



# Athabasca University Students' Union

## Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 5:32pm MDT

<b>Council:</b>	President Karen Fletcher (chair), Vice President External and Indigenous Circle Representative Trishtina Godoy-Contois, Vice President Finance and Administration Dur-E-Najaf Syed, Vice President Community and Wellness Natalia Iwanek, Councillor Cilhane Ahmed, Councillor Blake Collett, Councillor Eva Embree, Councillor Anli He, Councillor Amber McDuffe, Councillor Allie Wojtaszek, Councillor Rebecca Wuebbolt
<b>Staff:</b>	Executive Director Jodi Campbell, Governance and Advocacy Coordinator Duncan Wojtaszek, Voice Magazine Managing Editor Karl Low
<b>Guests:</b>	Jana Menard
<b>Regrets:</b>	Communications and Member Services Coordinator Ashley Janes

### Agenda and Minutes

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Announcement of Accessibility Officer</b>	K. Fletcher
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Land Acknowledgement</b> Athabasca University Students' Union respectfully acknowledges that we are on and work on the traditional lands of the Indigenous Peoples (Inuit, First Nations, Métis) of Canada. We also recognize that our student members span across the lands we now know as Canada and abroad, and we acknowledge and celebrate these Indigenous histories, languages, and cultures. As an organization, AUSU is committed to decolonization, reconciliation, and conciliation efforts, acknowledging that there is much to unlearn. AUSU will continuously strive to build equitable relationships with Indigenous learners at AU, as well as Indigenous members and staff within AUSU, advocate with and for Indigenous learners through consultation, and create spaces that are inclusive, respectful, and equitable.	K. Fletcher
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Call for Attendance</b>	K. Fletcher
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Welcome and Member-At-Large Input</b>	K. Fletcher
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	K. Fletcher

#### *2022-09-15 Council Agenda*

- Position policies were tabled to the next meeting.

**Motion:** BIRT AUSU Council approves the September 15, 2022 meeting agenda as amended.

**K. Fletcher / D. Syed (Carried)**

**6.0 Approval of Minutes** K. Fletcher  
**Motion:** BIRT AUSU Council approves the August 25, 2022 minutes.

*2022-08-25 Council Minutes*

**E. Embree / D. Syed (Carried)**

Old Business		
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Review of Action Items</b>	All
	<b>Note:</b> The status of action items can be found at the bottom of the agenda.	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Policy Updates</b>	
	<b>8.1 Policy 2.07 Member Representatives on AUSU Committees</b>	D. Syed
	<i>Policy 2.07 Member Representatives on AUSU Committees</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Council discussed whether the Executive Committee is required to shortlist nominees for committees, the number of absences required to remove a committee member, and who would be responsible for determining an alternative method of remuneration.</li></ul>	
	<b>Motion:</b> BIRT AUSU Council approves the changes to Policy 2.07 Member Representatives on AUSU Committees.	
	<b>R. Weubbolt / A. He (Carried)</b>	
	<b>8.2 Policy 8.13 Indigenous Circle at AUSU Terms of Reference</b>	D. Syed / T. Godoy-Contois
	<i>Policy 8.13 Indigenous Circle at AUSU Terms of Reference</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Council discussed the appointment method over an election.</li></ul>	
	<b>Motion:</b> BIRT AUSU Council approve the changes to Policy 8.13 Indigenous Circle at AUSU Terms of Reference.	
	<b>N. Iwanek / D. Syed (Carried)</b>	
<b>9.0</b>	<b>AUSU 2022-2023 Budget</b>	D. Syed
	<b>Motion:</b> BIRT AUSU Council approves the AUSU budget for 2022-2023 as recommended by the Finance Committee.	
	<i>AUSU Budget 2022-2023</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Council discussed the efficacy on retreat travel.</li></ul>	
	<b>D. Syed / T. Godoy-Contois (Carried, A. McDuffe opposed)</b>	

## 10.0 AUSU Executive Workplan

K. Fletcher

**Motion:** BIRT AUSU Council approves the 2022-2023 Executive Workplan.

- Council discussed the advocacy goal of promoting open educational resources.
- Amend to add “Advocate for choice in learning resources and associated saving for students,” where the work plans discuss open educational resources.
- Amend to define regular course updates as a review process every four years of course content to ensure that it is up to date.
- Amend to add “advocate for better mental health services, including Homewood Health” to allow for advocacy beyond Homewood Health.
- Amend to add “Advocate to AU for culturally-appropriate
- and “trauma-informed counselling options to take into account individuals with unique identities” where the work plans discuss mental health.
- Amend to add allowing additional identity verification options and for student financial aid.

