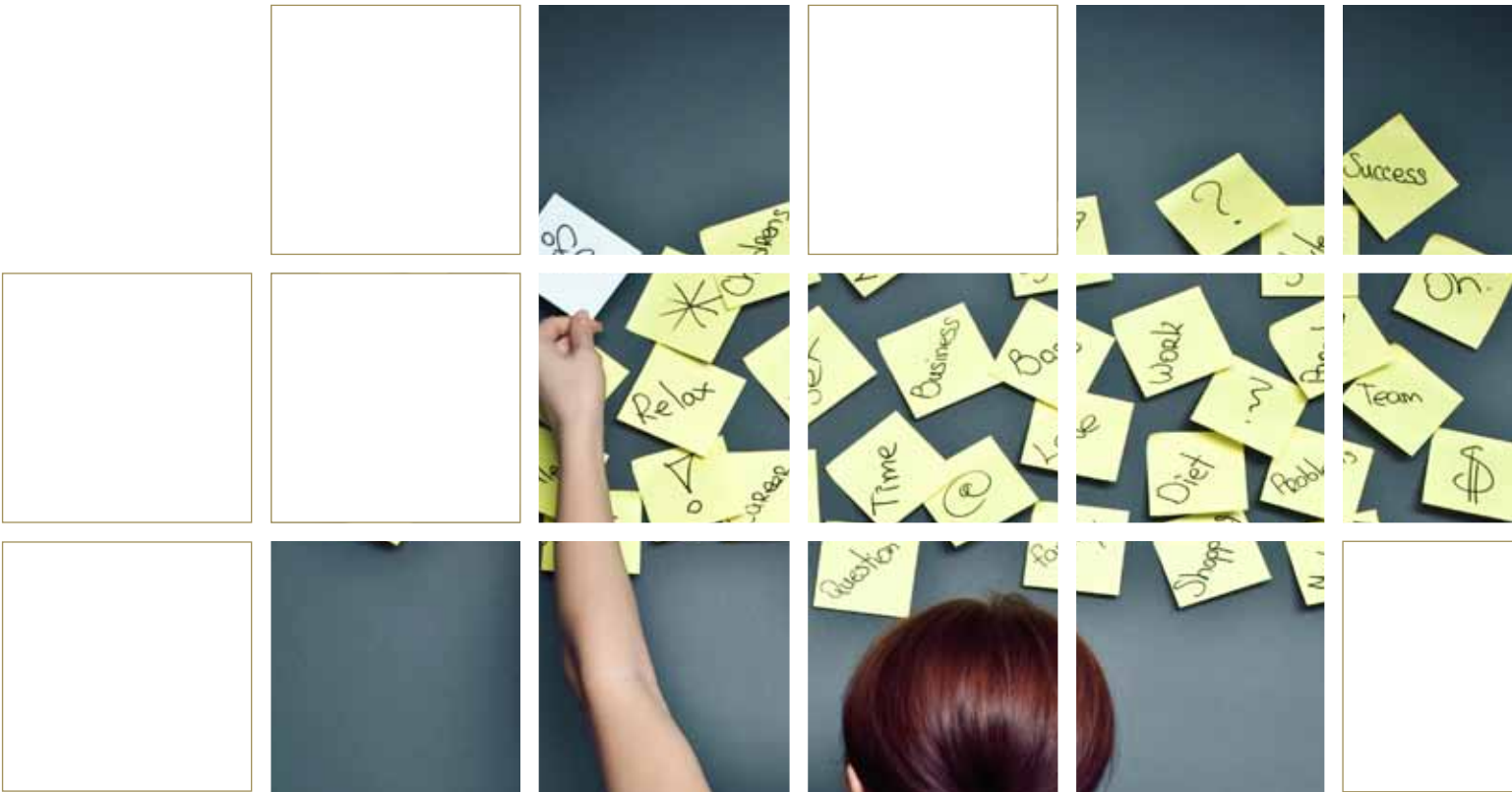
Some projects can be completed in a year, but many are ongoing and constantly revised, while others take more than a year to complete. Ongoing projects form the core of AUSU's work.

