

Minutes AUSU Council Meeting

APPROVED – December 10, 2014

AUSU Council Meeting
November 12, 2014
Teleconference

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

Call to Order: 17:32 (MST)

Agenda and Minutes

1.0 Approval of Agenda

Motion: BIRT council adopt the meeting agenda as presented.

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

2.0 Adoption of Council Meeting Minutes

Motion: BIRT council approve the minutes of the October 08,
2014 council meeting, as presented.

S. Wasylyshyn/C. Green - Carried 8/0 -

Old Business:

3.0 Motion: BIRT AUSU accept the presented updated copy of Policy 2.08
Meeting Attendance for inclusion in our policy manual.

B. Arbeau/C. Green - Carried 8/0 -

Reports

4.0 President's Report
Report Accepted.

5.0 Vice President External's Report
Report Accepted.

6.0 Vice President Finance's Report
Report Accepted.

7.0 Executive Meeting Report
Report Accepted.

8.0 Finance Committee Report
Report Accepted.

9.0 Awards Committee Report
Report Accepted.

10.0 MEC Committee Report
Report Accepted.

11.0 Office Coordinator's Report
Report Accepted.

Motion: BIRT AUSU accept the reports as presented.

M. Daigneault/A. Poulton

- Carried 8/0 -

Next meeting date and time

17:30 MST on December 10, 2014

Meeting adjourned at 17:58 MST
S. Wasylyshyn moved.

AUSU President Report

Jason Nixon, President



Covers: October 2014

Prepared: November 4, 2014

Current Issues

AU BOG – Both Corrina and I travelled to Athabasca to attend AU BOG of meeting in person. There were a lot of informational updates at this board meeting from all the departments of the university, everything from enrollment up dates, financial updates, new course offerings, fundraising updates etc. There was also some in camera portions that we cannot speak about yet. While we were there we also met with the Alberta Minister of Innovation and Advance Education as well as with Athabasca's local MLA.

BOG Academic Affairs Sub Committee – Met this month, most of the focus of this committee continues to be around discussions surrounding the SS Centre and communication with students. There are also significant portions that were in camera regarding issues that will eventually become public but I cannot report on at this stage.

BOG Institutional Advancement Sub Committee – Did not meet by phone this month but spent some time as a group reviewing enrollment numbers and a lot of e-mail discussions on interpreting what they mean.

Hiring Committee – The hiring committee for the registrar and for library services met this month several times. We are working through applications for both positions and hoping to fill the positions by November.

ED Succession Plan – With our current ED moving on to from our organization, the succession plan has taken on a new process. Most of the focus of the last few weeks has been in the transition of our past ED as well as focusing on stabilizing our operations and working with our current staff to make sure we are continuing to meet the current needs of our membership. This stage is almost complete and we will be working with council in the coming months in camera on evaluating our entire organizational structure, making plans for the future, and ultimately implementing them to move AUSU forward.

Health Care Plan – Has been implemented successfully. We have had no major problems with it so far. We are currently working out a few minor bugs on money transfers between us and AU but nothing serious. We do not have updated stats

as of the writing of this report. But I hope to have them for our November council meeting.

GFC – AU President Peter MacKinnon had several people provide updates as promised about the SSC. A verbal report was given about the SSC implementation in the Faculty of Science & Technology. There was a lot of concern raised by members about this report not being written. After much discussion it was agreed to be provided to GFC in a written format. GFC members wanted to also have updates on the motion that was passed in the special meeting of GFC asking for more consultation before more implementation of the SSC centre, which was supposed to have gone to AU BOG. GFC was informed that it was presented to BOG and said he would provide a document confirming that at a later date.

GFC Exec – Met and worked mainly on scheduling issues for GFC as well as some housekeeping motions for graduates.

Election Policy Project – The election policy has been at our lawyers for a few weeks now. She has just finished her analysis. However given the tight timeline to get it to council and try and have a meaningful review in a council meeting. We decided it best to hold it for the December council meeting. This will allow much more time for thoughtful review and discussion going forward. As such we will be forwarding to council the policy and proposed changes very soon and let everyone have a few weeks to review and digest the changes as well as the lawyer recommendations and will bring forward for a final vote at the December council meeting. We will also invite the consultant we used for working through the changes to the December meeting for any question that council may have for him.

Faculty of Health Disciplines Council Meeting – Attended in person in Edmonton this month. Nothing major to report a few in camera issues about faculty changes. But again our major goal with this faculty is to be present and available for information and feedback on what we do and what they may need from us in the future. Our increased nursing student applications for awards are likely a sign this process has been working.

