



Athabasca University  
Students' Union

# Athabasca University Students' Union

## Council Meeting Minutes

**Approved February 11, 2016**

**Thursday January 21, 2016**  
**4:30pm MST**

**Meeting Called By:** Shawna Wasylyshyn, President  
**Type of Meeting:** AUSU Interim Council Meeting  
**Minutes:** Donette Kingyens, Communications and Member Services Coordinator

### Expected Participants

**Council:** 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, Communications and Member Services Coordinator Donette Kingyens, The Voice Editor Karl Low

**Guests:** Board of Governors Interim Board Chair and Presidential Advisory Search Committee Chair Margaret Mrazek, Athabasca University Secretary Carol Lund, President of The Geldart Group and Search Consultant Maureen Geldart, Public Board member Heather Kennedy, Public Board member Robert Balay, Alumnus Board member Doug Schindel, AUGSA President Cynthia Gordon, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Associate Professor Dr. Dale Dewhurst, Faculty of Business Associate Professor Dr. Walid Belassi, Faculty of Science and Technology Professor Dr. K. Kinschuk. Guests joined the meeting at 4:45 pm MST for item 3 of the agenda.

**Regrets:** President Shawna Wasylyshyn, Absent (Vacation)

Meeting called to order at 4:30pm MST.

### Agenda

- 1.0 Approval of Agenda** All
- Motion:** BIRT Council approve the agenda as presented.  
*2016-01-21 Council Meeting Agenda.pdf*
- L. Zhu / M. Daigneault** Carried 8/0
- Note:** File *2016-01-21 Council Backgrounder.pdf* is provided as background and should be referred to for this meeting.
- It was noted that a revised meeting package was circulated several hours before the meeting began.

### Old Business

- 2.0 Review of Action Items** All
- Note:** The status of the action and agenda items at the bottom of the most recent council minutes were reviewed briefly.

### Information Items

- 3.0 AU Board of Governors Consultation** Mrazek, Lund, Geldart
- Guests from the AU Board of Governors and the AU Presidential Advisory Search Committee join the meeting at 4:45 pm MST.
- As part of the consultation process for the AU search committee for a new AU President, representatives of the AU Board of Governors and the AU Presidential Advisory Search

Committee asked to meet with AUSU council for input. It was noted that this meeting with AUSU actually occurred before the Presidential Advisory Search Committee officially began, as their first meeting is the following week.

Carol Lund opened stating that AU had analyzed their challenges over the past year and extend a big thank you to interim President Peter McKinnon who brought greater stability to the University during a difficult time. AU is now ready to bring in a permanent President.

Maureen Geldart, the president of the Geldart Group, opened the floor to AUSU council to provide suggestions and feedback about the qualities they would like to see in a new President.

AUSU councillors made numerous suggestions, which were well received by AU and the search committee.

Maureen Geldart thanked council for their input and encouraged the councillors to contact them if they have any further thoughts, as the voice of students is one of the most critical.

## Action and Discussion Items

### 4.0 Other Policy Revisions

Executive

#### 2.13 Council Governance – Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility

**Motion:** BIRT AUSU accept the updated copy of Policy 2.13 Council Governance – Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility for inclusion in the policy manual.

*Policy\_2.13\_Council\_Governance\_Code\_of\_Ethics\_and\_Professional\_Responsibility Exec markup.pdf*

P. Plamondon / B. Simmons

**Carried 8/0**

#### 4.04 Administration – Professional Development

**Motion:** BIRT AUSU accept the updated copy of Policy 4.04 Administration – Professional Development for inclusion in the policy manual.

*Policy\_4.04\_Professional\_Development Exec markup.pdf*

T. Ross / L. Zhu

**Carried 8/0**

It was noted this policy was revised on January 18, 2016 based on discussion over email.

There was discussion on 4.04.04 regarding whether it was necessary to send a cost breakdown of approved professional development to the committee for approval. It was agreed to leave it in the policy as an added step of accountability.

#### 6.06 Financial Management – Payables

**Motion:** BIRT AUSU accept the updated copy of Policy 6.06 Financial Management – Payables for inclusion in the policy manual.

*Policy\_6.06\_Payables Exec markup.pdf*

M. Daigneault / B. Simmons

**Carried 8/0**

It was noted the emphasis on cheques was removed and referred to payments instead, and that not all unbudgeted expenses are reserve draws, as they may be covered by other means such as the sale of AUSU assets, or other expenses coming in under budget.