- STUDENT EMAILS
- AUSU RADIO/PODCAST
- LOBBYING
- REWARD POINTS
- STUDENT ORIENTATION
- ON-LINE STORE

### PROPOSED OR PLANNED PROJECTS

With a new investment policy in place, AUSU has established reserve funds for future projects. Timelines have not been established for these projects, and some are merely proposed.

- GRAD SOCIETY LINK
- AUSU CONFERENCES
- ATHLETE FUNDING
- SERVICE STANDARDS
- NEW WEB SITE
- FITNESS DISCOUNTS





# AUSU 2008/09

## Priority Activities and Planning

In April of 2008 a new council took office. This report coincides with the end of the first half of this council's term. Some completed projects and projects in progress were initiated in the planning phase of the outgoing 2006-2008 board, while others are newly developed by the current group.

### INCREASED STAFFING

STATUS: In Progress

Though we now have a stable complement of full-time staff, our membership continues to increase and more staff are needed. Pending approval of a small fee increase at the 2009 AGM, AUSU plans to hire a part-time support staff to assist with mailing and general administration.

### TUTOR OF THE YEAR

STATUS: Ongoing

The second annual Tutor of the Year contest saw increased participation and an additional question: "which AU department provides the highest quality of service to AUSU members?" Winners names will be printed in the upcoming edition of AUSU news, mailed to all current members and available on-line in PDF format.

### GENERAL ELECTION 2008

STATUS: Completed

More than 108 AUSU members ran for council in 2008—our largest election ever. The response was unprecedented and placed an unexpected burden on staff and our systems. More automation of the application process is planned for next year. The new council was elected in March and took office in April, while an interim election of the executive will occur in April of this year.

### AUSU RADIO/POD CAST

STATUS: In Progress

On the list of proposed projects for two years, this is now underway. AUSU struck a committee in late 2008 to investigate the development of an online pod cast station, and determined that this project could be started quickly with the addition of various video interviews, flash movies, and other audio-visual programs on the current AUSU site. Response to these new materials will be evaluated and new materials will be provided based on student feedback.

### FITNESS DISCOUNTS

STATUS: Planned

New members of council have noted that despite the lack of an on-campus fitness facility at AU and the distance nature of our student population, there is no reason council cannot help students to access low-cost fitness classes and training areas. We are currently researching options to provide discounts to our members for health club memberships.

## COMPLAINT TRACKING

STATUS: Completed

A key role of AUSU is to bring student issues to the university and lobby for changes and new programs as needed. In recent years, our requests have been increasing met with the same query: "Do you have statistics on how many students have reported this to you?" To make sure we can answer in the affirmative, we have developed a database for tracking all students issues that are reported to us, as well as those posted in our forums. Accessible to all of our staff, this repository does not contain any personal information, but permits us to log each issue by assigning it a date, category, and a few notes, so we can quickly pull up statistics to determine which issues are causing students the most trouble at any given time. It also allows us to track our effectiveness by showing when complaints about a given area are reduced. Students are, as always, encouraged to report any problems to AUSU, even if they do not wish to go on the record. With a large body of complaint data, we can get action on issues even if everyone remains anonymous in their reports. We never share student names or details of their issues with the university without prior permission.

## NEW AWARD

STATUS: Complete

As of March 2008, AUSU now offers a returning student award, to encourage students who have returned to study after a long absence from school. Applications for the Returning Student Award are available on ausu.org in the financial assistance section.

## AUSU PLANNER/HANDBOOK

STATUS: Complete

Again our handbook/planner was customized for our members, but this year, for the first time, it was produced in full colour with an added divider and a flap to hold notes. The page marker ruler was a popular addition last year, so we have produced it again but of a heavier grade of plastic to ensure it stays put.

## SMART DRAW

STATUS: Ongoing

In late 2007, AUSU purchased a mass user license to the popular SmartDraw software package. At the end of the term, usage of the program was evaluated and council determined that it was both cost-effective and a value-added benefit to members. A license for the 2009 version of the software was purchased and is now available for members.

