

**Minutes of the Eleventh
SARDP 2025-2026 Council Meeting
December 1st, 2025**

Attendance:

Donald Allen – Councillor	Jacq Patterson – President
Bridget Anderson – Councillor	Taya Skydan – Councillor
Nicholas Baker – Councillor	Anne Marie Watson – Chairperson
Lyan Fajardo – Councillor	Elizabeth Sweiger – Executive Director
Allie Gosse – Councillor	Marie Evangelista – Assistant Executive Director
Sage Huard – Councillor	Marian Young – Secretary
Samuel Johannson – Vice President External	

Absent with notice:

Eli Wolters – Vice President Academic
Ruby Lindsay – Councillor

Left Chambers:

President Patterson left 5:56pm, returned 6:02pm
Recess 6:38pm to 6:50pm
Councillor Allen left 7:40pm, returned 7:45pm
Secretary Young left 7:50pm, returned 8:05pm - (recording duties were taken over by Executive Director Sweiger)

11.0 Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm

11.1 Approval of Agenda

25-26-99-C

Anderson, Gosse

MOTION: Motion to accept the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

11.2 Land Acknowledgment – Councillor Baker

11.3 Presentation from Alumo

Our insurance broker gave a 70-minute presentation regarding two potential new products for the Association to purchase to replace our current Mental Health tool, MyWellness. Our contract with MyWellness expires August 31 2026; it would be ideal to have something in place to replace it by the start of September 2026.

The two products are fixed cost, price stable alternatives to MyWellness that exceed MyWellness in the scope of the product.

The first option was “Conversation”. A goal oriented and personalized therapy focused product that gives students unlimited access to therapy with the same provider and zero dollars out of pocket for the student. It is a virtual platform,

though it has some limited in-person options in Red Deer. The initial triage and appointment occurs within 24-hours of a student submitting an intake and appointments are available on evenings, weekends, and holidays. This platform offers multidisciplinary support for students with therapists, psychologists, medical physicians, and nurse practitioners all working as a student's care team as needed.

The cost for "Conversation is \$40.00 plus tax per year per student that would be added as an additional fee separate from our current Health and Dental Plan, with the option for every student to opt out (by the deadline) for any reason.

The second product was "Empower Me". A short-term, solution-based counseling product that gives students access to 8 sessions per issue, with unlimited issues. It is also a virtual platform with some limited in-person options. To ensure continuity of care, a student would have the same counselor for each of the 8 sessions they have. The initial triage and appointment occurs within 24 hours of a student submitting an intake and appointments are available on evenings, weekends, and holidays. "Empower Me" also offers financial counseling and dietary and nutrition support.

The cost for "Empower Me" is \$17.00 plus tax per year per student that would be added as an additional fee separate from our current health and dental plan, with the option for every student to opt out (by the deadline) for any reason.

Council was given an opportunity to ask questions about both products before the presenters left.

11.4 Discussion

11.4.1 Alumo Presentation and Proposal

After the presenters left Council had a robust and dynamic conversation about the two products, "Conversation" and "Empower Me". They debated and discussed the highlights and low points of each platform as well as identified further questions that they would like clarity on. Executive Director Sweiger asked that Council send her their questions so that she can pass them on to the presenters for answers.

Council will take one week to deliberate on the information they have received as well as wait for answers to any questions that arose from this discussion, before making a decision on the December 8th, 2025 Council meeting.

Once Council makes a decision as to which platform, Council will formulate a Referendum Question to pose to the Membership during the 2026 General Election (Spring 2026).

11.5 New Business

11.5.1 October Financial Statements

25-26-100-C

Allen, Johannson

MOTION: Motion to accept the 2025 – 2026 Students' Association of Red Deer Polytechnic's October Financial Statements as presented.

CARRIED

11.6 Approval of Meeting Minutes

11.6.7 Minutes of the 10th 2025-2026 Association Council Meeting

25-26-101-C

Skydan, Gosse

MOTION: Motion to approve the minutes of the 10th 2025-2026 Council Meeting.

