



ANNUAL REPORT

October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025 Fiscal-Year



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Values & Guiding Principles

Belonging AUSU will foster an inclusive environment where every student feels valued and connected, whilst enjoying a sense of educational well-being.

Integrity AUSU will uphold the highest standards of honesty and ethical behaviour in all itsr actions.

Reconciliation through Unity AUSU commits to unity by acknowledging diverse histories and perspectives, building mutual understanding and solidarity.

Intentionality AUSU will act with deliberate purpose setting priorities that drive meaningful change.

Visionary Leadership AUSU will lead and govern with a forward-thinking approach, anticipating future needs and opportunities for our students.

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION
Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2025

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION
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Year Ended September 30, 2025

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March 17, 2026
Edmonton, Alberta

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Athabasca University Students' Union

Opinion We have audited the financial statements of Athabasca University Students' Union (the Organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as at September 30, 2025, and the statements of changes in net assets, operations and cash flow for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at September 30, 2025, and the results of its operations and cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

Basis for Opinion We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements** section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with ASNPO, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

(continues)

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Athabasca University Students' Union
(continued)

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.

Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.

Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Kingston Ross Pasnak LLP
Chartered Professional Accountants

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION
Statement of Financial Position
September 30, 2025

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 5)	\$ 739,048	\$ 412,189
Marketable securities (Note 6)	1,740,808	1,567,701
Accounts receivable (Note 7)	106,551	83,196
Prepaid expenses	5,400	25,211
	2,591,807	2,088,297
EQUIPMENT (Note 8)	1,413	2,939
	\$ 2,593,220	\$ 2,091,236
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Notes 4, 7)	\$ 34,866	\$ 129,245
Vacation payable	-	21,283
Employee deductions payable	34,865	-
Deferred student fees (Note 7)	124,277	157,217
Deferred restricted contribution (Note 9)	-	1,800
	194,008	309,545
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	2,037,799	1,242,945
Internally restricted (Note 10)	360,000	535,807
Invested in property	1,413	2,939
	2,399,212	1,781,691
	\$ 2,593,220	\$ 2,091,236

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

_____ Councillor
 _____ Councillor

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended September 30, 2025

	Unrestricted	Internally Restricted	Invested in Property	2025	2024
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 1,242,945	\$ 535,807	\$ 2,939	\$ 1,781,691	\$ 1,614,951
Excess of revenues over expenses	619,047	-	(1,526)	617,521	166,740
Transfers (Note 10)	175,807	(175,807)	-	-	-
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 2,037,799	\$ 360,000	\$ 1,413	\$ 2,399,212	\$ 1,781,691

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION
Statement of Operations
Year Ended September 30, 2025

	Budget 2025 <i>Unaudited - Note 11</i>	Total 2025	Total 2024
REVENUES (Note 7)	\$ 1,080,000	\$ 1,142,447	\$ 977,859
EXPENSES			
Council wages and benefits (Note 7)	394,750	295,777	225,074
Staff wages and benefits Awards	300,000	176,163	484,882
Advocacy Professional fees Member	93,000	68,563	73,178
services Adm inistration The Voice	93,250	46,881	61,357
(Note 7) Professional development	64,000	41,968	40,978
Office expenses Amortization of	36,200	25,263	82,223
equipment Communications	49,550	20,428	20,007
	7,500	19,188	33,925
	33,000	13,925	46,370
	15,765	11,239	20,096
	2,000	1,526	1,201
	21,985	580	12,968
	1,111,000	721,501	1,102,259
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	(31,000)	420,946	(124,400)
OTHER INCOME			
Unrealized gain on marketable securities	-	126,204	187,870
Interest income	15,000	28,250	24,247
Gain on sale of marketable securities	-	19,186	43,700
Dividend income	16,000	18,135	19,223
Donations received (Note 7)	-	4,800	16,100
	31,000	196,575	291,140
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ 617,521	\$ 166,740

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION
Statement of Cash Flow
Year Ended September 30, 2025

	2025	2024
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash receipts	\$ 1,090,952	\$ 1,027,231
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(781,930)	(1,017,216)
Investment income	47,374	42,478
Interest paid	(832)	(932)
Cash flow from operating activities	355,564	51,561
INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of equipment	-	(1,951)
Purchase of marketable securities	(311,411)	(469,014)
Proceeds on disposal of marketable securities	282,706	437,968
Cash flow used by investing activities	(28,705)	(32,997)
INCREASE IN CASH	326,859	18,564
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	412,189	393,625
CASH - END OF YEAR (Note 5)	\$ 739,048	\$ 412,189

Unrealized gain on marketable securities of \$126,204 (2024 - \$187,870) has been excluded from the cash flow statement, as it does not involve the use of cash or cash equivalents.