TD Bank Meetings – Corrina, Karyna, and I met with TD bank this month about moving to digital signing authority. After the meeting we agreed to move this way in the future for AUSU. It will stop us having to Fed Ex cheques all around the country for signing in the future and save a lot of time and money going forward.

B Comm Program Council Meeting – Main discussions on the agenda were about the merger of the B Management program into the B Comm program.

SS Centre – The exec met with communications leadership at AU and the new person in charge of the implementing the SS Centre. The discussion was more of an overview of the history of the issue at AU and the history of concerns that AUUS had. We discussed our letter with them. They agreed to go and try to start answering our questions and we will be having a follow up meeting in November with them.

CAUS – I met with CAUS, who were interested in AUSU possibly joining with them, but had some concerns about if we as an organization were committed to participating with them fully because in the past they felt we had not. One of the key issues in the past was executives only worked a few hours a week back then so hearing that we are now full time eased some of the concerns. CAUS is going back to their executive to update them on our discussions and will be meeting with our whole executive next. If that goes good next will be with all of council.

AUGSA and Mobile APP – We had a fresh full presentation with AUSU and AUGSA executives along with the APP provider. It was way more informative than the previous presentation. We had a few more questions on the APP itself which the provider is answering for us. We will be meeting with the AUGSA executive in early November to review the answers and start discussion on if there is potential for this to be a joint project. There are a lot of other details that need to be worked out including prices, lawyer reviews of contracts etc. prior to knowing if we would recommend this route to council for consideration. We should know a lot more by next month.

RFP – We had presentation give to us by all three potential firms in regards to their proposal on financial management for AUSU. We also interviewed all three and are in the process of reference checks. We will have a recommendation for financial committee in November and then financial committee's recommendation for council to consider shortly after.

AU Senior Management Meeting – We had a meeting with AU President this month. Most of the conversation was around the SS Centre. We will be meeting with the President regularly going forward.

Meetings

AUSU Executive Meeting – October 2nd
AUSU Executive Meeting – October 8th
AUSU Council Meeting – October 8th
CAUS Meeting - Edmonton – October 9th

Registrar Hiring Committee – Edmonton – October 9th
Faculty of Health Discipline – Edmonton – October 9th
AUSU Staff Meeting – Edmonton – October 10th
AUGSA Meeting – Edmonton – October 10th
Meeting with TD Representative - Edmonton – October 10th
Finance Committee Meeting – October 14th
Exec Meeting – October 14th
Meeting with P. MacKinnon – October 15th
BOG Meeting – Athabasca – October 16th
Joint Exec. Meeting with AUGSA – Edmonton – October 16th
AUSU Executive Meeting – October 19th
AUSU Special Council Meeting – October 20th
GFC Meeting – October 21th
Library Hiring Committee Meeting – October 23rd
B Comm Program Council – October 27th
Meeting with J. Obrien and M. Kierylo – October 27th
RFP Presentation with Adroit Investments – October 27th
Presentation from Ooh La La Mobile Apps – October 29th
AUSU Executive Meeting – October 29th
RFP Presentation with Vantage Point – October 30th
RFP Presentation with QV Investors – October 30th

Hours

My weekly average: 36.81 hours

Week of:	Hours
October 26 – November 1	32.75
October 19 - October 25	35.75
October 12 – October 18	42.5
October 5 – October 11	36.25
4 Week Average	36.81

I have reviewed the timesheets of the other execs and found that their 4 week average for October was in compliance with policy.

AUSU Executive Report

Kim Newsome, VP External and Student Affairs

Prepared: November 5, 2014

Current Issues



GFC

GFC meeting was held on October 21. As promised by Peter MacKinnon, the meeting included several updates on the SSC. A verbal report was given regarding the implementation of the SSC in the Faculty of Science & Technology. A written report was requested and subsequently provided. Questions were also asked regarding the passing of the recent motion to get more consultation on the impact of the SSC and how/if this was presented to the BOG. Mr. MacKinnon said that it was presented at the BOG meeting and agreed to provide the document that was presented to BOG.

GFC – ALEC & LSWG

LSWG – 2 meetings were held this month – October 2 and 24. The committee has asked that things discussed in the meetings remain confidential. I can report that the group continues to review documents and surveys related to the call centre model ranging in dates from 2003 to 2014 at a rate of 2 or 3 per meeting. The final report/recommendation is expected to be completed by the end of February.

ALEC – October 9. Most of the vacant seats on this committee have been filled and voted on at the October meeting. An interesting presentation was given on implementation of a Student Relationship Management model. A consultant was hired by AU to lead this project and he said he plans to contact both student unions for consultation.