CARRIED

11.6.2 Minutes of the 20th 2025 – 2026 Executive Council Meeting

25-26-102-C

Anderson, Baker

MOTION: Motion to approve the minutes of the 20th 2025-2026 Executive Council Meeting.

CARRIED

11.7 Executive Council, Council Committee and Other Reports

11.7.1 Executive Council Reports

- President – J. Patterson
- Vice President Academic – E. Wolters
- Vice President External – S. Johannson
- Executive Director – E. Sweiger
 - o The news outlet CBC Edmonton came and filmed a segment for their Make the Season Kind campaign highlighting food and affordability stories from students. This year's campaign runs from December 5 to December 18, so our segment will run sometime then.
 - o The audited financial statements have been sent to the Board of Governors.
 - o Attended the Mintz panel discussion with the Executive Team.

25-26-103-C

Gosse, Anderson

MOTION: Motion to accept the Executive Reports as presented.

CARRIED

11.8 Information

11.8.1 December Association Events Calendar

11.9

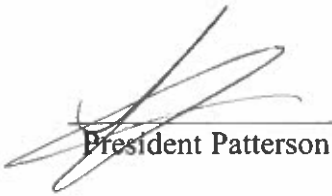
Adjournment

25-26-104-C

Anderson, Huard

MOTION: Motion to adjourn at 8:23pm

CARRIED



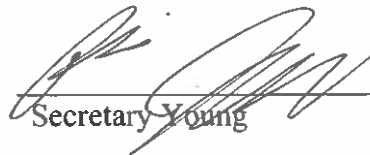
President Patterson



Chairperson Watson



Executive Director Sweiger



Secretary Young



EXECUTIVE REPORT President Patterson

November 17-November 26

All Executive Meeting November 18

The team discussed the recent federal announcement regarding reductions in international student visas and Post-Graduation Work Permits (PGWPs). RDP's Executives do not anticipate a significant impact on our institution, as immigration authorities had already begun slowing processing times and reducing visa approvals earlier this year.

RDP Community Awards 2025 November 18

President Patterson was invited to attend the Community Awards as a board member.

Ken Johnston – G.H. Dawe Memorial Award of Excellence

Former Red Deer Mayor and City Councillor Ken Johnston was recognized for his long-standing commitment to education, equity and inclusion. Throughout his 40-year banking career and civic leadership, he championed youth, newcomers, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized communities. His work has supported economic development, hospital expansion, social housing initiatives, homelessness efforts, and volunteerism—strengthening the overall resilience of the region.

Sigmund Brouwer – Distinguished Alumni Award

Renowned Canadian author Sigmund Brouwer, an RDP alumnus (1976–1978), was celebrated for his significant contributions to literature, including more than 150 published works across historical fiction, thrillers and youth literature. Recipient of the Christy Book of the Year and the Arthur Ellis Award for Best Young-Adult Mystery, Brouwer has inspired thousands of young readers across North America through both his writing and extensive school engagement.

RBC Foundation – Community Partner Award

The RBC Foundation was honoured for its longstanding support of Red Deer Polytechnic through philanthropy, student employment, mentorship and financial literacy programming. With more than \$1.5 million invested, RBC has contributed to the RBC Foundation Computer Lab, fundraising campaigns, scholarships and the Student Ambassador Program. Most recently, a generous \$600,000 gift enabled the creation of the Energy Test Hub, supporting emerging technologies in renewable energy, including solar, EV systems and utility-scale battery storage.

AGM November 19



EXECUTIVE REPORT

President Patterson

This year's AGM was highly successful. Quorum was reached immediately with 20 students in attendance, allowing the meeting to begin on time. Chair Anne Marie Watson presided while VP Academic Eli Wolters and President Patterson delivered their reports. VP External Samuel Johansson was away attending ASEC advocacy meetings.

