



# Athabasca University Students' Union

## Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 6:04pm MDT

**Council:** President Naju Syed (chair), Vice President Finance and Administration Chantel Bradley, Vice President Community and Wellness Natalia Iwanek, Councillor Cilhane Ahmed, Councillor Blake Collett, Councillor Eva Embree, Councillor Karen Fletcher, Councillor Anli He, Councillor Amber McDuffe, Councillor Allie Wojtaszek

**Staff:** Executive Director Jodi Campbell, Governance and Advocacy Coordinator Duncan Wojtaszek, Voice Magazine Managing Editor Karl Low

**Regrets:** Vice President External Manmeet Kaur, Communications and Member Services Coordinator Ashley Janes

### Agenda and Minutes

- |            |   |         |
|------------|---|---------|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Announcement of Accessibility Officer</b>  | N. Syed |
| <br>       |   |         |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Land Acknowledgement</b><br>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. | N. Syed |
| <br>       |   |         |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Call for Attendance</b>  | N. Syed |
| <br>       |   |         |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Welcome and Member-At-Large Input</b>  | N. Syed |
| <br>       |   |         |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Approval of Agenda</b>   | N. Syed |

**Motion:** BIRT AUSU Council approves the September 21, 2023 meeting agenda.

- A friendly amendment was made to add "Indigenous Circle Voice to Council" to new business.

*2023-09-21 Council Agenda*

**N. Syed / C. Bradley (Carried)**

**6.0 Approval of Minutes** N. Syed

**Motion:** BIRT AUSU Council approves the August 17, 2023 minutes.

*2023-08-17 Council Minutes*

**N. Syed / K. Fletcher (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 Fee Increase** N. Syed

*2024 Fee Increase Report to Council*

**Motion:** BIRT AUSU Council approve the membership fee increase by \$0.75 a credit, to a total of \$4.50 a credit, effective January 1, 2024.

**N. Syed / C. Bradley (Carried)**

**Note:** This agenda item was the first reading of a change to the membership. The second reading is scheduled to take place during the October 19, 2023 Council meeting. Both readings of the membership fee change must be passed with a greater than 2/3 majority vote. If both motions pass, the membership fee change will be officially adopted.

**9.0 Policy Updates** C. Bradley

**Note:** The following copy of Policy 5.02 Staff Hiring was approved by the Policy Committee as a part of an informal review.

*Policy 5.02 Staff Hiring*

**10.0 Indigenous Circle Voice to Council** N. Syed

**Motion:** BIRT AUSU Council appoint Jessica Anderson, on the recommendation of the Indigenous Circle at AUSU, to be the Indigenous Circle Voice to Council for the remainder of the 2023-2024 Council year.

**N. Syed / C. Bradley (Carried)**

**Reports**

**11.0 Reports for the Months of August 2023**

**11.1 President's Report**

N. Syed

*2023-08 President Report*

*Resignation of Rylee Feschuk*

**11.2 Vice President External's Report**

M. Kaur

*2023-08 VP External Report*

**11.3 Vice-President Finance and Administration's Report***2023-08 VP Finance and Administration Report*

C. Bradley

**11.4 Vice President Community and Wellness' Report***2023-08 VP Community and Wellness Report*

N. Iwanek

**11.5 Indigenous Circle at AUSU Report**

N. Iwanek

**11.6 Executive Director's Report***2023-08 Executive Director Report*

J. Campbell

**Recognition and Acknowledgements****12.0 Recognition and Acknowledgements**

All

- A. Wojtaszek recognized the hard work A. Janes did to promote Welcome Week at AUSU.
- N. Syed acknowledged all the work many people in AUSU did to make Welcome Week at AUSU a successful event; she recognized the people who stepped up for ECRC; and she recognized those who are working on Indigenous Student Week.

**Question and Answer Period****13.0 Question & Answer Period**

All

**Next Meeting and Adjournment**

The next meeting of AUSU Council will be: October 19, 2023

Motion to Adjourn

**Summary of Action Items**

Action Item	Status	
	Name	Deadline
Inquire with Alberta Blue Cross the costs and coverage of providing a health and dental plan for students at Athabasca University.	J. Campbell	Completed April 2023