

## Minutes AUSU Council Changeover Meeting

**APPROVED – May 14, 2014**

AUSU Council Meeting  
March 31, 2014  
Teleconference

**Councillors Present:** Toni Fox (Chair), Bethany Tynes, Jason Nixon, James Ramsbottom, Craig French, Ashley Charlton, Corrina Green, Bonita Arbeau, Megan Daigneault, Alexander Poulton, Jason Nixon, Kim Newsome, Christine Villeneuve, and Shawna Wasylshyn.  
**Staff Present:** Tamra Ross (Chair), Karyna McDonald, and Sarah Maddock.  
**Other Members:** None  
**Record of Minutes:** Sarah Maddock  
**Absent:** N/A

**Call to Order:** 18.33 (MST)

### Agenda and Minutes

#### 1.0 Approval of Agenda

Reports moved to Items 7.0 – 15.0

J. Nixon/C. French

- Carried 7/0 -

#### 2.0 Adoption of Council Minutes 2014-02-19

J. Ramsbottom/A. Charlton

- Carried 7/0 -

### New Business:

#### 3.0 Email Vote Ratification:

BIRT AUSU withdraw membership from ASEC in accordance with legal advisement because all other student organizations representing university students have now indicated that they intend to cease membership with ASEC. T.Fox moved, A.Charlton seconded. Carried 6/1. B.Tynes against.

C. French/K. Newsome

- Carried 7/0 -

**4.0 Email Vote Ratification:**

BIRT AUSU approve the audited financial statements for the fiscal year 2012/13 as prepared by the firm of Kingston Ross Pasnak. J.Nixon moved, K.Newsoms seconded. Carried 7/0.

J. Ramsbottom/J. Nixon

- Carried 7/0 -

**5.0 Vote Ratification:**

BIRT Evan Schmidt be removed from AUSU council due to actions prohibited under policy 2.13 (Ethics) and general breach of confidentiality. The severe penalty is sought due to evidence that multiple private issues from the closed council email list, which provides an expectation of privacy, have been shared. T.Fox moved, E.Schmidt seconded. Carried 6/2.

K. Newsome/A. Charlton

- Carried 7/0 -

**6.0 Motion:** BIRT council approve a reserve draw up to \$2500 for purchases of software and hardware warranty upgrades.

J. Nixon/C. French

- Carried 7/0 -

**Reports**

**7.0 President's Report**

Report Accepted

**8.0 Vice President External's Report**

Verbal Report Accepted

**9.0 Vice President Finance's Report**

Report Accepted

**10.0 Executive Meeting Report**

Report Accepted

**11.0 Finance Committee Report**

Report Accepted

**12.0 Awards Committee Report**

Report Accepted

**13.0 Media Committee Report**

Verbal Report Accepted

**14.0 Executive Director's Report**  
Verbal Report Accepted

**15.0 Office Coordinator's Report**  
Verbal Report Accepted

BIRT AUSU accepts the reports as presented.  
K. Newsome/C. French

- Carried 7/0 -

**16.0 Motion:** BIRT the AUSU council for the 2012-2014 term is officially dissolved. We thank everyone for their service over the last two years and wish you all the best.

B. Tynes/T.Fox

- Carried 7/0 -

**17.0 Action Item:**

The new council shall take the oath of office – the new council consists of: Corrina Green, Bonita Arbeau, Megan Daigneault, Alexander Poulton, Jason Nixon, Kim Newsome, Christine Villeneuve, and Shawna Wasylyshyn.  
Swearing in of new council.

**18.0 Motion:** BIRT AUSU confirms that the new council executive, to begin on April 1, 2014, shall be Jason Nixon, President; Kim Newsome, Vice President External; and Corrina Green, Vice President Finance, as elected by the councillors-elect on March 24, 2014.

C. Villeneuve/B. Arbeau

- Carried 8/0 -

**19.0 Motion:** BIRT AUSU confirms the following changes to AUSU's signing authority: remove Toni Fox and Bethany Tynes; add Corrina Green. Motion at 7:03pm

M. Daigneault/A. Poulton

- Carried 8/0 -

**Next Meeting**

**20.0 Next meeting date and time**

**Meeting adjourned at 19:07 MST**

J. Nixon adjourned

# AUSU President Report

Toni Fox, President



Athabasca University  
Students' Union

**Covers: February 1 - 28, 2014**

## Current Issues

**Orientation for new council** – With the election now complete, the executive are working on ensuring that councillors-elect are prepared for their term. The ED has provided councillors-elect with a wealth of information (orientation package, some updates on current council project, etc.), as well as set had them fill out any necessary paperwork. The Executive are working to set up a meeting with all the councillors-elect to provide further orientation and discussion.