#### 7.01 Student Services – Student Services Administration

**Motion:** BIRT AUSU accept the updated copy of Policy 7.01 Student Services – Student Services Administration for inclusion in the policy manual.

T. Ross / P. Plamondon

**Carried 8/0**

*Policy\_7.01\_Student\_Service\_Administration Exec markup.pdf*

Policy Intent was updated to state “To define how AUSU researches, creates, and/or implements and administers member services”.

7.01.01 was updated to state “AUSU will develop and/or implement student services...”

7.01.02 b) was updated to state “a draft budget for implementation and ongoing administration and provision of the proposed services”.

7.01.02 c) was added to state the proposal needs to include “estimated implications for financial resources for implementation and ongoing administration” as it was felt this was not covered under b) above.

It was noted that as we are changing terminology from “student services” to “member services” there are other policies that will need some minor copy-editing to update the phrase.

## 5.0 2016 AGM Date

Wasylyshyn

**Motion:** BIRT AUSU set the date for the 2016 Annual General Meeting as Thursday April 7, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time.

P. Plamondon / B. Simmons

**Carried 8/0**

*2016 Election Dates rev 1.pdf*

A question was raised about whether we will have all the information required to create the annual report in advance of that date but it was felt this would not be a problem.

## 6.0 Review of AUSU Internal Goals 2015/2016

Brandon

*AUSU Goals 2015-2016.pdf*

Council reviewed the current 2015-2016 16 Goals List and determined that AUSU is well on the way to completing the goals for 2015-2016, including:

- New website launched in September including digital awards applications, course evaluations, and all previous website content.
- Developed a stronger social media strategy and have improved our communication with our members.
- Improved advocacy for our membership by joining the Canadian Alliance of Students' Association (CASA), improved familiarity with CASA by having executives attend a recent CASA conference, and all executives now hold seats on CASA committees to ensure the voice of AUSU is heard at a national level.
- Successfully launched several new services, including the mobile app and Student Lifeline program, and will continue to review reports on these new services to find ways to improve upon them.
- Health care plan sustainability was researched and the discontinuance is in progress.
- Council has been working hard on policy reviews and revisions, as well as working on governance training resources and a review of the AUSU bylaws.
- Have fostered improved relationships with AU including numerous meetings with various AU deans and executives, and AUSU has in turn been invited to more meetings with AU.

Council agreed to change the word “lobbying” in the 2015-2016 Goals list to “advocacy”.

**Motion:** BIRT AUSU add to the AUSU Goals 2015-2016 an item create an action plan, including specific goals, tactics and metrics to measure success, to support The Voice as a key member service and communication forum of AUSU.

A question as raised about what part AUSU will play in this role since the action is primarily taken by the editor and editor-in chief. Council decided that they need to work on the

articulation of the goal outside of the meeting and have it brought forward to the following meeting.

It was discussed that some members were on record as being concerned about AUSU's support of the voice, and that it would be beneficial to put it on record as soon as possible that AUSU supports The Voice. Council agreed to update the motion to reflect their intention of adding support of The Voice to the 2015-2016 Goals list once wording of the goals is approved.

The motion was revised to state:

**Motion:** BIRT AUSU develop a goal for the AUSU Goals 2015-2016 to support The Voice as an important member service and communication forum of AUSU.

P. Kirkbride / L. Zhu

**Carried 8/0**

### Open Forum

#### 7.0 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 initiatives, future agenda item, question, comment, point of interest, or simply something they would like to share.

This is a less formal part of the meeting and only action items, if any, are minuted.

There were no action items raised.

### Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting of Council will be February 11, 2016 at 4:30 pm MST.

The meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm MST.

### Summary of Action Items

Date	Status	Action Item and Responsible Party
Oct 13	In progress	<b>Policy Revisions:</b> Further work on policies to define how non-council members of committees would be managed. <b>Executive</b>
Jan 21		<b>Supporting The Voice in the Goals:</b> Draft the wording for the goal to be added to the 2015-2016 Goals in support of the Voice and circulate to council for feedback. <b>Newsome</b>
Jan 21		<b>2015-2016 Goals List Update:</b> Change the word "lobbying" in the 2015-2016 Goals list to "advocacy". <b>Kingyens</b>

### Summary of Agenda Items

Date	Status	Agenda Item and Committee
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>

Jan 14	closer to end of year	<b>Communication and Members Services Coordinator Report:</b> AUSU to consider ways to handle calendar orders for 2017, possibly including <b>MECC</b>
Jan 14		<b>Executive Meeting Reports:</b> AUSU bylaw review <b>Executive</b>