

Minutes AUSU Council Meeting

APPROVED – September 10, 2014

AUSU Council Meeting
August 13, 2014
Teleconference

Councillors Present: Jason Nixon, Kim Newsome, Corrina Green, Alexander Poulton, Bonita Arbeau, Christine Villeneuve, Shawna Wasylyshyn and Megan Daigneault.
Staff Present: Tamra Ross, Karyna Hochachka and Sarah Maddock
Other Members: Karl Low and Barbra Lehtiniemi
Record of Minutes: Sarah Maddock
Absent:

Call to Order: 17:30 (MST)

Agenda and Minutes

1.0 Approval of Agenda

BIRT council adopt the meeting agenda as presented.

M. Daigneault/A. Poulton - Carried 8/0 -

2.0 Adoption of Council Meeting Minutes

BIRT council approve the minutes of the July 09, 2014 council meeting, as presented.

A. Poulton/ B. Arbeau - Carried 8/0 -

New Business:

3.0 Email Vote Ratification: BIRT AUSU approve Bonita Arbeau and Christine Villeneuve be appointed co-chairs of the AUSU Awards Committee, that Christine Villeneuve will be the co-chair responsible for reviewing Emergency Bursary applications, and that each co-chair receive the full \$75 honoraria each month. C.Green moved, B. Arbeau seconded. Carried 8/0.

S. Wasylyshyn/ M. Daigneault - Carried 8/0 -

- 4.0 Motion:** BIRT councillor Shawna Wasylyshyn be removed from AUSU council for accruing 2 or more absences from council meetings without sufficient notice in a one month period, by missing the June 17 Awards meeting and July 9 Council meeting. This motion is brought forward for consideration automatically per policy 2.08.

C. Villeneuve/A. Poulton

- Defeated 0/8 -

Reports

- 5.0 President's Report**
Report Accepted.
- 6.0 Vice President External's Report**
Report Accepted.
- 7.0 Vice President Finance's Report**
Report Accepted.
- 8.0 Executive Meeting Report**
Report Accepted.
- 9.0 Finance Committee Report**
Report Accepted.
- 10.0 Awards Committee Report**
Report Accepted.
- 11.0 MEC Committee Report**
Report Accepted.
- 12.0 Executive Director's Report**
Report Accepted.
- 13.0 Office Coordinator's Report**
Report Accepted.
- 14.0 Next meeting date and time**

17:30 MST on September 10, 2014

Meeting adjourned at 18:48 MST

S. Wasylyshyn moved.

AUSU President Report

Jason Nixon, President



Athabasca University
Students' Union

Covers: July 2014

Prepared: August 5, 2014

Current Issues

AUGSA – I travelled to Edmonton this month to meet with the new executive of AUGSA, AU Graduate Student Association. Edmonton staff and I had a very productive and exciting meeting with the AUGSA that focused on areas that our groups can work together to benefit both of our members. Particularly in the areas of convocation, bylaws governance issues, and student fees to name a few. We are currently communicating back and forth on our goals lists and comparing them to find ways to work together and will be meeting on a regular basis going forward. One hope is that we can invite them all to attend an AUSU council meeting in the future and also have AUSU's council attend an AUGSA council.

AU BOG – AU BOG did not have any formal meeting in July and is not expected to meet in August. No major board issues have taken place since my last report. Board orientation is scheduled for early September and both Corrina and I are planning to attend in person on behalf of AUSU.

BOG Sub Committees – Do not meet during the summer months but schedules have been prepared for the coming year. Currently I am on all but one of the sub committees so we will be working with AU to move me out of a couple and Corrina as our other AUSU board represent on to a couple to evenly distribute the BOG work load.

Dean of Faculty of Science and Technology – Since the development of the criteria for the new dean and the adjustments to the scope of the committee, no other meetings have taken place in regards to the hiring of this dean. We are hoping all new committee members will be elected sometime in August and that we can get back to work hiring a Dean for the Faculty of Science and Technology.

