



Athabasca University
Students' Union

Athabasca University Students' Union

Working Council Meeting Minutes

(APPROVED Nov 12, 2015)

Monday October 26, 2015

5:00 pm MDT

By Teleconference

Meeting Called By: Shawna Wasylyshyn, President
Type of Meeting: AUSU Working Council Meeting
Minutes: Sarah Cornett, Executive Director

Participants

Council: President Shawna Wasylyshyn, Vice President External and Student Affairs Colleen Doucette, Vice President Finance and Administration Brandon Simmons, Councillor Megan Daigneault, Councillor Philip Kirkbride, Councillor Kim Newsome, Councillor Pierre Plamondon, Councillor Tamra Ross, Councillor Laura Zhu

Staff: Executive Director Sarah Cornett, Office Administrator Donette Kingyens

Absent:

Call to Order: 5:03 p.m. MDT

Agenda and Minutes

1.0 Approval of Agenda All

2015-10-26 Council Meeting Agenda.pdf

2015-10-26 Council Backgrounder.pdf

Motion: BIRT Council approve the agenda as amended.

M. Daigneault / B. Simmons

Carried 9/0

An item was added to the agenda to set the date of the general election.

Note: Council meeting minutes will be approved at regular Council meetings.

Action and Discussion Items

2.0 Policy Revisions

7.02 Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries Program K. Newsome

Policy 7.02 Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries Program.docx

Motion: BIRT AUSU accept the presented update to section 7.02.09 of Policy 7.02 Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries Program for inclusion in the policy manual.

C. Doucette / P. Plamondon

Carried 9/0

Amendments to section 7.02.09 were made to reflect the information that is found on student transcripts: the term start date and whether or not the course was completed. Transcripts do not show course completion dates which are required by the current policy to determine recipients of the award.

It was noted during the discussion that copy editing of policy can be done by staff without a council motion.

3.0 Motion: BIRT AUSU schedule the General Election Date for AUSU 2016-2017 Council as March 11th, 2016. S. Cornett

S. Wasylyshyn / K. Newsome

Carried 9/0

4.0 Student Health and Dental Plan

S. Wasylyshyn

File 2015-10-26 Council Backgrounder.pdf

There was a significant discussion of the future of the Student Health and Dental Plan including review of the following:

- The plan has attracted too few insureds and the claims have been too high resulting in significant financial loss to the insurer,
- The member survey results were outlined,
- It was noted that an opt out plan is not an option for AU,
- There is no way to know how high the premium will be raised in September 2016 or if AUSU will be offered a renewal at all,
- AUSU failed to promote the plan at launch to the extent that was planned,
- Gallivan’s calculation of the number of anticipated insured was conservative but was not realized for a number of reasons,

Tamra Ross left the meeting shortly before 6:00 p.m.

It was agreed, with regret, that the process to terminate the plan on August 31, 2016 would be begun. Prorated refunds of premium will be provided to those who’s coverage is cut short on that date.

Motion: BIRT AUSU request that AU remove the option to enroll in the AUSU health and dental plan as soon as possible in order that AUSU can move to terminate the plan

L. Zhu / B. Simmons

Carried 8/0

Action Item - Executive

It was noted that a communication plan needed as soon as possible.

Action Item - Executive

It was noted that there may be funds from an administrative fee that was collected with premium remaining in the account after the program is terminated.

Motion: BIRT that any funds remaining in the AUSU Health and Dental plan account after termination of the plan be allocated to the AUSU Awards Committee for use in a onetime health care bursary with preference for recipients given to those who participated in the AUSU Health and Dental Plan.

C. Doucette / P. Plamondon

Carried 8/0

Agenda Item – Awards Committee

Information Items

5.0 Policy Revision Schedule

S. Wasylyshyn

Policy Timelines rev 2015-10-20.pdf

This item was primarily for information purposes.

Discussion was deferred.

6.0 Update on FAC

S. Cornett

Sarah Cornett provided a brief update of the Forensic Audit Recommendation Committee’s work noting that a meeting was scheduled for Wednesday November 4th at 12:00 p.m. MST. Those who attended the Annual General Meeting have been invited to attend or to submit something in writing to provide background to the Committee about why the forensic audit was requested.

7.0 Executive Reports To Date

S. Wasylyshyn

2015-10 Exec Meeting Report DRAFT.pdf

This item was primarily for information purposes.

Discussion was deferred.

Open Forum

8.0 Open Forum

S. Wasylyshyn

Councillors were encouraged to participate in the open forum to bring forward any item that they think would be of interest to Council such as a potential initiative, future agenda item, question, comment, point of interest, or simply something they would like to share.

There were no action items or decisions to be minuted.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meetings of Council are set for:

Thursday November 12th at 4:30 p.m. MST – General Council Meeting

Tuesday December 1st at 4:30 p.m. MST – Working Council Meeting

Thursday December 10th at 4:30 p.m. MST – General Council Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m. MDT.

Summary of Action Items

Date	Status	Action Item and Responsible Party
Oct 13		Policy Revisions: Further work on policies to define how non-council members of committees would be managed. Executive
Oct 13	Complete	Introduction to E-Text Position: Email discussion on the policy. All Council Members
Oct 13	Complete	Introduction to E-Text Position: Email an MSWord version to all of Council to begin the discussion. D. Kingyens
Oct 26	In Progress	Student Health and Dental Plan: Develop and implement a communication plan as soon as possible. Executive
Oct 26		Student Health and Dental Plan: Request that AU remove the option to enroll in the AUSU health and dental plan as soon as possible Executive

Summary of Agenda Items

Date	Status	Agenda Item and Committee
Oct 13		2015-2016 Budget: Discuss the unsustainability of continued large deficits. Finance Committee
Oct 13		2015-2016 Budget: Consider the timing of the in-person council session. Council
Oct 26		Student Health and Dental Plan: Develop a onetime health care bursary with preference for recipients given to those who participated in the AUSU Health and Dental Plan. Awards Committee

