



POLICY 9.05

POSITION POLICY

Web Services for Students

POLICY INTENT

To outline the position of AUSU regarding the need for continual development and implementation of new technology.

POLICY RESEARCH

Athabasca University (AU) is the only fully online post-secondary institution in Canada and is known as a leader in distance education. As such the institution should always strive to be a leader in the implementation and utilization of new technology. In the past, AU has fallen behind in upgrading necessary student software. While this is currently being addressed with the upcoming Integrated Learning Environment (ILE), the institution must continue to upgrade currently used information technology for current students and ensure that such circumstances do not occur again.

As a virtual university campus, students rely on advanced information technology tools to help navigate through and complete their studies. It is imperative that the university continually upgrades and improves the student experience through new technology and software advancements. For years, students have expressed a desire to see new additions, such as video and audio content, directly within courses. Students are also interested in seeing improvements to the “myAU” portal. These continued investment opportunities will support an enriched learning environment and build the credibility and reputation of the institution as Canada’s open, online university.

Be it resolved that the Athabasca University Students’ Union will advocate for Athabasca University to be the leader in online distance education through their presence at the frontier of the implementation of new education technologies.