

**Minutes of the Seventh  
SARDP 2025-2026 Council Meeting  
October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Attendance:

Donald Allen – Councillor  
Bridget Anderson – Councillor  
Nicholas Baker – Councillor  
Lyan Fajardo – Councillor  
Allie Goose – Councillor  
Sage Huard – Councillor  
Ruby Lindsay – Councillor

Jacq Patterson – President  
Taya Skydan – Councillor  
Elizabeth Sweiger – Executive Director  
Anne Marie Watson – Chairperson  
Eli Wolters – Vice President Academic  
Marian Young – Secretary

Absent with notice:

Samuel Johannson – Vice President External  
Marie Evangelista – Assistant Executive Director

Left Chambers:

Councillor Allen left at 6:20pm, returned at 6:32pm.

**7.0 Call to Order**

Call to order at 5:31

**7.1 Approval of Agenda**

Addition of Item 7.3: Oath of Office.

25-26-66-C

Patterson, Anderson

MOTION: Motion to accept the agenda as amended.

CARRIED

**7.2 Land Acknowledgment**

**7.3 Oath of Office**

Councillors Don Allen, Allie Gosse, Sage Huard, Ruby Lindsay, and Taya Skydan took their Oath of Office.

**7.4 Approval of Meeting Minutes**

7.4.1 Minutes of the Sixth 2025-2026 Council Meeting

25-26-67-C

Patterson, Anderson

MOTION: Motion to approve the minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> 2025-2026 Association Council Meeting.

CARRIED

7.4.2 Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> 2025-2026 Executive Council Meeting Minutes

25-26-68-C

Baker, Huard

MOTION: Motion to approve the minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> 2025-2026 Executive Council Meetings.

CARRIED

**7.5 Discussion**

7.5.1 Academic Council Honoraria  
25-26-69-C  
Allen, Anderson  
MOTION: Motion to expend an amount not to exceed \$1130.50 for the Academic Council Summer Honoraria.  
CARRIED

**7.6 Executive Council, Council Committee and Other Reports**

7.6.1 Executive Council Reports

- President – J. Patterson
- Vice President Academic – E. Wolters
- Vice President External – S. Johannson
- Executive Director – E. Sweiger

25-26-70-C  
Anderson, Gosse  
MOTION: Motion to accept the Executive Reports as presented.  
CARRIED

**7.7 Information**

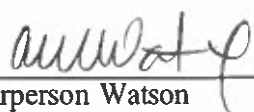
7.7.1 October Association Events Calendar  
7.7.2 Minister of Advanced Education Mandate Letter  
7.7.3 Alberta Student Executive Council Member Brief - Minister of Advanced Education Mandate Letter

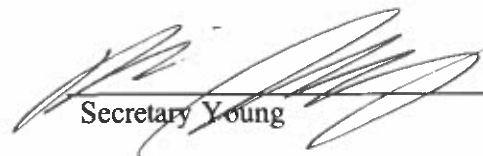
**7.8 Adjournment**

25-26-71-C  
Anderson, Fajardo  
MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 6:38  
CARRIED

  
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President Patterson

  
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Executive Director Sweiger

  
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Chairperson Watson

  
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Secretary Young



## EXECUTIVE REPORT

President Jacq Patterson

Report September 9, 2025- September 28, 2025

### **RDP Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Sonography Lab September 10, 2025**

We were honoured to attend the grand opening of the new Sonography Lab at RDP. The Lab is fully equipped with the most relevant machinery and beds. During this event, we heard from Stuart Cullum (RDP President), Lindsey Engel (VP Academic), Heather Dirks (Dean of the School of Health and Wellness), and a student currently enrolled in the program. The student had been waiting years for a spot in a sonography program at a different institution and was excited and relieved to finally be able to follow her dreams and is enjoying her time at RDP. We were also informed that the institution plans to expand the program. <sup>1</sup>

### **Board of Governors September 10, 2025**

During the September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, the SA Executives gave a tour to the Board of Governors in attendance. Feedback from the tour was extremely positive. Many of the Board members were excited to see parts of the SA building they had never seen before, and they were very impressed with our commitment to our mission/vision/ values, as well as our commitment to the SDGs.

At the BoG meeting, we discussed Strategic Enrollment Management at RDP, which involves aligning recruitment, retention, and graduation goals with the strategic 2030 plan.