*AUSU Executive Workplan 2022-2023*

**E. Embree / R. Weubbolt (Carried)**

### New Business

## 11.0 Parking Lot List

T. Godoy-Contois

*2022-09 Informal Meeting Parking Lot Report*

## 12.0 Policy Updates

D. Syed

### 12.1 Policy 7.02 Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries Program

*Policy 7.02 Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries Program*

- Add five business days for reply from student for requested information

**Motion:** BIRT AUSU Council approve the changes to Policy 7.02 Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries Program.

**D. Syed / K. Fletcher (Carried)**

## 13.0 AUSU Indigenous Student Award

N. Iwanek

**Motion:** BIRT AUSU Council approves the agreement between AUSU and Athabasca University to establish the AUSU Indigenous Student Awards.

*2022-09-01 Indigenous Award Agreement*

- Council discussed who should sign the agreement on behalf of AUSU.
- Amend the agreement to change the signatories  
A. McDuffe / T. Godoy-Contois (Failed)

**K. Fletcher / D. Syed (Carried, A. McDuffe opposed, T. Godoy-Contois abstained)**

Reports		
<b>14.0</b>	<b>Reports for the Month of June, July, and August 2022</b>	
	<b>14.1 President's Report</b>	K. Fletcher
	<i>2022-06 President Report</i>	
	<i>2022-07 President Report</i>	
	<i>2022-07 Council Retreat Report</i>	
	<i>2022-08 President Report</i>	
	<b>14.2 Vice President External's Report</b>	T. Godoy-Contois
	<i>2022-06 VP External Report</i>	
	<i>2022-07 VP External Report</i>	
	<i>2022-08 VP External Report</i>	
	<b>14.3 Vice-President Finance and Administration's Report</b>	D. Syed
	<i>2022-06 VP Finance and Administration Report</i>	
	<i>2022-07 VP Finance and Administration Report</i>	
	<i>2022-08 VP Finance and Administration Report</i>	
	<b>14.4 Vice President Community and Wellness' Report</b>	N. Iwanek
	<i>2022-06 VP Community and Wellness Report</i>	
	<i>2022-07 VP Community and Wellness Report</i>	
	<i>2022-08 VP Community and Wellness Report</i>	
	<b>14.5 Finance Committee Report</b>	D. Syed
	<i>2022-06 Finance Committee Report</i>	
	<i>2022-07 Finance Committee Report</i>	
	<i>2022-08 Finance Committee Report</i>	
	<b>14.6 Awards Committee Report</b>	D. Syed
	<i>2022-06 Awards Committee Report</i>	
	<i>2022-07 Awards Committee Report</i>	
	<i>2022-08 Awards Committee Report</i>	
	<b>14.7 Member Engagement and Communication Committee Report</b>	N. Iwanek
	<i>2022-06 MEC Committee Report</i>	
	<i>2022-07 MEC Committee Report</i>	
	<i>2022-08 MEC Committee Report</i>	
	<b>14.8 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Report</b>	N. Iwanek
	<i>2022-06 EDI Committee Report</i>	
	<i>2022-07 EDI Committee Report</i>	
	<i>2022-08 EDI Committee Report</i>	
	<b>14.9 Indigenous Circle at AUSU Report</b>	T. Godoy-Contois
	<b>14.10 Executive Director's Report</b>	J. Campbell
	<i>2022-06 Executive Director Report</i>	
	<i>2022-07 Executive Director Report</i>	
	<i>2022-08 Executive Director Report</i>	

### Recognition and Acknowledgements

- 15.0 Recognition and Acknowledgements** All
- D. Syed acknowledged A. Wojtaszek for being a superstar.
  - N. Iwanek acknowledged D. Syed for her initiative over the past few weeks
  - N. Iwanek acknowledged staff for their hard work.
  - A. McDuffe acknowledged all AUSU for policy work that helped her in grant writing.
  - K. Fletcher acknowledged T. Godoy-Contois for explaining the importance of gifts and tobacco in Indigenizing our organization.

### Question and Answer Period

- 16.0 Question & Answer Period** All
- T. Godoy-Contois asked Councillors who is coming next week to the Indigenous Week events; most Councillors expressed interest that they would be attending.

### Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting of AUSU Council will be: October 20, 2022  
Motion to Adjourn

### Summary of Action Items

Action Item	Name	Status	Deadline
Summarizing the parking lot from the August 12, 2022 informal meeting into themes and provide a summary to Council.	D. Syed	Completed	Sept. 15, 2022
Review comments and suggest further changes to Policy 2.07 Member Representatives on AUSU Committees around shortlisting, absences, and alternative forms of remuneration.	D. Syed	Started	Ongoing
Look at changing council and executive retreats for accessibility, efficacy, and cost.	K. Fletcher	Started	Ongoing
Review comments and suggest further changes to Policy 7.02 Awards around emergency bursary approval and the suspension of the online emergency bursary collection.	D. Syed	Started	Oct. 20, 2022