



Athabasca University Students' Union

Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 6:00pm MST

Council:	President Karen Fletcher (chair), Vice President External 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 Rebecca Wuebbolt
Staff:	Executive Director Jodi Campbell, Governance and Advocacy Coordinator Duncan Wojtaszek, Communications and Member Services Coordinator Ashley Janes, Voice Magazine Managing Editor Karl Low
Guests:	Jana Menard
Regrets:	Councillor Allie Wojtaszek

Agenda and Minutes

1.0	Announcement of Accessibility Officer	K. Fletcher
2.0	Land Acknowledgement 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
3.0	Call for Attendance	K. Fletcher
4.0	Welcome and Member-At-Large Input	K. Fletcher
5.0	Approval of Agenda	K. Fletcher

Motion: BIRT AUSU Council approves the February 16, 2023 meeting agenda.

2023-02-16 Council Agenda

T. Godoy-Contois / N. Iwanek (Carried)

6.0 Approval of Minutes K. Fletcher

Motion: BIRT AUSU Council approves the January 19, 2023 minutes.

2023-01-19 Council Minutes

B. Collett / E. Embree (Carried)

Old Business

7.0 Review of Action Items All

Note: The status of action items can be found at the bottom of the agenda.

New Business

8.0 Policies

8.1 Policy 8.12 EDI Committee Terms of Reference N. Iwanek

Policy 8.12 EDI Committee Terms of Reference

Motion: BIRT AUSU Council approve the changes to Policy 8.12 EDI Committee Terms of Reference.

E. Embree / T. Godoy-Contois (Carried)

8.2 Policy 9.31 Accessibility and Accommodations N. Iwanek

Policy 9.31 Accessibility and Accommodations

Motion: BIRT AUSU Council approve Policy 9.31 Accessibility and Accommodations and include it AUSU's Position Policy Manual.

C. Ahmed / E. Embree (Carried)

Note: The attached copies of Policy 2.18 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Policy 4.01 Privacy, Policy 4.02 Copyright, and Policy 4.03 Records Management have been approved by the Executive Committee as a part of an informal review.

Policy 2.18 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Policy 4.01 Privacy

Policy 4.02 Copyright

Policy 4.03 Records Management

9.0 Indigenous Circle Appointments T. Godoy-Contois

Motion: BIRT AUSU Council Juanita Powder, Amanda Leeman, Jennifer Nabess, Kate Hamshire, Rylee Feschuk, Janis Gullion, Joni Roy, Sasha Chiefbody, and Sonya Stuffco-McGee to the Indigenous Circle at AUSU.

T. Godoy-Contois / N. Iwanek (Carried)

10.0 AUSU Survey Results J. Campbell

2022 AUSU Annual Survey Results

- J. Campbell provided an overview of the survey results.

11.0 Alberta Blue Cross Budgeted Expenditure Overage J. Campbell

2023-02 Alberta Blue Cross Overview

- J. Campbell provided an overview on the increase to AUSU's Blue Cross premium for 2022-2023, with a focus on inflationary pressures and prescription costs.
- Several Councillors inquired if Blue Cross could also provide an affordable options for health and dental coverage for students; J. Campbell replied that he would inquire with Blue Cross.
- There was a wide ranging conversation on the coverage provided and the efficacy of the plan and its costs.

Motion: BIRT AUSU Council approve the expenditure of \$36,620 to Alberta Blue Cross for staff benefits, an overage of \$8,280 over the budgeted amount for 2022-2023.

T. Godoy-Contois / R. Weubbolt (Carried)

12.0 AUSU EDI Report and Recommendations N. Iwanek

2023-02 AUSU EDI Report

Motion: BIRT AUSU Council accept the 2023 AUSU EDI Report and set the EDI goals of advocate for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC's) Calls to Action, within AUSU, AU, the provincial and federal governments, and all external advocacy efforts; create more equitable, diverse, and inclusive spaces within AUSU; celebrate the voices and experiences of equity-deserving groups within AUSU; create accessible spaces within AUSU, and advocate to the university and all external advocacy efforts; advocate for EDI principles at AU, and advocate for EDI principles at the provincial and federal levels.

T. Gogoy-Contois / B. Collett (Carried)

13.0 AUSU EDI Audit N. Iwanek

2023-02 AUSU EDI Audit Proposals

2023-02 Proposal 1 – Erin Davis Co.

2023-02 Proposal 2 – CCDI Consulting Inc.

2023-02 Proposal 4 – Ajané Adams

- Councillors inquired on the qualifications and experience of Ajané Adams; N. Iwanek promised to provide more information for an email vote or the next meeting.

Motion: BIRT AUSU Council approve an expenditure of up to \$3,000 for an EDI audit from Ajané Adams.

(Tabled)

Reports		
14.0	Reports for the Months of January 2023	
	14.1 President's Report	K. Fletcher
	<i>2023-01 President Report</i>	
	14.2 Vice President External's Report	T. Godoy-Contois
	14.3 Vice-President Finance and Administration's Report	D. Syed
	<i>2023-01 VP Finance and Administration Report</i>	
	14.4 Vice President Community and Wellness' Report	N. Iwanek
	<i>2023-01 VP Community and Wellness Report</i>	
	14.5 Finance Committee Report	D. Syed
	<i>2023-01 Finance Committee Report</i>	
	14.6 Awards Committee Report	D. Syed
	<i>2023-01 Awards Committee Report</i>	
	14.7 Member Engagement and Communication Committee Report	N. Iwanek
	<i>2023-01 MEC Committee Report</i>	
	14.8 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee Report	N. Iwanek
	<i>2023-01 EDI Committee Report</i>	
	14.9 Indigenous Circle at AUSU Report	T. Godoy-Contois
	14.10 Executive Director's Report	J. Campbell
	<i>2023-01 Executive Director Report</i>	
	14.11 Communication and Member Services Coordinator's Report	A. Janes
	<i>2023-01 CMSC Report</i>	
Recognition and Acknowledgements		
15.0	Recognition and Acknowledgements	All
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> T. Godoy-Contois recognized K. Fletcher for the challenging month in regards to her work on the Board of Governors. R. Weubbolt recognized N. Iwanek for her work on the EDI report. A. Janes recognized N. Iwanek for her work in recognizing her work on name changes within Athabasca University. 	
Question and Answer Period		
16.0	Question & Answer Period	All
Next Meeting and Adjournment		
The next meeting of AUSU Council will be: March 16, 2023		
Motion to Adjourn		

Summary of Action Items			
Action Item	Name	Status	Deadline
Schedule a workshop for Councillors to review AUSU's bylaws in advance of being brought to Council.	D. Wojtaszek	Started	March 2023
Develop the terms of reference for a Policy Committee.	D. Syed	Started	April 2023
Inquire with Alberta Blue Cross the costs and coverage of providing a health and dental plan for students at Athabasca University.	J. Campbell	Started	April 2023