- Align with industry
- Social Productivity
- Seamless student experience
- Reduce Sloughs

We also discussed the last ownership linkage committee meeting, where Kathrine pointed out some gaps in relation to Indigenous ownership.

### **Doing it Right: Women's Conference September 12, 2025**

- *Women in Business Panel*

Speakers emphasized that empowerment, rather than strict equality, should guide women's advancement. True empowerment involves providing tools and support for success, overcoming fear of failure, and building confidence. They highlighted

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<sup>1</sup> <https://rdpolytech.ca/news/new-sonography-lab-adds-innovative-training-space-albertas-future-sonographers>



## EXECUTIVE REPORT

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the importance of collaboration over competition, cultivating positive networks, and fostering kindness and vulnerability. Action steps included financial planning, prioritizing self-care, and taking consistent action to build confidence.

- *Women in Energy Panel*  
Panelists discussed the future of Canada's energy sector, with 69,000 upcoming job vacancies due to retirements. They stressed the importance of encouraging women, including Indigenous women, to pursue trades and leadership roles. Building relationships, valuing transferable skills, and promoting environmentally responsible energy sovereignty were seen as crucial. Eco-colonialism was identified as a challenge when outsiders disrupt local conservation practices without proper consultation.
- *Women in Politics Panels*  
Multiple sessions highlighted the challenges and opportunities for women in politics. Speakers addressed the lack of women in public-facing roles, the prevalence of imposter syndrome, and the need to build relationships as an entry point into political life. Participants emphasized the importance of resilience, navigating egos, and striking a balance between personal life and political demands. Key advice included developing networks of women, mentoring, being genuine in community engagement, and recognizing that losing is part of growth. Women are often asked multiple times before running for office, so encouragement and visible role models remain critical.
- *Blockchain and Election Security*  
Tashina Jackson highlighted the potential of blockchain to increase accessibility for women, especially those who are unbanked, by providing secure and inclusive financial tools.
- *Women in Health Care Panel*  
The panel examined how women leaders are transforming healthcare by advocating for change, promoting leadership diversity, and fostering a stronger sense of community.
- *Municipal Politics Panel*  
Speakers discussed the challenges of municipal governance, including the weaponization of codes of conduct, pay disparities between municipal and provincial leaders, and concerns around in-camera sessions.
- *Fireside Chat – Lessons Learned*  
Bonnie Critchley underscored the importance of branding, knowing one's audience, and preparing for the realities of political life. She emphasized the importance of resilience in the face of disinformation and betrayal, the need to stand firmly by one's principles, and the importance of controlling one's narrative. Candidates



## **EXECUTIVE REPORT**

**President Jacq Patterson**

should assume they are always being recorded and approach their communication strategically.

### **Meet the Executives September 15, 2025**

All three Executives got to hand out donuts and coffee to students as a way for us to connect with our Members. The event was a success, with us running out of coffee and donuts within an hour.

### **ASEC Member Advocacy Training September 16, 2025**

This was an online mandatory lecture series meant for ASEC members attending ADVO Days in November. Since the Executives decided that it would be best for just the VP External to attend (as the dates overlap with SARDPs AGM), the President and VP Academic are no longer required to attend.

### **Council Training September 19, 2025**

This event was an all-day training session hosted by our fantastic and talented Governance Coordinator, Marian Young, to help prepare Executives and New Councillors for their roles in the upcoming year.

### **Polytechnic Symbol Committee September 22, 2025**

This committee was established to design a new symbol that represents the institution in major ceremonies, such as convocation. The previous symbol was a school bell, which was deemed insensitive as it was reminiscent of the times of residential schools. Currently, there is a call for artists, and the committee will choose from the applications submitted which artist (s) will be commissioned to make the symbol.

### **All Presidents Meeting September 22, 2025**

This meeting comprises the four presidents at RDP, including Stuart Cullum (RDP), Sally Stuart (FARDP), Terry Oakley (AUPE), and the SA President. During this meeting, we primarily discussed enrollment trends. The institution has experienced a slight increase in domestic enrollment but continues to see a decline in international enrollment. Most of the decline is attributed to slow visa processing times and visa approval ratings.



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**President Jacq Patterson**

Unfortunately, the domestic enrollment is not sufficient to offset the loss of international students financially.

### **LMS Steering Committee September 22, 2025**

The new learning model system has been confirmed to be D2L Brightspace, and instructors are now being contacted to test the new system and begin transferring their courses onto the platform.