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended September 30, 2025

1. AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

On March 18, 2004, Athabasca University Students' Union ("AUSU") was incorporated under the Post Secondary Learning Act. AUSU is administered by a Board of Councilors ("Council") and its principal purpose is to provide for the administration of the affairs of the Athabasca University ("AU") undergraduate students, including the development and management of student institutions, the development and implementation of a system of student governing principles, the promotion of the general welfare of Athabasca University undergraduate students and the furtherance of the values inherent in an open University as well as of life-long learning. AUSU is a non-profit organization under the Income Tax Act (Canada) and, as such, is not liable for payment of income taxes.

2. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE AUSU receives substantially all of its revenue from Athabasca University as legislated under the Alberta Post-Secondary Learning Act section 95(2)e that provides for the "maintenance of the association by the levy of membership fees on its members". Should Athabasca University substantially change its dealings with AUSU subsequent to legislative changes permitting such, management is of the opinion that continued viable operations would be doubtful.

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO). Significant accounting policies observed in the preparation of the financial statements are summarized below.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on deposit, adjusted for outstanding deposits and payments, plus cash held in the investment portfolio.

Marketable securities

Marketable securities are recorded at fair value. AUSU's marketable securities consist of fixed income investments and equity investments.

Equipment

Equipment is stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated amortization and is amortized over its estimated useful life on a straight-line basis at the following rates:

Computer equipment	3 years
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In the year of purchase, amortization on equipment is taken at one half of the normal amount.

Equipment acquired during the year but not available for use are not amortized until they are available for use.

(continues)

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2025

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES(*continued*)

Revenue recognition Student fee revenue is recognized one month subsequent to the start of the course to which the fees relate once funds from the students have been received by Athabasca University and the course cancellation period has elapsed. Some of the fees received prior to year end relate to courses which commence in the next fiscal year.

These fees are classified as deferred and recognized as revenue one month subsequent to the start of the course to which the fees relate. Investment earnings are recognized as revenue when earned and collection is reasonably assured. With respect to contributions and donations, the AUSU follows the deferral method of accounting for these revenues. Externally restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Contributed material and services The operations of the Organization depend on both the contribution of time by volunteers and donated materials from various sources. The fair value of donated materials and services cannot be reasonably determined and is therefore not reflected in these financial statements.

Financial instruments All arm's length financial instruments are initially measured at fair value. The Organization subsequently measures its arm's length financial assets and liabilities at cost or amortized cost, except for investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market, which are measured at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in income in the period incurred.

Related party financial instruments with repayment terms are measured at cost, which is equal to the undiscounted cash flows received, or expected to be received, not including expected interest and dividends, less any previously recognized impairment losses.

Not-for-Profit Financial Statement Presentation

The AUSU presents net assets invested in property as a separate category of internally restricted net assets.

Measurement uncertainty The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. The following amounts are subject to measurement uncertainty: estimated useful life of equipment and accruals of certain expenses. These estimates are periodically reviewed and any necessary adjustments are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2025

4. CREDIT FACILITY The Organization has a credit facility with TD Commercial Banking, which includes approved TD Visa Business card that can be drawn upon to an aggregate maximum of \$13,000. The credit facility bears interest at 19.99%. As at year end, the total balance outstanding is \$6,031 (2024 - \$2,803), included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

5. CASH

	2025	2024
Cash and cash Equivalents	\$ 739,048	\$ 306,813
Internally restricted cash	-	105,376
	\$ 739,048	\$ 412,189

Council has determined that the operating cash account is required to maintain a minimum balance of \$125,000 at all times, in order to support ongoing operations in the event of a delay in the receipt of the AU student fees or other unexpected short term cash shortages.

Following the dissolution of The Voice during the year (Note 10), all related internal restrictions were removed. Consequently, no cash is internally restricted as at year end.

6. MARKETABLE SECURITIES

	2025	2024
Canada Government Bonds (bearing interest at 2.64% to 4.44%) maturing between December 2028 to December 2046	\$ 475,440	\$ 450,926
Canadian Common Stock	473,195	426,078
US Common Stock	499,991	410,550
Canadian Corporate Bonds & Debentures (bearing interest at 2.89% to 5.18%) maturing between February 2028 and December 2044.	275,097	271,179
Canada Treasury Bills (bearing interest at 2.65%) maturing between October 2025 and December 2025	17,085	8,968
	\$ 1,740,808	\$ 1,567,701

Council has determined that the marketable securities portfolio is to include fixed income securities with a minimum balance of \$360,000, which is equal to the balance in the internally restricted Contingency Reserve fund (Note 10). The purpose of this resolution is to ensure that funds are available should the AUSU need to access any of the above mentioned reserve funds.

