



# Athabasca University Students' Union

## Council Meeting Minutes

**Approved December 10, 2015**

Athabasca University  
Students' Union

**Tuesday December 01, 2015**  
**4:30pm MST**

**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  
**Called to Order:** 4:41 p.m. MST

### Agenda and Minutes

**1.0 Approval of Agenda** All

**Motion:** BIRT Council approve the agenda as presented.

*2015-12-01 Council Meeting Agenda.pdf*

C. Doucette / P. Plamondon

7/0

**Note:** File *2015-12-01 Council Backgrounder-Policy Reviews.pdf* is provided as background and should be referred to throughout this meeting.

**2.0 Review of Council Meeting Minutes**

*2015-11-12 Council Minutes DRAFT rev1.pdf*

No Discussion took place.

*P. Kirkbride joined the meeting.*

**Note:** Approval of council minutes for both public and non-public council meetings will be approved at the next regular public meeting, However, the most recent minutes will be reviewed in case there are any questions or comments.

### Action and Discussion Items

**3.0 Policy Revisions** Executive

**3.01, 3.02, 3.03 Election, Referendum, and Plebiscite Management**

*2015-12 Council Backgrounder.pdf*

*Policy\_3.01\_Election\_Conduct\_DRAFT FEB 2015 Cleaned up.docx*

*Policy\_3.01\_Election\_Conduct CURRENT NOV 215.docx*

*Policy\_3.02\_Election\_of\_ExecutiveOfficers DRAFT Edits.docx*

*Policy\_3.03\_By-Elections DRAFT EDITS.docx*

*Bylaw sections wrt elections.docx*

This was a preliminary discussion. It was noted that election policies may not be approved until members have been given 21 days notice of changes to be made according to bylaw. If possible, council will finalize this policy at the next regular council meeting on December

10<sup>th</sup> and the policy will then be circulated to the membership. Council will then adopt the policy after at the notice period.

President Shawna Wasylyshyn provided background and history of project to update the policy which took place under the direction of the previous council. She noted that the policies were not adopted and stressed that it is important to finish the process prior to the next general election.

Shawna stated that the goal for this meeting is to review as a group, discuss to some level of comfort with moving forward. Staff will then compile the next draft based on today's discussion for a subsequent review by council.

Councillor Tamra Ross provided an overview of the review project. She noted that it comprised what was essentially a total rewrite based on experience from previous elections. It had been noted that the CRO did not have enough direction to fulfil their duties in handling misconduct. There was also not a good definition of the voters list.

Tamra noted that the work was done by Sheldon Fougere who had been CRO several times and by herself having been through several elections as Executive Director.

It was agreed that when the next set of drafts are circulated, the cover email will ask that each councillor replies that they have reviewed the amendments. **Action Item - Cornett**

The group then proceeded through the policy review with Executive Director Sarah Cornett amending the documents and compiling notes for the next drafts.

#### **4.0 Executive Compensation**

Following up on the discussion surrounding policy 2.15 at the November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, the executive initiated a discussion about the idea of a comprehensive executive compensation review. During the discussion, the following was generally agreed upon. All

- It is apparent from The Voice articles and discussions at the Forensic Audit Recommendation Committee meetings that there are still questions being raised about executive compensation.
- It is apparent from the discussion at the November 12<sup>th</sup> council meeting that council believes a regular process of executive compensation reviews should be implemented.
- It would assist the efforts of council to improve communication and transparency if a review was done.
- Having the review done by the current council before the general election in March 2016 was strongly recommended.
- A committee will be struck to do the review.
- The committee will have a terms of reference and solid timelines to complete the review.
- The terms of reference would not include staff compensation.
- A standing executive compensation review committee would be beneficial moving forward. It would build a repository of information and provide continuity.
- The committee would be separate from the finance committee.
- Having the current executive vote on the changes to an executive compensation levels can add accountability.
- Council does not want to distract from other important ongoing advocacy and student services issues.

It was agreed that a draft terms of reference would be developed by staff as soon as possible and brought to council for further discussion. **Action Item - Cornett**

## Information Items

### 5.0 CASA Report

S. Wasylyshyn,  
B. Simmons, C.  
Doucette

The executive gave a brief verbal report on their recent trip to the Casa event in Halifax. Brandon Simmons noted that it was a great opportunity to use their experience and AU's unique perspective to contribute to discussions on topics such as open university models, student mobility, credit transfer, and mature students.

Brandon was elected to the national advocacy committee.

Colleen noted that she was proud of the way Brandon stepped up for the committee position. She participated in many working groups and is now also working with a CASA committee on mental health and wellness.

Colleen observed that they were unique participants in the conference (and not just because she may have been a bit older than the average university representative).

She also noted how the opportunity to meet and interact in person as an executive group was very worthwhile.

Shawna described the event as a great networking opportunity. Both the council and AUSU benefitted from participating in the event and meeting both the other executive members and Councillor Kim Newsome in person.

Shawna is now chairing a sub-committee on policy recommendations based on Truth and Reconciliation Commission report.

More information will be in the executive reports for November.

## Open Forum

### 6.0 Open Forum

All

Councillors are 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 issues discussed.

## Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting will be a regular Council meeting on **Thursday December 10, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. MST.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m. MST.

## Summary of Action Items

Date	Status	Action Item and Responsible Party
Oct 13		<b>Policy Revisions:</b> Further work on policies to define how non-council members of committees would be managed. <b>Executive</b>
Oct 26	In Progress	<b>Student Health and Dental Plan:</b> Develop and implement a communication plan as soon as possible. <b>Executive</b>
Nov 12	In Progress	<b>President's Report:</b> Council pass on any email, post or other communication about tutor response times to the AUSU office for compilation. <b>Councillors</b>

Dec 1		<b>Policy Revisions:</b> Ask that each councillor to reply that they have reviewed the policy amendments when next draft is circulated. <b>Cornett</b>
Dec 1		<b>Executive Compensation:</b> Develop draft terms of reference for executive compensation review committee and bring to council for further discussion. <b>Cornett</b>

**Summary of Agenda Items**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Agenda Item and Committee</b>
Oct 13	November 10, 2015	<b>2015-2016 Budget:</b> Discuss the unsustainability of continued large deficits. <b>Finance Committee</b>
Oct 13		<b>2015-2016 Budget:</b> Consider the timing of the in-person council session. <b>Council</b>
Oct 26		<b>Student Health and Dental Plan:</b> Develop a onetime health care bursary with preference for recipients given to those who participated in the AUSU Health and Dental Plan. <b>Awards Committee</b>