## CAREER CENTRE

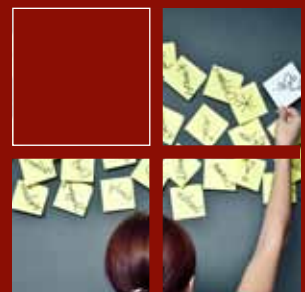
STATUS: In Progress

Proposed by the outgoing council, the career centre is now a reality and a work in progress. Job postings have been slow to start, as employers wait to see more students signed up on the site. Council is nearly finished developing a program to encourage participation, and hopes to see more activity on the job site in the coming year.

## NEW AUSU WEBSITE

STATUS: In Progress

Staff shortages and funding concerns have led to a delay in the completion of our new site, but upgrades are planned for the coming year. The addition of new support staff should facilitate this project.





### STUDENT ORIENTATION MEETINGS

STATUS: In Progress

Beginning in 2009, council is holding student chat and orientation sessions via teleconference on the last day of each month. Students worldwide may dial in for free just to chat with councillors or other students, or to learn more about what AUSU and AU have to offer. These meetings may be of particular benefit to new students, but members at all stages of their programs are welcome. These meetings are separate from our regularly scheduled council working sessions, which are currently held by teleconference every two months.

### STUDENT ORIENTATION BOOKLET

STATUS: In Progress

To further assist new AU students, we are nearly finished development of a new student orientation booklet that will strive to answer many of the common questions that new students are asking. To make this publication truly outstanding, we will be seeking feedback from students to find out what would make the book more useful to them. Watch for the first edition, available through ausu.org soon.

### NEW SERVICES BROCHURE

STATUS: In Progress

AUSU offers a wide range of services, and it can be difficult for students to learn about everything in their first months. AU staff and facilitators of on campus AU programs have also said that they need an easy way to keep up to date with all that we do. In response, we're working on a new brochure that will list all of our current services in point form and include directions to further information on each service. Look for it soon.

### OFFICE REFURNISHING

STATUS: Completed

By the beginning of 2008, AUSU's office furnishings were dilapidated, sparse, and inadequate for the needs of our growing organization. Reserve funds were drawn for a single large purchase of custom desks and cabinets to make best use of our vertical space and maximize storage in our ever decreasing office space. Now all of our furnishings are owned by AUSU and cannot be requisitioned by other offices. Our staff have a safer and more efficient work space, and we expect the new furnishings to meet our needs for years to come. We also have a complete new work station to accommodate a new hire.

### STUDENT EMAILS

STATUS: In Progress

Students are increasingly asking for @athabascau.ca e-mail addresses. AUSU has lobbied for these since late 2007 but thus far, it has not become a priority project of AU. However, we're beginning to make headway as we've convinced more high-level faculty to get on board with our request, and we believe that we may be successful over the coming year. However, the timeline for implementation must still be considered, as AU is short staffed in many key technical departments and has prioritized other, much needed technical upgrades, such as better examination delivery and tracking systems, upgrades to the student portal, enhanced Moodle development, and a possible program planning plug-in for the portal. We feel these upgrades are all vital for our members, and seek a balanced approach to ensure that AU remains competitive with other on-line universities.

## ONLINE STORE

STATUS: In Progress

AUSU continues to purchase new merchandise to stock our new on-line store. In the coming year we plan to greatly enhance the store so that students can order on-line, and orders can be processed more quickly. Watch for new items coming in throughout the year, and an announcement of our new shopping site. Feedback on our current items is welcome and encouraged!

## GRAD SOCEITY LIAISON

STATUS: In Progress

AUSU is delighted that AU now has a dedicated graduate students' association (the AUGSA). After all, many of our members will go on to enrol in a graduate program after their undergrad studies are completed! We will continue to provide any support we can to this new group, and assist with the development of programs if needed. We look forward to forging a relationship with the new grad council and finding ways that students at all levels can work together to enhance their studies.