Foreign marketable securities are presented in Canadian dollars, translated at the rate in effect as at year end.

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2025

7. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, the AUSU has recorded student fee revenues of \$1,142,447 (2024 - \$977,859) from the AU and deferred revenue of \$124,277 (2024 - \$157,217). The parties are related through their connection to the Athabasca University students.

Recorded in accounts receivable is \$102,929 (2024 - \$83,196) for student fees due from AU. There is no allowance for doubtful amounts recorded as at September 30, 2025 (2024 - nil).

During the year, AUSU received a donation of \$2,000 (2024 - \$2,000) from the AU to contribute to the food assistance program. Refer to Note 9 for details.

In the prior year, the AUSU provided \$2,957 (2024 - \$2,957) in tuition payments for two undergraduate Athabasca University courses per executive officer as per the AUSU compensation guidelines. This amount has been recorded in Council wages and benefits expense. No such payments were made in the current year.

In the prior year, AUSU also paid \$2,770 in writer fees for writing services provided by Councillors, recorded in The Voice expense. No such payments were made in the current year.

There are no related party balances included in accounts payable in the current year (2024 - \$300 for writer fees due to Councillors).

These transactions are in the normal course of operations and are measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

8. EQUIPMENT

	Cost	Accumulated am ortization	2025 Net book value	2024 Net book value
Computer equipment	\$ 4,578	\$ 3,165	\$ 1,413	\$ 2,939

9. DEFERRED RESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS

	2025	2024
Opening balance	\$ 1,800	\$ 3,900
Contributions received in the year	3,000	14,000
Contributions spent in the year	(4,800)	(16,100)
	\$ -	\$ 1,800

The unspent contributions relate to the food bank program (Note 7).

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2025

10. RESTRICTIONS ON NET ASSETS

	Opening balance	Approved transfers	Approved use of funds	Ending balance
Awards Reserve	\$ 61,443	\$ (61,443)	\$ -	\$ -
Contingency Reserve	270,000	90,000	-	360,000
Legal Reserve	75,000	(75,000)	-	-
Projects Reserve	8,988	(8,988)	-	-
Staffing Search Reserve	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
The Voice	105,376	(105,376)	-	-
	\$ 535,807	\$ (175,807)	\$ -	\$ 360,000

The AUSU previously held internally restricted net assets for student awards, special projects, The Voice operations, and contingency, legal, and staffing purposes. These amounts required Council approval for alternative use. During the 2025 fiscal year, the Council passed a motion to dissolve or restructure certain reserves as described below.

The **Awards Reserve Fund** was designated towards providing student awards and accumulates all budgeted undistributed awards funds during each fiscal year. The fund was dissolved in the current year, and all previously restricted funds were transferred to the **Unrestricted Reserve**.

The **Contingency Reserve Fund**, in its previous structure, was designated to mitigate the risk of decreases in Athabasca University enrolment and voluntary student union fees. During the current year, the fund was restructured to form a combined reserve, incorporating the **Legal Reserve**, **Staffing Search Reserve**, and **Contingency Reserve**.

The **Legal Reserve Fund** was designated towards legal expenses and settlements, in the event that the AUSU was to become part of a legal proceeding. The fund was dissolved in the current year, and all previously restricted funds were transferred to the **Contingency Reserve**.

The **Projects Reserve Fund** was designated towards special projects. The fund was dissolved in the current year, and all previously restricted funds were transferred to the **Unrestricted Reserve**.

The **Staffing Search Reserve Fund** was designated towards professional fees associated with searching and recruiting a new staff member in the event of a staffing turnover. The fund was dissolved in the current year, and all previously restricted funds were transferred to the **Contingency Reserve**.

The **Voice Fund** was designated for expenses related to the operations of The Voice magazine. The fund was dissolved in the current year, and all previously restricted funds were transferred to the **Unrestricted Reserve**.

11. BUDGET The budget was approved by Council on 15 August 2024. Subsequent amendments were implemented and published in March 2025 without a formal Council motion and were later ratified by Council on November 25, 2025. The budgeted amounts are presented for information purposes only and are unaudited.