**Health Plan** – The referendum has passed and AUSU members have voted in support of a health plan. The contract is currently being reviewed by the AUSU lawyer before it is officially signed. After review of the contract is complete, AUSU will work with AU to get the payment system available. We expect that the plan should be available to our members by September 2014.

**Annual General Meeting** – With the audit now complete, AUSU is prepared to hold an AGM. As usual, the AGM is open to all AUSU members. The AGM report will be available before the meeting by contacting the AUSU office. After the meeting, it will be posted to the AUSU website.

## Meetings

**Executive meeting: February 5, 2014**

**Audit meeting: February 5, 2014**

**AUSU candidate orientation: February 5, 2014**

**Executive meeting: February 11, 2014**

**Executive meeting: February 11, 2014**

**Executive meeting with CRO: February 12, 2014**

**Executive meeting: February 13, 2014**

**Meeting with CRO: February 13, 2014**

March, 2014 Council Meeting

**Faculty of Health Disciplines Council meeting: February 13, 2014**

**Council meeting: February 13, 2014**  
**Executive Meeting: February 18, 2014**

**Executive Meeting: February 19, 2014**

**Council meeting: February 19, 2014**

**AUSU Election Results Announcement meeting: February 22, 2014**

**Executive Meeting: February 24, 2014**

**Executive Meeting: February 26, 2014**

**Council meeting: February 26, 2014**

## Other Items

**AUSU Election** – The election is now complete, and the results have been posted to the front page of the AUSU website. The new council will officially take office April 1, 2014. Until that time, they are being trained and oriented by the current Executive.

**AU Presidential Search Committee** – For updates from the committee, please refer to the AU President Search website: <http://ous.athabascau.ca/search/>

**Reporting** – The executive have chosen to make executive reports available as part of meeting minutes. While the executive feel that this is the best way to make the reports of the executive to AUSU members, I would encourage future councils to consider the efficiency of the system and look for ways to improve upon it. One idea that has already been discussed is the potential for Executive blogs hosted on the AUSU website. Council could also discuss the potential to better utilize the AUSU section of the Voice Magazine with regular updates.

## Hours

**My weekly average: 38.75 hours**

I have reviewed the hours of the Jason Nixon (VP Finance). At the writing of this report, I have been unable to review all of Bethany Tynes (VP External) hours for the month.

# AUSU Executive Report

Bethany Tynes, VP External and Student Affairs

Prepared: March 7, 2013



## Current Issues

### Meeting with the Minister

On February 9<sup>th</sup>, student representatives from all Alberta post-secondary institutions and provincial lobby groups were invited to meet with Deputy Premier and Minister of Advanced Education Dave Hancock. I represented AUSU, and had the opportunity to speak to the Minister about the fact that AU students are currently bearing the brunt of the government's chronic underfunding of our university (a lack of some services, rising fees, potential changes to some faculties' instructional models, etc.) caused by the current provincial funding model, and a lack of transparency surrounding how institutional funding is meted out. Minister Hancock said that the funding model would be re-examined, and that he is committed to transparency of information. The quarterly roundtable was also covered by [Global News](#), [CTV News](#), [Metro News](#), [NewsTalk770](#), and [660News](#) – and I'm sure it won't be a surprise that nearly all students want to make sure that Alberta's post-secondary education system is affordable, accessible, and high-quality.

### FHSS Strategic Plan

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, I had the opportunity to represent undergraduate students at "Envisioning the Future of FHSS," an FHSS strategic planning day that sought the input of all members and constituencies of the faculty. The day was very positive, and faculty present were very strong in their desire to improve students' experiences and educate students effectively. I appreciated the opportunity to attend, as well as the consideration with which faculty members present listened to my perspective and ideas.