### **FARDP Council Introduction September 23, 2025**

The Executive team was invited to introduce ourselves to the Executive team members for the Faculty Association of Red Deer Polytechnic. During the meeting, we discussed the WIL grant and what it entails for them. To our surprise, they too do not know what the almost half a million dollar grant actually does to assist students. We are still investigating this matter separately and will report to the council once we have more information. <sup>2</sup>

### **Meeting with Student Connect September 26, 2025**

All three Executives connected with Jay Decore (Associate Registrar, Student Services | Office of the Registrar) to discuss the student experience so far. We are pleased to report that on both ends, only positive feedback was received about Student Aid this year, and it was delivered in a much timelier manner. We were also invited to speak at RDP's open house on October 25, 2025, and to provide an interview for a radio station attending the event.

### **Truth and Reconciliation Day, September 29, 2025**

At 9 am, Indigenous Student Services hosted a smudging and flag ceremony to kick off the Truth and Reconciliation Day event. Lloyd Desjarlais (Dean of Indigenous Initiatives), Stuart Cullum (RDP President), and the SA President all gave short speeches. Later in the afternoon, the SA President and VP External attended a lecture by Jerry Saddleback Jr., who discussed the legacy of residential schools.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://rdpolytech.ca/news/bursary-supports-rdp-students-participating-work-integrated-learning>



**EXECUTIVE REPORT**  
President Jacq Patterson

**WORKPLAN UPDATE:**

**Updates:** No update at this time.



## EXECUTIVE REPORT Vice President External's Office

September 10<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>

Sick – Sept 16-17

Missed Executive Council Meeting

### Alberta – Open Educational Resources (OER) Advocacy Group

*Sarah Adams – OER Librarian at UofC  
Bradly Pike – University of Lethbridge Student's  
Union  
Kimoya – VPA University of Lethbridge  
Sona Macnaughton – RDP  
Jessica Norman – Open Education Librarian at SAIT  
Danielle Deschamps – MacEwan OER/copyright*

*Librarian  
Chris Young – Northern Lakes College Librarian  
Erik Christiansen – Mount Royal University Open  
Educational Lead Librarian  
Chloe Simmons – ASEC (Alberta Student Executive  
Council) Policy Analyst  
Sukhpreet Singh - VPA Student's Union Olds College*

This meeting was mainly an introductory meeting, as with the new academic year comes new members, and mainly focused on updates and plans for the upcoming year. There was talk about connecting various institutions together for peer review of OERs and collaborating with the Open Education Alberta group. As well, Chloe attended on behalf of ASEC and is interested in updating policy for OERs, and how to advocate for them as a lobbying organization. Sukpreet from the Student's Union of Olds College, also had the opportunity to speak with the Minister of Advanced Education regarding OERs. There are also plans for Sarah from University of Calgary, Danielle from MacEwan, Sona from RDP, and myself to have a joint meeting regarding the process of OER grants, further details on structure within the institution, eligibility and the selection process.

### Student Caucus – Academic Council

*Sam Johannson, Jacq Patterson, Marian Young, Michael Beatty, Kyra Gamelin*

*Absent with Notice: Azriel Handa*

Some of the items we spoke about include:

- For the Timetable procedure, need to add a scheduling constraint for instructors & students (in pre-schedule classes), to not allow classes on opposite sides of campus, as the 10-minute break doesn't allow for enough time to travel from East campus to the Gary Harris, for example.
- Linking "Zero Textbook Cost" to the library information page, as it lacks a definition or clarity in the Timetable procedure.

### Academic Council (AC) (September 26<sup>th</sup>)

This was a decisive meeting, and some of the major decisions include:

- Ruling by Academic Council to 'consider procedure and policy intertwined, and to be treated as such' – allowing for AC to vote to recommend both policy and procedure.
- Various minor course changes: renaming, deletion of an irrelevant course, and change to course number.
- New Program – Bachelor of Education After Degree



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### Vice President External's Office

- Allowing students who completed a three- or four-year degree to enter this two-year program and specialize in K-4, 5-9, or 10-12. This allows for graduated students an alternative way to complete a Bachelor of Education Degree.
- The recommendation of the Timetable policy and procedure, with the decision to create a focus group regarding procedure changes, and there was a need to implement this policy before the deadline for it to come into effect in the next academic year.
  - Notable changes for students from previous policy, include increase of time between days for scheduled classes from 9 to 12 hours, and limiting changes made to the timetable after student registration.
  - AC also approved an amendment of adding instructor needs second to students under “constraints on the timetable will be minimized so that the scheduling of courses...” for the Timetable Policy.
  - We were unable to speak on the Timetable procedure, as discussion was paused in favour of the committee due to time constraints.