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION
Notes to Financial Statements
Year Ended September 30, 2025

12. **FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS** The Organization is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides information about the Organization's risk exposure and concentration as of September 30, 2025. Unless otherwise noted, the Organization's risk exposure has not changed from the prior year.

Credit risk Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. The AUSU is exposed to credit risk from the AU as effectively all of the AUSU accounts receivable are from the AU. AUSU is economically dependant upon the AU (Note 2) for the majority of its revenues and is protected by provincial legislation, which mitigates this risk. Subsequent to year end, all the accounts receivable have been collected.

Currency risk Currency risk is the risk to the Organization's earnings that arise from fluctuations of foreign exchange rates and the degree of volatility of these rates. The Organization is exposed to foreign currency exchange risk on marketable securities held in U.S. dollars (Note 6). The Organization does not use derivative instruments to reduce its exposure to foreign currency risk. Refer to Note 6 for marketable securities held in U.S. dollars.

Interest rate risk Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument might be adversely affected by a change in the interest rates. In seeking to minimize the risks from interest rate fluctuations, the Organization manages exposure through its normal operating and financing activities. The Organization is exposed to interest rate risk primarily through its investment in marketable securities.

Other price risk Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in the market. The Organization is exposed to other price risk through its investment in quoted shares.

Services & Resources

Beyond the ongoing advocacy and representation provided by Student Council, AUSU has a growing variety of additional services and resources to support AU undergraduates. Below are annual highlights for the main services to demonstrate their impact. A full list of services is available anytime on our website at ausu.org/services.

Seasonal Awards

\$54,500.00

Distributed

Year-Round Bursaries

\$15,523.77

Distributed

Food Assistance Program

\$11,250.00

Distributed

AUSU Indigenous Student Award Administered by AU

\$2,500.00

Donated

Graduation Memories Experience

To help mark this milestone for our members, AUSU delivered a Graduation Memories experience designed to capture the excitement and pride of convocation day. This initiative provided graduates and their families with meaningful ways to celebrate, connect, and preserve the moment.

360° Video Booth

Graduates stepped into an immersive 360° video booth that recorded dynamic, all-angle clips of their celebration. These interactive videos offered a fun, modern way to commemorate the day and share the experience with friends and family.

Photo Booth Experience

A professionally lit photo booth allowed graduates to create high-quality images with creative backdrops and props. This provided an accessible and enjoyable way for members to capture both formal and candid moments.

Instant Keepsakes

Participants could choose between immediate printed photos or digital downloads, ensuring everyone left with a tangible memento while also having the option to share their celebration online.

Community Connection

The Graduation Memories space became a natural gathering point for graduates to meet one another, celebrate together, and build connections during convocation.

A Growing AUSU Tradition

The Graduation Memories experience was a resounding success, with strong engagement and positive feedback from graduates and their families. AUSU is proud to continue this initiative as an annual convocation tradition for years to come.



AUSU was honoured to support our graduating members and celebrate their achievements. Convocation remains one of the most meaningful moments in a student's academic journey, and we are committed to helping make the day memorable.



2024-2025
AUSU Council Workplan Progress Report
Athabasca University Students' Union

Who We Are and Why We Are Here

The Athabasca University Students' Union (AUSU) exists to serve its student membership and enhance their Athabasca University (AU) undergraduate experience.

Guiding Principles

Belonging: Foster an inclusive environment where every student feels valued and connected, whilst enjoying a sense of educational well-being.

Integrity: Uphold the highest standards of honesty and ethical behaviour in all our actions.

Reconciliation through Unity: Commit to unity by acknowledging diverse histories and perspectives, building mutual understanding and solidarity.

Intentionality: Act with deliberate purpose, setting priorities that drive meaningful change.

Visionary Leadership: Lead and govern with a forward-thinking approach, anticipating future needs and opportunities for our students.