Registrar Hiring Committee – The committee has been working and meeting with the search consultants for this position and have been working to develop the hiring criteria and requirements for candidates. We are expecting to have list of candidates in the fall and then moving on to the interview stage.

NCSL Course – The NCSL course has been completed and it was very interesting getting to know all of our fellow councillors and reading their thoughts and ideas.

Health Care Plan – The health care plan continues to get closer to being put in place. AU has begun the work we require from them in order to implement the plan. While we cannot guarantee that we will be able to launch in September, as we hoped, we can say we are getting close and should have no problem launching in the fall.

GFC – Did not meet during the month of July, which is normal as generally GFC does not meet over the summer months. A group of stakeholders throughout the university petition both Kim and I, who sit on GFC, to support a petition to have a special meeting to discuss the Student Support Centre (Call Centre). Kim and I both supported the petition and the effort to have a more open transparent discussion on this issue at the GFC level. The meeting has been booked for late August. The new AU President will be in attendance to discuss the plans going forward for the Student Support Centre.

GFC Exec – Dealt with some more housekeeping motions throughout the month of July mainly in relations to convocation issues and preparation for GFC in the fall.

AU Executive Meeting – We have begun the process of booking regular meeting with AU executive staff. These meeting will start formally in September and will be booked till June of next year. This allows us to make sure that AUSU membership issues are being discussed regularly with all areas of university management and ensures we are on their schedules, which fill up fast, going forward.

Council Communication Concerns – As this council has so many new members we have been working out the bugs on communicating with each other. Particularly in regards to executive communication with council, lots of good ideas have come forward on how to do that better going forward. Council held a special meeting this month to review ideas on how to improve communication amongst each other going forward which was very productive. Since that meeting the executive has adopted a new executive meeting report for council that we intent to keep improving on going forward but feel is much more detailed then what has taken place in the pass. Also we are going to adjust the executive blog page and have an each member of the executive write a blog post every quarter, scheduled in such a way that there is public executive update monthly going forward. The executive will also be working to provide more regular e-mail updates to council going forward.

Goal Setting and Yearly Planning – As per AUSU planning schedule we have been working with staff to clear up remaining issues from last year over the summer. Issues like Health care plan implementation, website updates, and other outstanding issues that were in progress from last year. AUSU planning policy calls for this fiscal year's goals to start in the fall but the exec has already started to work on the foot work for many of the goals scheduled for this fall. We started to work on a few projects including the election policy update project, membership orientation packages, the Executive Director Succession plan, the RFP for our investment advisors, employee reviews, and e-text research.

Meetings

Vacation – June 29 – July 5

AUSU Finance Meeting – July 2

AUSU Exec Meeting – July 9

AUSU Council Meeting – July 9

Register Hiring Committee Meeting – July 13

Meeting with Councillor Shawna Wasylyshyn – July 14

GFC Exec Meeting – July 15

AUSU Exec Meeting – July 15

AUSU Exec Meeting – July 22

AUSU Exec Meeting – July 24

AUSU Council Meeting – July 24

AUGSA Meeting in Edmonton – July 25

AUSU Exec Meeting – July 29

AUSU Exec Meeting – July 31

Hours

My weekly average: 34.81 hours

Week of:	Hours
June 29 – July 5	36
July 6 – July 12	33
July 13 – July 19	35.25
July 20 – July 26	35
4 Week Average	34.81

I have reviewed the hours of Kim Newsome and have found she is meeting her expected hour requirements. I have also reviewed Corrina Green hours and while she is slightly under the average, she was considerably over last month so this is not a concern. As noted above, my 4 week average is 34.81 hours. My average is down very slightly this month but was above average in June with 35.31.

July 2014

AUSU Executive Report

Kim Newsome, VP External and Student Affairs

Prepared: August 5, 2014



Current Issues

GFC

There have been no meetings since my last report. An email was sent out asking members to support a petition to have a special meeting to discuss the new SSC (Student Support Centre). Both Jason and I supported the petition to hold the meeting. It was passed and the meeting will be held on August 28. The new AU President will be in attendance and will address GFC about plans for the SSC.