#### Other Meetings

ASEC – Land Acknowledgement Working Group (Sept 16<sup>th</sup>)

Campus Store Committee (Sept 18<sup>th</sup>)

ASEC – Advocacy Training Food Security (Sept 18<sup>th</sup>)

Council Orientation (Sept 19-20<sup>th</sup>)

ASEC – Advocacy Training Mental Health (Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>)

Next Gen Leadership Summit – See VPX Report

#### WORKPLAN UPDATE:

**Goal 1:** Increase usage of Open Educational Resources (OER) for introductory-level courses.

**Updates:** Upcoming meeting regarding OER grants at other institutions, I've begun drafting guidelines and estimated budget for a potential OER grant.

**Goal 2:** Increase awareness and usage of the Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) indicator.

**Updates:** Textbook Survey is out! No update on other data required for ELT paper.

**Goal 3:** Increase awareness of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

**Updates:** Committee scheduling has been sent out, waiting for the first meeting!



## **EXECUTIVE REPORT**

### **Vice President External's Office**

**Reporting Period: September 10th, 2025 – September 29th, 2025**

#### **Alumni Association Board Meeting**

*September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

The RDP Alumni Association had its Quarterly meeting. The Board discussed a variety of topics, including the annual budget, various sponsorship requests from RDPs athletics department, and a sponsorship request from the Students' Association, which was approved. The Board also received updates on ongoing Alumni Association initiatives.

#### **ASEC Advocacy Committee**

*September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

ASEC's Advocacy Committee had its second meeting. The Committee recommended the approval of its Terms of Reference to ASEC's Board. The Committee then dived into deeper discussions on the need of adding policy statements on various topics to ASEC's official policy statements.

#### **Meeting with Abe Armagan, President of SAITSA**

*September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

I met online with the President of SAIT's Students' Association, Abe Armagan. We discussed his idea of creating a new national advocacy organization comprised primarily of the Students' Association's of Polytechnic institutions from across Canada. It's still not fully clear what form this organization would take. More updates on this idea will be provided as they develop.

#### **Next Gen Leadership Conference**

*September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

Vice President Wolters and I attended the Next Gen Leadership conference in Red Deer. I attended on behalf of ASEC's Board, and two other Board members were present. Premier Danielle Smith, along with Ministers Rebbeca Schultz and Devin Dreesen spoke at this conference. Other MLAs were also present. After attending this conference, I would say



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that this event should not be something we attend in the future, as there is little value to our membership in attendance at this conference.

### Other Work & Updates:

#### WORKPLAN UPDATE:

**Goal 1:** Plan and execute a Get Out the Vote Campaign for the 2025 Municipal Election

**Updates:** We have confirmed that four of five Red Deer Mayoral candidates will be attending the SA's mayoral candidates forum. The rules and format for the Forum have been created and sent to the attending candidates. We are looking for Councillors who are interested in volunteering, in addition to councillors who have indicated their interest in volunteering. Council is encouraged to attend the Forum, and to submit questions ahead of time via the QR codes visible on the posters and social media posts about the Forum.

**Goal 2:** Investigate the need for an Advocacy Committee for the Association

**Updates:** The scheduling of the first meeting of the advocacy committee has begun, with the first meeting hopefully being scheduled for sometime in October.

**Goal 3:** Increase awareness regarding the discount programs and add 5 additional businesses providing student discounts.

**Updates:** The number of discounts available to RDP students at various local businesses has doubled from 15 to 31. These are now almost entirely visible on the SA's website, and they have been featured on our social media platforms and on digital platforms. Additionally, we have secured a partnership with the Red Deer Rebels and Bo's Bar and Grill. For their Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> game against the Spokane Chiefs RDP students can get a discounted ticket which also contains a free drink coupon at Bo's. Additionally, \$5 from every student ticket purchased will go to the Student Emergency Food Bank. This offer can be accessed by purchasing a ticket via the QR code visible on posters around the school and on the SA's social media accounts.

**Legend:** Progress Neutral Halted