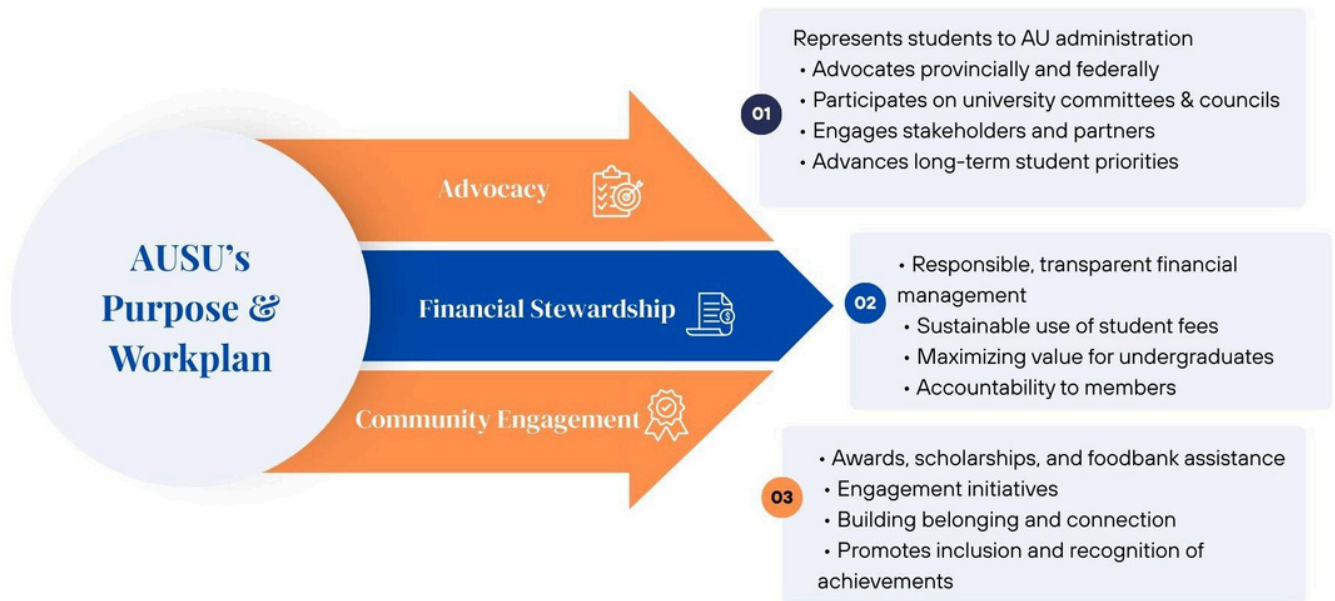
Workplan Purpose & Process

Purpose

This work plan ensures that the team's plans are feasible and clear, taking into account organisational capacity and current needs.

Planning and Priorities

The work plan is formulated by the Council based on the AUSU Strategic Plan and incorporates ideas from current student issues, surveys, and needs. AUSU supports AU undergraduate students' success in three core areas:



A. Empowering AU Undergraduates: AUSU's Advocacy Efforts

AUSU ensures that student voices are heard through strong representation and advocacy. We are committed to supporting and championing the needs of all AU undergraduate students. Our advocacy work spans several key areas:

Representation and Communication:

- Acting as a bridge between students and the university administration, as well as provincial and federal governments.
- Ensuring that the unique needs of AU students are clearly communicated and addressed.

Diverse Advocacy Approaches:

- **Committee Participation:** AUSU representatives actively participate in university committees, voicing student concerns and influencing decision-making.
- **Stakeholder Meetings:** Engaging with stakeholders to discuss issues affecting students.
- **Collaboration:** Working with partners within and beyond AU to advance positive change.
- **Campaigns:** Launching targeted campaigns when needed to raise awareness and mobilize support.

Ongoing Priorities:

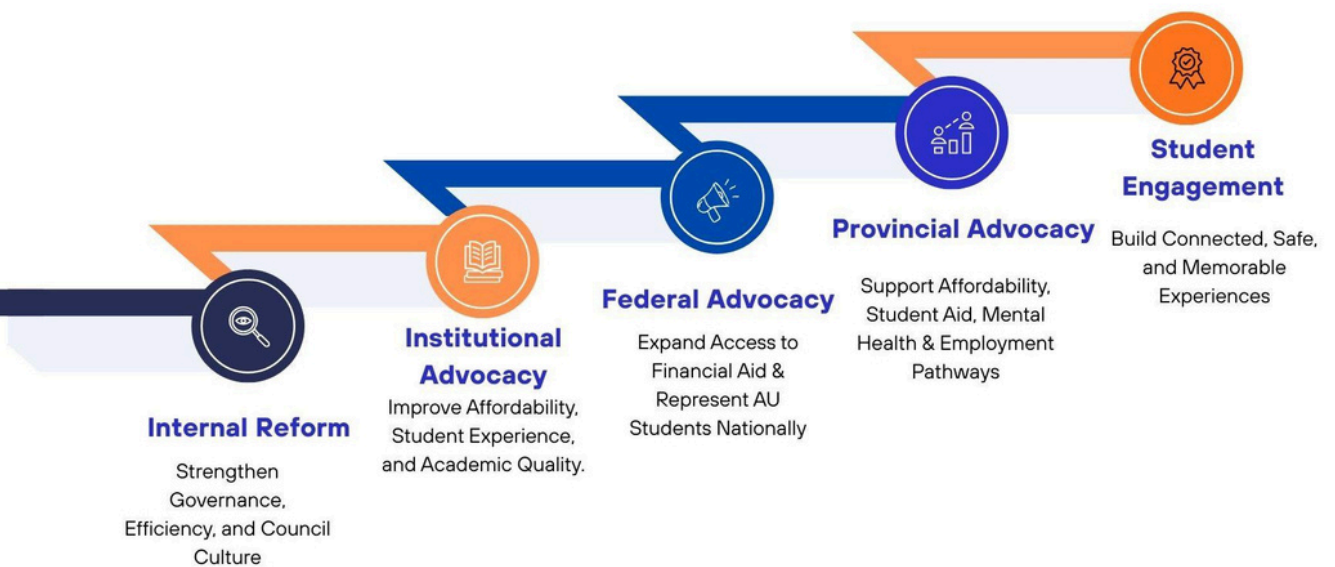
Many advocacy priorities are long-term and reflect our commitment to continuous improvement. These priorities often align with the committees and portfolios held by our Councillors and representatives.

