



Athabasca University Students' Union

Executive Election Minutes

Friday March 31, 2023 at 5:00pm MDT

Council:	President Karen Fletcher, Vice President Finance and Administration Naju Syed, Vice President Community and Wellness Natalia Iwanek, Councillor Cilhane Ahmed, Councillor Chantel Bradley, Councillor Blake Collett, Councillor Eva Embree, Indigenous Circle Council Voice Rylee Feschuk, Councillor Manmeet Kaur, Councillor Amber McDuffe, Councillor Allie Wojtaszek, Councillor Rebecca Wuebbolt
Staff:	Executive Director Jodi Campbell, Governance and Advocacy Coordinator Duncan Wojtaszek, Voice Magazine Managing Editor Karl Low
Regrets:	Councillor Anli He (participating via text)

Agenda and Minutes

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| 1.0 | Announcement of Accessibility Officer | J. Campbell |
| 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. | J. Campbell |
| 3.0 | Call for Attendance | J. Campbell |

New Business

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| 4.0 | Executive Election <ul style="list-style-type: none">J. Campbell outlined the positions up for election and gave an overview of the election process. | J. Campbell |
| 5.0 | Election of President | J. Campbell |
| 5.1 | Opening of Nominations <ul style="list-style-type: none">N. Syed nominated herself for President. | |
| 5.2 | Closing of Nominations | |
| 5.3 | Election Speeches <ul style="list-style-type: none">N. Syed outlined her goals as President. | |

5.4 Questions

- N. Iwanek asked what the difference would be between VPFA and President; N. Syed outlined her thoughts highlighting the role of external advocacy.
- B. Collett asked how existing policies around academic misconduct could be improved; N. Syed suggested a restorative justice model would serve students and academic integrity.
- C. Ahmed asked about the attitude of the Board of Governors towards students; N. Syed suggested how the election turns out in May 2023.
- K. Fletcher acknowledged N. Syed's work the past year as VPFA and endorses her work as President.
- E. Embree asked what will be the hardest part of being President; N. Syed said she would have to figure out how Federal advocacy works.
- R. Wuebbolt stated N. Syed will do a great job as President.
- A. McDuffe asked how she will handle the Board of Governors; N. Syed said that going forward Board of Governors meetings will be recorded and if a similar situation occurs she will stand up for herself.
- M. Kaur endorsed N. Syed for the position of President.

5.5 Voting

5.6 Announcement of results

- J. Campbell announced N. Syed has been elected as President for 2023-2024.

6.0 Election of Vice President External

J. Campbell

6.1 Opening of Nominations

- M. Kaur nominated herself for VP External.

6.2 Closing of Nominations

6.3 Election Speeches

- M. Kaur outlined her goals as VP External.

6.4 Questions

- C. Bradley wished M. Kaur luck as VP External.
- A. Wojtaszek asked about the travel as VP External; M. Kaur said she has discussed it with the past VP External and is good with the demands.
- A. McDuffe asked about the service quality at financial aid office at Athabasca University; M. Kaur hopes that changes are possible and will approach stakeholders for improvements.
- R. Wuebbolt asked about the timeline for writing the MCAT and when she will finish her degree; M. Kaur said her practicum is in the Fall and will be applying for medical school for the Fall of 2024.
- N. Syed endorsed N. Syed for the position of VP External.
- K. Fletcher asked about balancing the practicum and the position; M. Kaur said the available days off should be sufficient.

- C. Ahmed asked about assuming the office of President if needed; M. Kaur said she would be willing and able if needed.
- N. Iwanek asked what is most exciting about the role; M. Kaur said she would learn so much and is excited to help students.

6.5 Voting

6.6 Announcement of results

- J. Campbell announced M. Kaur has been elected as VP External for 2023-2024.

7.0 Election of Vice President Finance and Administration

J. Campbell

7.1 Opening of Nominations

- C. Bradley nominated herself for VP Finance and Administration.

7.2 Closing of Nominations

7.3 Election Speeches

- C. Bradley outlined her goals as VP Finance and Administration.

7.4 Questions

- N. Iwanek asked what is most exciting about the role; C. Bradley replied she wants to be a part of something that has an impact.
- C. Ahmed asked how to advocate for all students even if there is a personal stake; C. Bradley commented that facts and evidence are required for good advocacy.
- K. Fletcher commented that C. Bradley will be fantastic in the role.
- N. Syed asked which committee to look forward to chairing; C. Bradley replied Finance Committee.
- R. Wuebbolt thanked C. Bradley for running.
- A. McDuffe stated she is excited about C. Bradley joining the team.
- M. Kaur endorsed C. Bradley for the position of VP Finance and Administration.

7.5 Voting

7.6 Announcement of results

- J. Campbell announced C. Bradley has been elected as VP Finance and Administration for 2023-2024.

8.0 Election of Vice President Community and Wellness

J. Campbell

8.1 Opening of Nominations

- N. Iwanek nominated herself for VP Community and Wellness.

8.2 Closing of Nominations

8.3 Election Speeches

- N. Iwanek outlined her goals as VP Community and Wellness.

8.4 Questions

- M. Kaur endorsed N. Iwanek for the position of VP Community and Wellness.
- A. Wojtaszek asked what is needed for a successful third term; N. Iwanek replied setting up processes to ensure the role continues going strong after she leaves.
- A. McDuffe asked about the EDI plan for next year; N. Iwanek agreed there still is work to find a role for the EDI Committee and hopes extra meetings will help as well as the EDI audit.
- R. Wuebbolt is excited for N. Iwanek to serve another term.
- N. Syed asked what was the best Athabasca University experience as VPCW; N. Iwanek replied that getting more grants for disabled students.
- K. Fletcher asked how to achieve a good work-life balance in this role; N. Iwanek replied she has learned a lot and is planning vacation time.
- C. Ahmed asked about the representation role of AUSU and expanding our representation goals; N. Iwanek replied that there are equity deserving groups who need more representation and will be working towards that.
- B. Collett endorses N. Iwanek for the role.

8.5 Voting

8.6 Announcement of results

- J. Campbell announced N. Iwanek has been elected as VP Community and Wellness for 2023-2024

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting of AUSU Council will be: April 20, 2023

Motion to Adjourn