RDP Ownership Linkage

November 20

An online session was held with Alberta Health community members to expand health-care programming and reinforce RDP's role as a polytechnic. Key themes included:

- Serving provincial needs
- Supporting economic development
- Responding to industry demand
- Facilitating applied learning and research
- Enhancing social and economic productivity

Community members expressed enthusiasm about RDP's commitment to increasing healthcare education opportunities.

Board of Governors Lunch

November 20

Following the announcement of the new health collaboration initiative (see VP External Report), Board members were invited to dine at RDP's Cornerstone restaurant. Councillors are encouraged to support our culinary apprentices by visiting for lunch (Thursdays and Fridays, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.). Dinner (TBA).

EDI Debrief

November 20

Events and Inclusion Coordinator Star Clynes and I participated in the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Week debrief. We raised concerns regarding the overlap with Métis Week and discussed the importance of aligning programming with student interests. While attendance was lower than hoped, the Committee acknowledged strong growth potential. For a first-year initiative, the event series was considered a positive starting point.

Alberta Expert Panel – Student Consultation

November 20

Student leaders met with the Deputy Minister of Advanced Education to discuss the Mintz Panel's 11 recommendations. After a brief review period, the remainder of the meeting was spent asking questions—many of which remained unanswered. The overall impression was that the



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President Patterson

consultation served primarily to fulfill a procedural requirement rather than meaningfully engage students.

Other:

- Completed Policy Governance Workshop
- Executive Wellbeing
- Spark Session – MindfulU event

Up and coming:

CBC Interview – Pay what you can

Special Projects:

No Updates at this time



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President Patterson

WORKPLAN UPDATE:

Goal 1: Graduate handbook

Updates: Jessica has been working hard and has sent me some suggestions, and I am working on current examples of purpose statements to include in the handbook.

Goal 2: WIL

Updates: Still gathering data for when a committee is struck

Legend: Progress Neutral Halted



EXECUTIVE REPORT

Vice President Wolters

November 11th to Nov 24th

Academic Council (November 14th)

Academic Council went quite well, we managed to finish all business, and there were no major items of discussion. A couple highlights include:

- New Education Neuroscience course (EDUC2001)
- New Education Mental Health course (EDUC2003)
- Changes in GPA requirements for Early Learning and Child Care programs, specifically for Practicum GPA requirements,
- And a brief discussion on why minutes were deferred.

Academic Council Timetable Ad-Hoc Committee (Nov 19th)

Ryan Butler (Instructor), Trish Nuyten (Registrar), Heather Marcovitch (Instructor), Jason Engle (Instructor), Lindsay Engle (Vice President Academic and Student Experience), Robbie Halonen (Dean), and Susan Briggs (Secretary, Academic Records Coordinator).

To my surprise, the meeting began with Jason and Heather nominating me as chair! We had an hour filled with discussion, but there wasn't a clear consensus on the discussion topics brought up. Due to my position as chair, I will be writing a report to submit to Academic Council for the January meeting, containing one conclusive recommendation, and the discussion of the other recommendations we spoke about. The one unanimous recommendation is the addition of a link from where Zero-Textbook Cost is mentioned, linking to RDP Library's page on ZTCs!

November 20th – Went home early due to illness

November 21st – Out Sick

Academic Council Executive Meeting (Nov 24th)

Lindsay Engle (Vice President Academic and Student Experience – Ex Officio), Robbie Halonen (Chair) Ryan Butler (Second Vice Chair), Trish Nuyten (Chair of the Academic Council Secretariat - Registrar), Susan Briggs (Recording Secretary)

This meeting is for the finalization of the agenda for the next AC meeting. At this meeting, it was noted that a member had submitted a notice of a motion to the executives, on striking a committee to amend the agenda, and there was talk of amending the member's motion. I mentioned it was improper to amend the motion without the member's approval, and asked that any amendment be noted in writing, and the Chair contact the member in question to inform them of their intentions, to which the Chair and Secretary mentioned they will do so. The only other topic of discussion was the deferred minutes, of which nearly all of my recommended revisions were accepted, with minor editorial changes.