B. Financial Stewardship of funds

AUSU is committed to responsible, transparent, and student-centered financial management. Stewardship practices ensure that student fees are used effectively, sustainably, and in ways that maximize value for the undergraduate student body.

C. Community Engagement

AUSU fosters a strong, connected, and supportive student community. Engagement initiatives aim to build belonging, enhance student experience, and ensure that AU undergraduates feel represented, supported, and included.



Internal Reform

1- Strengthen Governance Clarity & Compliance



Planned



Ongoing



Completed

Important Aspects



Update bylaws to clearly define Council roles, authorities, and decision-making processes



Align meeting structures with legal requirements and operational capacity



Standardise terminology to reduce ambiguity and future misinterpretation



Document rationale for changes to support transparency and communicate intent



Ensure that AUSU remains a student-led organisation





Update policies and operational procedures

Outcome

AUSU planned to strengthen governance clarity and compliance by updating bylaws, aligning meeting structures with legal and operational requirements, standardising terminology, and documenting the rationale for changes to reinforce transparency and maintain a student-led governance model pending the passing of the new bylaws in early 2026.

2- Improve Operational Efficiency

Important Aspects





-  Shift from high-frequency meetings to a sustainable, outcomes-focused meeting rhythm
-  Adopt new technology to enhance efficiency and reporting

Outcome

AUSU improved operational efficiency by transitioning to a more sustainable, outcomes-focused meeting rhythm and adopting new technology to streamline processes and strengthen reporting.

3- Modernise Council Culture & Expectations

Important Aspects





-  Clarify expectations for councillor participation, communication, role, and accountability
-  Introduce onboarding supports and role clarity for new councillors
-  Foster a culture of professionalism, respect, and student-centred decision-making
-  Ensure indigenous and equity-seeking representation at the AU Board of Governors level

Outcome

Planned items are pending the passing of the new bylaws in early 2026.

4- Align AUSU Programs with Students' Needs

Important Aspects



-  Revamp AUSU Food Assistance Program
-  Review Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries Program
-  Secure an opt-out health benefits plan for students
-  Introduce one new program

Outcome

AUSU aligned its programs with student needs by revamping the Food Assistance Program, reviewing scholarships, awards, and bursaries, and planning the launch of a new program to support students attending in-person labs in Athabasca in 2026, while continuing advocacy to the University to update its IT to the required system to implement an opt-out health benefits plan for students

5- Improve Operational Efficiency and Reduce Unnecessary Costs

Important Aspects

-  Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of AUSU's operational tools and software systems
-  Eliminate redundant software and subscription services to reduce expenses and streamline operations

Outcome

AUSU improved operational efficiency by reviewing the cost-effectiveness of its software and subscription tools and discontinuing redundant services to ensure responsible use of student resources.

Operational improvements were achieved without any increase to AUSU membership fees, reflecting Council's commitment to responsible financial management.

Institutional Advocacy



Planned






Ongoing



Completed

1- Keep Education Affordable

Important Aspects





-  Advocate for no tuition increases for September 2025
-  Advocate for inclusion of Open Educational Resources and associated savings for students, where applicable
-  Advocate for choice in learning resources and associated savings for students

Outcome

AUSU advanced affordability by advocating against the tuition increase using a value-for-money approach, promoting the adoption of Open Educational Resources, and supporting greater choice in learning materials to reduce costs for students. The Provost acknowledged these asks during the Tuition Consultation process.

