



500 Energy Square, 10109 – 106 ST NW  
Edmonton AB T5J 3L7  
phone: 780.497.7000  
fax: 780.497.7003  
toll free: 855.497.7003  
[ausu@ausu.org](mailto:ausu@ausu.org); [www.ausu.org](http://www.ausu.org)

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## **Athabasca University Students' Union Updates Members on AGM Motions**

At AUSU's 2015 Annual General Meeting on May 27, motions were carried purportedly recognizing that current Councillors Shawna Wasylyshyn and Corrina Green, and former president Jason Nixon, had broken select AUSU by-laws. Mr. Nixon had ceased being a member of AUSU as of March, 2015.

Immediately following the AGM, AUSU Council suspended any motions or policy revisions pending advice from AUSU's legal counsel as to the effect of the three motions.

On June 3, AUSU Executive consulted with legal counsel by telephone, along with a non-executive Councillor, Kim Newsome, who facilitated this meeting and reported on its events to Council. At that time, AUSU was advised that the motions did not have any effect on Ms. Wasylyshyn's and Ms. Green's membership in AUSU or their authority to act on Council.

AUSU Council requested a formal legal opinion from AUSU's lawyer. The conclusions in that opinion included the following:

- AUSU membership had no authority to act as a "court" and make a finding of fact that a bylaw had been breached.
- As such, the motions ostensibly sought to do something they could not do.
- Given the context of the Bylaws and related Policies, there is no possible reading of procedural fairness that would permit the inherently problematic motions to have effect. There was no advance notice of the motions, the motions carried with as few as 7 total votes, and the impact on the individuals of such a finding of fact would be significant.

- Accordingly, the motions did not affect the individuals' membership in AUSU or their authority as Councillors.

In reliance on this opinion, Council has resumed its operations and its task of governing AUSU membership in accordance with the objects of AUSU.

AUSU is committed to addressing any membership concerns regarding this matter. Please direct any questions to [ausu@ausu.org](mailto:ausu@ausu.org).