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Vice President Wolters

Other:

Crucial Conversations Course (Nov 12th)

Executive Leadership Team (Nov 18th) - See Prez Report

Annual General Meeting! (Nov 19th)

Sustainable Development Goals Committee Meeting (Nov 24)

Alberta Expert Panel (Nov 25th) - See Prez Report

Executive Wellbeing - Ongoing

WORKPLAN UPDATE:

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

Updates: None at this time.

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

Updates: None at this time.

Goal 3: Increased Awareness of Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDG)

Updates: SDG Committee met on Nov 24th, and we hashed out ideas for our SDG Advocacy tables in Jan-Fed. We've chosen 4 goals to focus on, and will be highlighting what the SDG is, what the SA already does, and what students can do in their own time to contribute to the goal! Stay tuned!

Legend: Progress Neutral Halted



EXECUTIVE REPORT Vice President External's Office

Reporting Period: November 12th – November 25th, 2025

ASEC Advocacy Days

November 17th – 19th, 2025

I attended ASEC's advocacy days, attending meetings with various MLAs and government officials. I was part meetings with the following attendees:

- Minister of Primary and Preventative Healthcare Adrianna LaGrange
- A Luncheon with members of the UCP Caucus, including, but not limited to: Jason Stephan (Red Deer-South), Nolan Dyck (Grand Prairie), Chantelle De Jonge (Chestermere-Strathmore), and Scott Cyr (Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul).
- Minister of Advanced Education Myles McDougall
- A presentation from Food Banks Alberta
- MLA Justin Wright (Cypress-Medicine Hat)
- A meeting with the NDP Caucus, attended by: Shadow Minister of Advanced Education David Eggen, Deputy Leader of the NDP Rahki Pancholi, Shadow Minister of Finance Court Ellingson, and Shadow Minister for Indigenous Relations Brooks Arcand-Paul.
- Independent MLAs Scott Sinclair (Slave Lake) and Peter Guthrie (Airdrie-Cochrane)
- Dr. Collins Ugochukwu, Senior Policy Advisor to the Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade, and Immigration.

These meetings all involved the ASEC leaders in attendance presenting ASEC's three major advocacy priorities, including our asks for the government and our supporting evidence for these asks. We also had the opportunity to ask questions regarding other issues in various meetings, including discussions around youth unemployment and federal restrictions on international students.

I also attended on behalf of the ASEC Board, the Alberta Chambers of Commerce's 4th annual Talent Development Symposium. There were a wide range of speakers that touched



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Vice President External's Office

on various challenges facing post-secondary education and how post-secondary education can better work with the broader Canadian economy.

These various meetings and events were fantastic opportunities to present student perspectives on key issues to government while strongly advocating to various government officials to hopefully move forward ASEC's key advocacy priorities.

Campus Store Advisory Committee

November 20th, 2025

No updates from this committee at this time.

Alumni Association Annual General Meeting & Quarterly Board Meeting

November 20th, 2025

The Alumni Association held its Annual General Meeting and after there was a quarterly board meeting. The AGM included the election of new members to the board, reports from the Board Chair, Board Treasurer, and a report to the membership on the progress of the Alumni Association's strategic plan.

The Board meeting after focused on preparing for the year ahead, striking a new committee structure, and discussions about various partnership opportunities with RDP's Athletics department.

Covenant Health Announcement

November 21st, 2025

President Patterson and I attended a joint announcement & signing of a memorandum of understanding between Red Deer Polytechnic and Covenant Health, a healthcare-oriented non-profit. The collaboration focuses specifically on RDP working with covenant health to develop their planned Rural and Remote Centre of Healthcare Excellence. Minister of Primary and Preventative Healthcare Adrianna LaGrange was also present and spoke in favour of the project.



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WORKPLAN UPDATE:

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

Updates: The Advocacy Committee held its second meeting, and on Monday the 24th myself and members of the Advocacy Committee spoke with at least 180 students at an all-day table, nearly 10% of our yearly goal! Thank you to all members of the Advocacy Committee for all your hard work.

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

Updates: Nothing for the moment.

Legend: Progress Neutral Halted