2- Improve the Student Experience with AU

Important Aspects





-  Investigate how the course registration process could be improved
-  Advocate for better communication from AU through more thorough student-facing content
-  Advocate for improvement to Accessibility Services
-  Advocate for improvements for ProctorU and alternative assessments

Outcome

AUSU advanced student experience priorities by raising concerns about registration, communication, accessibility supports, and assessment tools, and AU subsequently prioritised efforts to roll out a centralised system for student support and a centralised platform for Accessibility Services to be launched early 2026.

3- Advocate for the implementation of equitable Student Financial Aid (SFA) policy regarding the impact of course extensions and the definition of attendance for funded students at AU

Important Aspects



-  Advocate for equitable SFA policy related to the impact of course extensions on funded students
-  Advocate for a fair and student-centred definition of “attendance” for learners receiving financial aid
-  Ensure AU’s SFA policies reflect the realities of online learning and do not disadvantage students
-  Investigate how the course registration process could be improved

Outcome

AUSU advanced equitable financial aid priorities by advocating for fair treatment of course extensions and a clear, student-centred definition of attendance for funded learners at AU, with outcomes pending as AU continues its internal policy review processes.


4- Advocate for More Transparent and Fair Academic Misconduct Practices at AU

Important Aspects

-  Advocate for the modernisation of AU’s academic misconduct policy
-  Advocate for clear separation of duties between academic misconduct investigators and course coordinators and/or professors






Outcome

AUSU advanced academic integrity priorities by advocating for modernised policy, clear separation of investigative duties, and a more transparent and dignified process for students, with outcomes pending as AU continues its internal policy review.

 Advocate for a transparent, consistent, and dignified investigation process for students

5- Improve the Quality of Education at AU

Important Aspects

-  Advocate for regular course updates
-  Advocate for Work-Integrated Learning opportunities
-  Advocate for tutor accountability in marking and response times
-  Advocate for more accessible interaction between tutors and learners
-  Advocate for students to have access to highly skilled employment opportunities and funding streams through stakeholder engagement.



Outcome

AUSU Council actively participated in faculty committees and other institutional committees whenever opportunities presented, ensuring the student voice was represented in academic decision-making.

AUSU advanced quality-of-education priorities by advocating for timely course updates, Work Integrated Learning, stronger tutor accountability and communication, and expanded assessment options, including partnering with FHSS on research into alternative assessment approaches.




6- Support Students Individually

Important Aspects

-  Provide escalation support for students navigating AU processes
-  Assist students with documentation, policy interpretation, and procedural guidance

Outcome



AUSU supported students individually by providing escalation assistance, documentation and process guidance, attending meetings for students involved in investigation cases, and offering timely support during

-  Support students during technical outages through escalation and timely updates
-  Attend meetings with AU upon student request to provide support during academic misconduct investigations
-  Ensure students receive clear, accurate, and compassionate assistance when facing barriers

technical outages, ensuring students received clear and responsive help when navigating challenges at AU.

7- Advocate for the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission at AU, as well as for Decolonisation

Important Aspects

-  Advocate for courses and programming in Indigenous Languages (Call to Action 16)
-  Advocate for AU’s nursing programs to require all students to take a course dealing with Indigenous health issues, including Indigenous teachings and practices, intercultural competency, and anti-racism (Call to Action 24)

Outcome

AUSU advanced reconciliation and decolonisation priorities by advocating for Indigenous language programming, strengthening Indigenous health education in nursing and broader implementation of TRC recommendations, with outcomes pending AU’s internal processes.

Federal Advocacy



Planned



Ongoing



Completed

1- Improve Access to Financial Aid

Important Aspects

- Advocate for better access to financial aid for part-time students
- Advocate for the age cap on the Canada Summer Jobs program to be removed
- Advocate that married students should not need spousal permission to access federal financial aid
- Advocate for better access to student financial aid for all students, especially regarding sign-in options
- Advocate for increasing the maximum Canada Student Grant to \$5000
- Advocate for increasing the maximum weekly loan amount to \$360
- Advocate for a permanent renewal of elevated grant and loan levels to keep pace with rising costs

Outcome

AUSU improved access to financial aid by advancing federal advocacy for part-time learners, married students, sign-in accessibility, and increased grant and loan amounts, contributing to national efforts to modernise and expand student financial support.