### ASEC Bylaws

ASEC's Vice Chair, Ryan Roth, recently resigned from his role with ASEC, as his home association (SA MacEwan U) has expressed a desire to move away from ASEC membership in favour of CAUS. As such, because my involvement with the bylaw drafting has been extensive, I will be presenting the bylaws to the ASEC membership, in hopes of improving the organization's internal governance, and ensuring that the work the Governance Committee put into the bylaws this year does, indeed, proceed forward to the membership for approval. I will provide concluding updates on this project in my March report.

### ALEC Learner Support Working Group

The ALEC Learner Support Working Group report was brought to ALEC this month, but ALEC felt that some further information was needed, and has sent the report back to the working group for further additions and revision. As such, I will be continuing on with this subcommittee through into March, as the report is revised and resubmitted to ALEC.

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## Pending Issues

### **AUSU Lobby Document**

I continue to work on composing a draft lobby document for the provincial government, based on our AUSU position policies and current political climate. I hope to be able to verbally report at the meeting that this draft has been sent to the executive for their review.

## Meetings

**ASEC Governance** – February 3

**ASEC Lobby Team** – February 5

**AUSU Candidates** – February 5

**AU GFC SAAC** – February 6 – AU's Student Academic Appeals Committee

**AUSU Candidates** – February 6

**AU FHSS Strategic Plan** – February 7

**Quarterly Roundtable with the Minister** – February 8

**ASEC Governance** – February 10

**AUSU Exec** – February 11 – Multiple meetings

**AUSU Exec** – February 12 – Multiple meetings, incl. meetings with councillors

**AU FHSS Strategic Plan** – February 12-13

**AUSU Exec** – February 13 – Multiple meetings, incl. meetings with CRO

**AUSU Council** – February 13

**AUSU Exec** – February 18

**AU GFC ALEC** – February 18

**AUSU Council** – February 19

**ASEC Lobby Team** – February 19

**AU FHSS Strategic Plan** – February 24

**AUSU Council** – February 26

**ASEC Assessment Conference** – February 28-Mar 3

## Hours

### Weekly Breakdown

Week of:	Hours
Feb 2-8	31.75
Feb 9-15	40.5
Feb 16-22	27.25
Feb 23-Mar 1	40.5
4-week average	35

### Timesheets and Compliance

I have reviewed the hours of my fellow executives, and believe that all of us are currently within the acceptable range dictated by policy.

## News Roundup

A collection of optional readings related to post-secondary education:

### Alberta

Despite acknowledging that the government is in better financial shape, Minister Hancock is minimizing expectations that there will be an increase in spending in the coming spring financial plan. The PC government has announced they will be tabling the budget on Thursday, March 6. [Calgary Herald](#)

ASEC Chair Kenneth Taylor was recently interviewed by the Edmonton Journal about the state of mental health on Alberta campuses (spoiler: we need more funding and student consultation) [Edmonton Journal](#)

Minister Hancock committed that mandatory non-instructional fees would be part of the discussion around the cost of PSE in AB: [Metro News](#)

The Alberta government says PSE institutions in the province will be required to disclose the salaries of employees who make more than \$100,000 per year. [Calgary Herald](#)

A student-led study, *Ignite: Ideas for Post-Secondary Education*, compiles data from a series of student focus groups held at 23 PSE institutions across the province, and gauged student opinion on cost, access, and quality of the province's PSE system. More than 90% of students agreed that high-quality teaching should be the leading focus of Alberta's PSE institutions. [Council of Alberta University Students](#) | [Calgary Herald](#)

A recent study of 8 colleges in Alberta shows that participating institutions and their students in 2011-12 contributed \$3.6 billion in income to Alberta's economy, which is equal to

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approximately 1.5% of the province's GDP. It would be great to see a similar report for the province's universities, particularly AU! [Economic Impact Fact Sheet](#)

## **Canada**

The Canadian government recently pass new anti-spam legislation, which will prohibit organizations from sending “commercial electronic messages” such as emails and texts without first obtaining a recipient's consent, though there is an exception for non-profit groups (including PSE institutions). How does this law apply to students' unions, and particularly AUSU, as we proceed with our enewsletters? [University Affairs](#)

Results of a CBC survey of 54 Canadian universities (including AU) show that almost 7,000 students were punished for cheating in 2011-12 [CBC](#)

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) has launched a “[Wall of Debt](#)” campaign to allow students to share their stories and to tell “federal and provincial governments that it's time to prioritize need-based grants.” [CASA News Release](#)