## STUDENTS ON PROGRAM COUNCILS

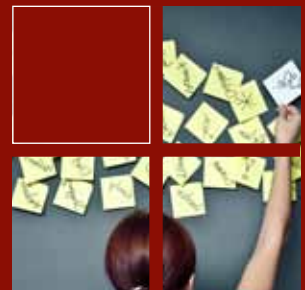
STATUS: In Progress

In the last year both the School of Business (SoB) and the School of Computing and Information Systems (SCIS) have added an undergraduate student representative to their respective program councils. AUSU helped find representatives for these councils and looks forward to other faculties taking a similar step to ensure that student needs are always at the forefront of all planning sessions.

## POINTS PROGRAM

STATUS: In Progress

Student feedback is council's most important resource. It drives the development of programs, targets our lobby efforts, and lets us know how we're doing. Over the last year, we've also come to realize that we can be a significant resource to the university, by helping to collect feedback and reporting statistically to departments that provide student services and learning materials. To encourage this kind of feedback, and to enhance the sense of an AU student community, AUSU is developing a points program for our members. Points will be earned for all sorts of participation opportunities, including filling out surveys, contributing to student clubs, and more. They will be redeemable for merchandise, forums tweaks, and more. Watch our site for information on this new program, coming soon!





# Representation

## On external, AU committees

COMMITTEE	STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
<b>AU Governing Council (AUGC)</b>	Karl Low and Sarah Kertcher
Finance Subcommittee	Karl Low (AU Appointed)
Strategic Budget Advisory Subcommittee	Sarah Kertcher (AU Appointed)
Honorary Awards Subcommittee	Karl Low (AU Appointed)
Institutional Advancement Subcommittee	Sarah Kertcher (AU Appointed)
Hiring for VP Finance (ad hoc)	Karl Low
<b>AU Academic Council (AUAC)</b>	Barb Rielly
Student Academic Appeals Committee	Tamra Ross
Student Awards Committee	Barb Rielly
Student Services Group (SSG)	Sarah Kertcher
<b>Miscellaneous Ad Hoc Committees</b>	
1234 Course Renumbering Committee	Tamra Ross (final year)
Moodle Implementation Committee	Karl Low, Tamra Ross, and Barb Rielly
My AU Steering Committee	Tamra Ross
Exam Review Project	Tamra Ross (near completion)
MSCHE AU Accreditation Task Forces	Karl Low, Tamra Ross, Sarah Kertcher
AUAC Structural Review	Karl Low, Barbara Rielly (completed)
<b>Miscellaneous Standing Committees</b>	
AU Staff Awards Committee (SDRMASE, PATME & CCMATE)	Tamra Ross
Bryon Paege Memorial Award (CUPE)	Lonita Fraser (Barb Rielly for coming year)
Integrated Learning Centres Steering	Sarah Kertcher
Sustainability Committee	Zil-e-Huma Lodhi
School for Computing and Information Systems Program Council	Kevin Gates
School of Business Program council	Tyler Nagel



# AUSU Council

## Internal Committees

COMMITTEE	CHAIR	MEMBERS
Finance	Sarah Kertcher	Emily Dukeshire, Lonita Fraser, Zil-e-Huma Lodhi, Sarah Kertcher, Karl Low, Tamra Ross (ex officio), Pam Schellenberger (ex officio)
Awards	Bethany Porter	Barbara Rielly, Emily Dukeshire, Heather Fraser, Karl Low, Tamra Ross (ex officio)
A/V (Audio/Visual)	Lonita Fraser/Karl Low	Ad hoc committee struck in November 2008 to investigate issues surrounding the setup of a pod cast station on the AUSU web site. Further development of this project will fall to the pending Media Committee. Bethany Porter, Zil-e-Huma Lodhi, Sandra Livingston, Tamra Ross.
Media	(pending)	

## Representation

### Other areas where we have input

AU EXECUTIVES WE MEET WITH ON A REGULAR SCHEDULE	
Dr. Frits Pannekoek - semi-annually	AU President
Dr. Margaret Haughey - semi-annually to quarterly	AU Vice President Academic
Lori Van Rooijen - bi-monthly	AU Vice President, Advancement
Jim D'Arcy - quarterly	AU Registrar
OTHER WORKING GROUPS COUNCIL AND STAFF MEET WITH	
au.world Editorial Group	Tamra Ross (publication recently discontinued)
Second Life group	An informal group investigating the value of second life for student interaction.
AU Web Authors Group	The AU web authors hold regular meetings about web standards, design principles, accessibility, etc. Our webmaster is included in this very informative group.