GFC – ALEC & LSWG

There have been no meetings since my last report. I have still not had any communication regarding the new Learning Services Working Group, chaired by Bob Heller.

GFC – SAC

No meetings since last report.

AUSU Committees

The MEC Committee is taking a short break after a busy few months. The next big project will be the planner. Ideas have been put forward to Tamra for a theme.

I have also spent some time working on things with Awards Committee. I re-reviewed 4 award applications that were denied and made recommendations. I have also been working with Christine and Bonita since they have agreed to co-chair the Awards Committee beginning August 1 in order to make sure we have addressed any concerns that may conflict with policy or may be of concern to our auditors at year end.

Communication Concerns

Communication concerns were brought to the executive this month. The executive has each spent a lot of time on this issue. With a couple of executive meetings and one working council meeting focused on this issue, concerns have been talked about in great length.

Some of the things that I have personally done in response to these concerns:

- Reviewed all emails that I have received this term in response to concerns that things were brought to exec for follow up and then were never followed up on. After searching every email, I did not find anything that I had not followed up on.
- Sent a follow up email to MECC committee asking that if there were any outstanding items that I was supposed to follow up on that they either be emailed to the group email or to my own email. To date, no one has brought anything forward to me.

July 2014

- Worked with the Awards Committee co-chairs and exec to address any outstanding items regarding the move to co-chairs.
- At the request of Awards chair, I have provided my thorough thoughts on any applications that have come through the committee.
- Continued working on improving the Exec Meeting Report although the addition of the President providing email updates bi-weekly on exec meetings (as requested by council) will provide a lot more detail than I have put in the report. As a result, these will likely eventually become the Exec Meeting Report.

NCSL

We are now complete! It was great doing this course again and getting to know each councillor a bit better through their responses.

Exec Meetings

The exec continues to meet weekly. We continue to work on finishing up work from last year's goals, getting started on the new goals, and dealing with other issues as they arise.

AUSU Goals & Planning

The goals have been passed and the exec has started planning timelines for completion. The exec has also chosen which ones each of us would like to be responsible for tracking. With those 2 things in place, I think we have created a good system to be able to organize and monitor the goals throughout the term year. Since the goals are for the upcoming fiscal year, most have not been officially started yet. However, I have begun to do some research and preparations for those that I will be leading.

Meetings

AUSU Finance Meeting – July 2

AUSU Exec Meeting – July 9

AUSU Council Meeting – July 9

AUSU Exec Meeting – July 15

AUSU Exec Meeting – July 22

AUSU Exec Meeting – July 24

AUSU Council Meeting – July 24

AUSU Exec Meeting – July 29

AUSU Exec Meeting – July 31

July 2014

Hours

Weekly Breakdown

Week of:	Hours
June 29-July 5	30
July 6-12	31.5
July 13-19	30
July 20-26	28.5
4 Week Average	30

Timesheets and Compliance

I have reviewed the timesheets of the other execs and found that their 4 week average for July was a bit under what is required. However, both of them were quite a bit over in June and I feel that both are in compliance overall for the term year.

News Roundup

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

CASA calls on feds to increase mental health funding and supports. The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) has issued a policy paper calling on the federal government to create a sustainable mental health policy. The report urges the government to address key areas including the stigma around mental illness and a lack of funding in the sector. . [CASA News Release](#) | [Toronto Star](#) | [Policy Paper](#)

Major disruption in store for textbook industry. The textbook publishing market is ripe for radical change, according to an article in *University Business*. The rise of [free or low-cost](#) digital textbooks, as well as the proliferation of [open-access](#) content, is challenging the sustainability of traditional publishing models. [University Business](#)