GFC – SAC

October 7 – This was a pretty quick meeting. Changes to the amounts for the Graduate Level Student Travel Awards were approved. Descriptions and Criteria for 3 new awards related to nursing students were approved.

AUSU Committees

MECC has continued to provide feedback on planner pages. This project is winding down and the committee will see a bit of down time before beginning work on a new project.

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Awards November 1 deadline was very busy. Karyna is working hard to get all the applications uploaded for review.

Social Media

The executive continue to focus on having a larger presence in social media and brainstorm ways to engage members and gain more followers.

AUSU Goals & Planning

All exec members are working on the goals assigned to their role. I will give an update on ones that were assigned to me as they come up in our schedule:

Investigate Mobile App – the Exec had a more in depth presentation from the mobile app company in a joint meeting with AUGSA. We were able to have more time to ask questions to the company rep and the project seems promising. A joint meeting with AUGSA is scheduled to discuss partnering on this idea. Exec will continue to discuss and keep council updated on recommendations.

Lobbying – Jason has met with CAUS and they were to discuss AUSU's interest in their group and get back to Jason. Jason has not heard from them and will contact them to get an update on next steps.

Mental Health – Finding a way to provide some mental health services to our members has been on our goal list but up until recently we were unsure of what this would/could look like or how to implement. When AUGSA provided me their submission for the planner it was an ad for Student Lifeline which they subscribe to for their members. This looked like a great idea and I am currently exploring this service through several companies to see what possibilities could be offered to AUSU members.

Mental Health continues to be a popular topic in the news for PSE in Canada.

Career Links Page – Work on this will begin, in cooperation with MECC, once work on the planner is finished.

Meetings

- October 2 - GFC – LSWG
- October 2 – AUSU Exec Meeting
- October 7 – GFC – SAC
- October 8 – AUSU Exec Meeting
- October 8 – AUSU Council Meeting
- October 9 – GFC – ALEC
- October 14 – AUSU Finance Committee

November 2014 Council Meeting

October 14 – AUSU Exec Meeting
October 15 – AUSU Exec Meeting with Peter MacKinnon
October 16 – Joint Exec Meeting with AUGSA
October 19 – AUSU Exec Meeting
October 20 – AUSU Council Meeting
October 21 - GFC
October 24 – GFC – LSWG
October 27 – AUSU Exec Meeting with John O’Brian and Margaret Kierylo
October 27 – RFP Meeting with Androit Investments
October 29 – AUSU Exec Meeting with AUGSA and Mobile App Company
October 29 – AUSU Exec Meeting
October 30 – RFP Meeting with Vantage Point
October 30 – RFP Meeting with QV Investors

Hours

Weekly Breakdown

Week of:	Hours
Sept 29 – Oct 4	29.5
Oct 5 – 11	30.5
Oct 12 – 18	29.75
Oct 19 – 25	30.25
Oct 26 – Nov 1	32.00
5 Week Average	30.40

Timesheets and Compliance

I have reviewed Jason and Corinna’s timesheets and found that their weekly averages for October were in compliance with policy.

News Roundup

High school and post-secondary students test their accounting skills with The Accounted app - The Alberta Accountants Unification Agency, Athabasca University and Rocketfuel Games announce the release of **The Accounted** for Apple iPhone® iPad® and Android®. By downloading the app from the iTunes or Google Play stores, teens and young adults will enjoy a fun, engaging and educational mystery with an accounting twist.
<http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1439437/high-school-and-post-secondary-students-test-their-accounting-skills-with-the-accounted-app>

AthabascaU profs advocate networked learning models in new book - A new book from faculty members at Athabasca University says that “holistic technologies”—technologies that “celebrate the creative partnering of human beings and harness the enormous amount of information on the web”—will rise to challenge traditional approaches to education. Jon

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Dron and Terry Anderson advocate networked learning models, where answers are derived from interaction and contributions from multiple participants. [AthabascaU News Release](#)