Provincial Advocacy



Planned



Ongoing



Completed

1- Advocate for Affordability & Food Security

Important Aspects

- Push for restored provincial operating funding to reduce tuition pressure
- Advocate for predictable, regulated tuition frameworks
- Address food insecurity

Outcome

AUSU advanced affordability priorities by advocating for the restoration of provincial funding, predictable tuition frameworks, and action on food insecurity, contributing to broader efforts to reduce the financial burden on Alberta learners.

2- Advocate for Student Financial Aid Reform

Important Aspects

- Improve access to Alberta Student Aid, especially for part-time and low-income students
- Advocate for more flexible aid rules that reflect modern learning (online, asynchronous, working learners)

Outcome

AUSU advanced student financial aid reform by advocating for improved access to Alberta Student Aid and more flexible rules that reflect the realities of modern learners, including part-time, online, and working students.

3- Advocate for Mental Health & Student Supports

Important Aspects

- ✓ Expand funding for campus mental health services
- ✓ Advocate for long-term, stable provincial investment in student wellness

Outcome

AUSU strengthened student supports by advocating for expanded mental health funding and long-term, stable provincial investment in student wellness across Alberta's post-secondary system

4- Advocate for Work-Integrated Learning & Employment Pathways

Important Aspects

- ✓ Increase provincial support for internships, co-ops, and work-integrated learning
- ✓ Improve employment pathways for international students

Outcome

AUSU strengthened employment pathways by advocating for expanded provincial support for work-integrated learning and improved workforce access for international students, helping ensure learners can successfully transition from education to employment.

5- Ensure AU Students' Unique Needs are Represented at our Provincial Advocacy Group

Important Aspects

- ✓ Attend and contribute to meetings at the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS)
- ✓ Sit on the assigned CAUS committees

Outcome

AUSU ensured AU students' unique needs were represented at the provincial level by actively contributing to the Council of Alberta University

Advocate to Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Minister of Advanced Education on emerging issues impacting AU learners throughout the year

Advocate for AU students' needs at the Provincial Legislature during Provincial Advocacy Week

Advocate for students to have access to highly skilled employment opportunities and funding streams through stakeholder engagement

Students (CAUS) meetings and committees, engaging MLAs and the Minister on emerging issues, participating in Advocacy Week, and advancing opportunities for students to access skilled employment and related funding.

6- Advocate for the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission at AU

Important Aspects

Advocate that the provincial government provide the necessary funding to AU to educate faculty on how to integrate Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods into courses (Call to Action 62.ii)

Outcome

AUSU advanced reconciliation priorities by advocating for provincial funding to support faculty education on integrating Indigenous knowledge and teaching methods in alignment with TRC Call to Action 62.ii.

Student Engagement



Planned




Ongoing



Completed

1- Build a Safe and Interactive Online Community

Details

 Research and adopt a new secure platform for engagement

 Host relevant events

Outcome

AUSU advanced its commitment to a safe and interactive online community by continuing research into secure engagement platforms, with student events scheduled to resume in mid-2026.

2- Convocation Tradition

Details

 Create a meaningful convocation tradition

Outcome

AUSU launched a new convocation tradition at Athabasca University through the Graduation Memories Program, offering graduates free access to photo and video booths to celebrate and capture their achievements.

AUSU 2024-2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

Key Highlights



Governance Modernization



Revamped Student Support Programs & Convocation Tradition



Operational Improvements Without A Fee Increase



Direct Student & Institutional Advocacy



Tuition & Affordability Advocacy



Strong Federal & Provincial Representation

Looking Ahead

Over the past year, AUSU strengthened its internal governance, improved operational efficiency, and advanced advocacy at the institutional, provincial, and federal levels, all while maintaining responsible stewardship of student funds without increasing fees.

While many initiatives remain ongoing, meaningful progress was made in affordability, accessibility, financial aid reform, academic policy modernisation, reconciliation efforts, and student support services.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to student-centred leadership, principled governance, effective advocacy, and accessible service delivery to ensure every AU undergraduate student is meaningfully represented, supported, and empowered.

2024-2025 STUDENT COUNCIL

Oct 2024–Sept 2025

Student Council

Council Chair J. Lehmann
Councillor F. Arsenault
Councillor M. Rousseau
Councillor A. Karien
Councillor D. Ramirez
Councillor C. Akuchie
Councillor O. Shepherd
Councillor K. Thompson
Councillor N. Brown

Thank You!

AUSU would like to extend appreciation to our student members, who continuously inspire us to strive for ways to enhance the AU student experience. As we begin another year of serving the undergraduate students of Athabasca University, we are excited and determined to continue advocating for and supporting our student members.

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