Athabasca to offer first-in-Canada online architecture BSc. Athabasca University and Architecture Canada | Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) have officially launched what is reportedly the first online bachelor of science degree in architecture. The program is designed to be flexible, including a part-time option, and emphasizes the relationship between academic study and practical work. Barry Johns, Chancellor of the College of Fellows of the RAIC, said that “the philosophy behind this program is very unique. [AthabascaU News Release](#)

MOOC production company launches in Edmonton. 3 University of Alberta administrators, in partnership with their institution, have launched what is purportedly Canada's first massive open online course (MOOC) and digital learning production company. Onlea, a not-for-profit firm based in Edmonton, offers academic and industry clients "flexible, mobile-friendly, interactive learning courses, education experiences, and assessment solutions" for use with digital education platforms. [TEC Edmonton](#) | [Onlea](#)

New eLearning Rubric for members of eCampus Alberta. [eCampusAlberta](#) has launched a new online resource designed to help instructors and administrators at member institutions self-assess existing and future online courses. The eLearning Rubric has 6 categories of standards—Web, Course Information, Resource, Organization, Pedagogy, and Technology—and ranks entered course information as Essential, Excellent, or Exemplary. [eCampusAlberta eZine](#) | [eLearning Rubric](#)

AUSU Executive Report

Corrina Green, VP Finance and Administration

Prepared: August 3rd, 2014



Current Issues

Some of our executive have been on holidays for July and things have been quite slow as AU generally goes in slow down mode over the summer. It has been a good time to review policies, by-laws, do some research on many topics and start the beginning of the planning process for goals in September. I hope that everyone is having a great summer!

Policy

The policies that were presented at the July Council meeting were all approved with a couple minor changes. As noted previously, there is a break from policy review until September.

Health Plan

The Health Plan implementation is finally underway! Tamra has been meeting regularly with staff at AU and the process is well underway for this to happen in the very near future.

NCSL Course

The National Certified Student Leader course is finished. All councillors participated and I believe most felt that there was some value in having everyone take it. I personally enjoyed reading everyone's answers to the discussion questions that were sent throughout.

Anti-Spam Legislation

We reached out to our lawyer to clarify some concerns about the new legislation. We were already following all the guidelines so there is no change for us with the new legislation.

Committee Work

GFC – SAAC had no meetings this month. This committee takes a break over the summer and only schedules something if there is a Student Appeal during the period.

July 2014 Activity Report

AU – BOG had no meetings this month. The BOG takes a break over the summer months.

AUSU – Awards Committee has had a very busy month. There were a number of computer bursary applications to be decided upon this month.

AUSU – MEC Committee has been working hard on coming up with various forms of ideas for use in the Voice and the Website as well as content for newsletters.

Pending Issues

Elections Policy

Work is continuing on the overhaul of the election policy. It took a small break while Tamra and Sheldon were on holidays at the start of July, but they are back at it now. Sheldon's recommendations should be finalized in early August.

Request for Proposal – Investments

The RFP for potential new advisors has been sent to 14 firms as of the last week of July. The deadline to respond is September 15th, 2014.

E-Text Survey

We had an excellent response to our e-text survey that was closed off in June. We should have a summary in the very near future of the responses received.

Meetings

Finance Committee Meeting – July 2nd

AUSU Executive Meeting – July 9th

AUSU Council Meeting – July 9th

AUSU Executive Meeting – July 15th

AUSU Executive Meeting – July 22nd

AUSU Council Meeting – July 24th

AUSU Executive Meeting – July 29th

Hours

Timesheet and Compliance

Week Ending	Hours
July 6 th , 2014	28.75
July 13 th , 2014	28.75
July 20 th , 2014	31.25
July 27 th , 2014	30.50
TOTAL	119.25
AVERAGE PER WEEK	29.81

As of the writing of this report, I have reviewed the hours of Kim Newsome and have found she is meeting her expected hour requirements. I have also reviewed Jason Nixon's hours and while he is 0.2 under the average, he was considerably over last month so this is not a concern. As noted above, my 4 week average is 29.81 hours. My average is down very slightly this month as many people have been on holidays and it has been slow. My average in June was 33.06.