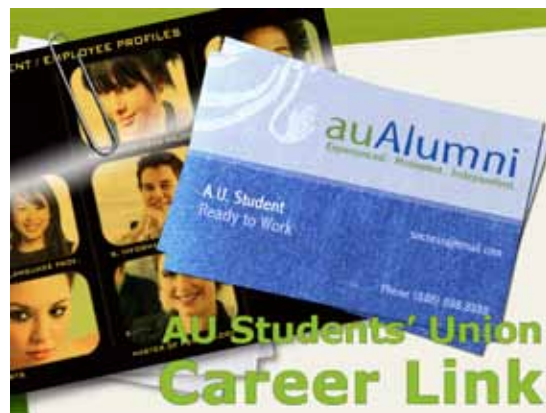


# Services for our members

Some of the services and publications students receive from AUSU

## Career Link

In conjunction with the Personnel Department of Edmonton, AUSU has a brand new career site at [www.goodstaff.jobs](http://www.goodstaff.jobs). A work in progress, this site allows both students and employers to create accounts. Students can both post their resumes on-line for employers to view, and print one off as needed. To promote the site, an information sheet highlighting the benefits of hiring AU students was sent out to more than 200 employment centres across Canada in 2008.



## Smart Draw License

A \$297 USD value, the Smart Draw Health Care Edition package allows students to create a wide range of graphics including charts, graphs, time lines, flowcharts, and more, plus a wide range of health care charts and documents. These graphics can be automatically output to Word, Excel and many other programs, so students can submit them to tutors who do not have Smart Draw. In 2008, AUSU purchased an annual license so that all of our members can download and install this software for free for one year. The license was renewed for 2009.

## AUSU Merchandise

In 2008, AUSU began building up a stock of custom merchandise sporting AUSU and Voice Magazine branding for our planned on-line store. To encourage a sense of student community, all items are being sold at prices that are very near our cost, plus actual shipping rates. New items will be added over the coming year.



# Publications

being in touch with students

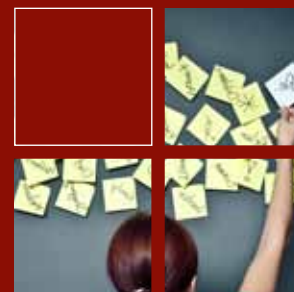


## AUSU Handbook/Planner

Still our most popular service, our free planner is now in full colour, and has an added tabbed divider with a slot for notes and small loose papers. We've also added more course planning pages and a clip in page marker ruler. More than 1000 pre-orders had been received as of our January 5th ship date, and orders continue to pour in. Next year we hope to obtain more paid advertising for the planner and to continue to add features that students demand. This publication is so popular that we've also offered it for sale this year to graduate students and alumni to quench ongoing demand and to offset production costs. Students tell us they can't wait each year to get the new edition.

## AUSU News

The only publication automatically mailed to all members, *AUSU News* reaches more than 40,000 undergraduates annually. The newsletter helps us stay in touch with our members, ensures that important news reaches members in all locations, and provides a link for members who are not on-line or who have not yet found our web site.



*INNOVATION*



#### MAIN OFFICE

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Sandra Livingston - Voice Managing Editor

AUSU serves more than 40,000 Athabasca University undergraduates annually.  
AUSU members are defined as all students of Athabasca University who are currently enrolled in an AU undergraduate course (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](http://www.ausu.org), or call our office.

This booklet prepared for AUSU by Tamra Ross.  
Errors and omissions excluded.

Graphics and design by Tamra Ross © AUSU, 2009

WE WELCOME ALL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM OUR MEMBERS.  
CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION: 1.800.788.9041 X 3413

AUSU serves more than 40,000 undergraduate students annually across Canada and around the world. We offer advocacy, support, and services needed by students. The AUSU web site contains information on all of our services, including our financial aid options, student clubs and course reviews.



**AU STUDENTS' UNION**  
**UNITED BY DISTANCE**

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