## **General**

Tablet purchases by educational institutions are currently the main driver of overall tablet adoption. In Canada, [Olds College](#) is among those driving such tablet adoption; the Alberta-based institution announced that it would work towards becoming the first fully integrated iPad learning environment in Canada. [Education Dive](#)

A recent US study suggests that a one-hour "difference-education intervention" program could have a large impact on the success rates of first-generation students—the authors suggest that the program can close 63% of the achievement gap between first-generation and other students. [Inside Higher Ed](#)

# AUSU Executive Report

Jason Nixon, VP Finance and Administration

Prepared: February 28, 2014



Athabasca University  
Students' Union

## Current Issues

### **AU BOG Finance and Property Committee**

AU BOG Finance and Property Committee have been reviewing budget issues and impacts related to the Alberta budget. The committee will be meeting in early March to vote on motions in regards to some specific amendments and some property issues that remain in camera at this stage but should be able to be discussed in the next month or two. No issues have come up that will have a large impact on our membership.

### **AU BOG**

Did not meet in February, but updates have been sent to board members in regards to the AU presidential search indicating things are moving along in line with the schedule, which should mean we should be receiving a significant update from the committee on that issue sooner rather than later. It is a very exciting time with many stakeholders in the university excited to see who the next president will be and the direction he or she will take AU in.

### **AUSU Finance Committee**

AUSU Finance situation continues to be excellent with our revenues currently slightly higher than projected and our expenses lower than projected. No major financial concerns have been noted at finance committee meeting. Finance Committee will be meeting in early March to approve the 2012 / 2013 fiscal year audit. This audit has recently been completed with excellent results for AUSU with no major issues noted by the auditors, and several compliments from the auditors on AUSU financial management systems.

The annual report is being completed right now by both the executive and AUSU management to be presented at a AGM meeting before the end of March.

### **ASEC Finance Committee**

ASEC Finance Committee has been working on a draft budget to be taken to membership at the upcoming ASEC conference. This budget has proven to be problematic with the departure of two big members resulting in a significant decrease in funds. As a result the budget was sent to the membership very wide open to receive feedback on which way ASEC attends to go in the near future. With the information received back from membership at the conference the hope is a more focus approach can be taken adapting to the changes with the ASEC organization.

## Pending Issues

### **Policy**

All policies scheduled for review during this executive term are now completed and ready for the next executive to develop a policy review schedule for the next term. I highly recommend the next executive do that early in the term to ensure that policy is being regularly reviewed at a steady rate through the year rather than all at once. The best place for the next executive and council to start would be with the planning and budget policies which will be the most important policies over the spring and summer.

### **AUSU Election**

AUSU election is now complete, I am happy and humbled that membership chooses to re-elect me to council. I am also happy and excited to work with the great group of councillors chosen to from the 2014 – 2016 AUSU council. Congratulation to all successful candidates and thank you to all candidates who participated there was a great group of individuals this election which was exciting to see.

There are only two returning councillors for 2014 – 2016 so exec will be working with the new group on a quick and smooth transition and focusing on tying up loose ends in the next over the next couple of weeks.

### **HR**

AU Admin Assistant recently moved on just prior to the election. Now that the election is over myself and AUSU staff are working on interviewing replacements and hoping to have a new Admin Assistant in place as soon as possible.

## Meetings

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**AUSU candidate orientation: February 6, 2014**

**Executive meeting: February 11, 2014**

**Executive meeting: February 11, 2014**

**Executive meeting with CRO: February 12, 2014**

**Executive meeting: February 13, 2014**

## February 2014 Activity Report

**Meeting with CRO: February 13, 2014**

**Council meeting: February 13, 2014**

**Executive Meeting: February 18, 2014**

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**Council meeting: February 19, 2014**

**AUSU Election Results Announcement meeting: February 22, 2014**

**Executive Meeting: February 24, 2014**

**Executive Meeting: February 26, 2014**

**ASEC Finance Committee Meeting: February 26, 2014**

**Council meeting: February 26, 2014**

## Hours

### Timesheets and Compliance

As of the writing of this report, I have reviewed the hours of the other executive members and have found they are meeting the expected hour requirements. My 4 week hour average is 30.5 hrs.