More Counsellors needed to deal with Mental Health issues on campus - Recent campaigns designed to address student mental health on campus, such as the one [launched last month](#) by the Canadian Federation of Students - Nova Scotia, are valuable; but, according to *Maclean's* writer Josh Dehaas, it is important to recognize that regular life stressors, including debt, are not the same as mental illness. [Maclean's](#)

uAlberta proposal could signal differentiated fees - A proposal under consideration among University of Alberta administrators could see students in programs such as economics pay more than students taking an English degree. While many professional programs already follow a differentiated fee structure, this proposal would extend the approach to undergraduate majors, charging economics majors an additional \$150 per course for domestic students and \$554 for international students. [budget cuts. Globe and Mail](#)

uWinnipeg teams with community organizations to provide mental health, addiction support - The University of Winnipeg is partnering with 2 community organizations to help students with mental health and addictions issues. The Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre (MATC) will begin providing a full-time mental health clinician on campus, and the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba will provide a community addictions worker on campus 2 days a week. "Partnering with the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba and the Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre brings the campus and community together to meet real needs for students," said Jan Byrd, Executive Director of Wellness and Student Life at uWinnipeg. [uWinnipeg News](#)

AUSU Executive Report

Corrina Green, VP Finance and Administration

Prepared: November 4th, 2014

Current Issues



Policy

We have not reviewed the policies that we were slated to this month due to a change in staff and the extra time that has taken. We will be adding those policies to November and expect to be back on track.

Health Plan

The health plan went live on October 15th! There have been no statistics as of yet reported on the current uptake to the plan. From earlier indications and the calls to the office, it looks like it should be well received.

Elections Policy

At the time of writing this report the lawyer had asked for a bit more time to review and make recommendations. We should have this back any day now and will move forward as planned.

Student Support Centre

We have spoken to a number of people at AU in regards to our concerns with the SS Centre that will be implemented across all faculties. We have been assured that there will be more answers forthcoming. There is a meeting planned to discuss this more with key AU staff early in November.

Succession Planning

Due to the changes in our staff this month, this project is currently on hold. It is likely to change to a recruitment plan at this time. There will be more information coming forth shortly!

Meetings with AU Senior Management

We met with Peter MacKinnon this month as well as John O'Brien and Margaret Kierylo. These meetings are great for us as an organization as we are more connected with AU as well as it gives us a chance to air our concerns. We have more meetings planned with Dr. MacKinnon in the future and are working on setting up others with other senior execs. at AU.

BOG – AU

I attended the Board Meeting in person this month in Athabasca. There is nothing specific to report from the meeting as it was mostly informational. Again, it is worth the trip to have some face to face time with the people that we work so closely with. We also met the Minister of Innovative and Advanced Education while there.

RFP – Investment Advisors

We conducted interviews and received presentations from 3 firms interested in being our advisor. I am currently conducting the reference checks and will be putting forth my report and recommendation to the Finance Committee shortly.

Year End Audit

AUSU's year end is September 30th each year. Karyna is working away on all the things required from the auditor and there have been no surprises. It is well underway.

Committees

AU – BOG met this month in Athabasca. Mostly an informational meeting.

AU – Property and Finance Committee met this month. Due to the confidential nature of this committee there is nothing to report.

GFC –SAAC met once during October to render decisions on academic cases. Nothing to report out of the ordinary. The committee's regular bi-weekly schedule is back in full swing.

AUSU – Awards Committee made decisions on Computer bursaries this month! We are close to having all computers gone for the remainder of the year!

AUSU – MEC Committee has been very busy proofing pages for the planner.

November 2014 Council Meeting

AUSU – Finance met once in October. This was just a regular review of our financials. The chair has interviewed 3 advisors that responded to the RFP. Report and recommendation very shortly.

Meetings

BOG – Finance and Property Committee – October 2nd
AUSU Executive Meeting – October 2nd
AUSU Executive Meeting – October 8th
AUSU Council Meeting – October 8th
Meeting with TD Representative – October 10th
Finance Committee Meeting – October 14th
Meeting with P. MacKinnon – October 15th
BOG Meeting – Athabasca – October 16th
GFC – SAAC Meeting – October 16th
Joint Exec. Meeting with AUGSA – Edmonton – October 16th
Assoc. VP Research Hiring Committee – October 17th
AUSU Executive Meeting – October 19th
AUSU Special Council Meeting – October 20th
Meeting with J. Obrien and M. Kierylo – October 27th
Presentation with Adroit Investments – October 27th
Presentation from Ooh La La Mobile Apps – October 29th
AUSU Executive Meeting – October 29th
AUGSA Town hall Meeting – October 29th
Presentation with Vantage Point – October 30th
Presentation with QV Investors – October 30th

Hours

Timesheet and Compliance

Week Ending	Hours
October 5 th -2014	27.75
October 12 th -2014	29.75
October 19 th -2014	51.25
October 26 th -2014	21.50
TOTAL	130.25
AVERAGE PER WEEK	32.56

I have reviewed the hours of all the exec's for the month of October and have found they are both in compliance as per policy.